

European Association for American Studies
EAAS
Newsletter
AMERICAN STUDIES IN EUROPE

Issue No 43 September 1999

Published for EAAS by:
The Eccles Centre
THE BRITISH LIBRARY

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ISSN 1359 - 4923

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The Graz Conference

Thanks to good luck, e-mail, efficiency, and the great interest our colleagues have shown in the topic of the conference, the program for Graz is as good as finished (except for the titles of lectures which should be definite early next year). Our local organizers, Walter Hoelbling and Arno Heller, have been outstanding, so that we can look forward to Graz with great expectations and some confidence. You can find all the information you need concerning registration and lodging in the issue of this Newsletter and on the Internet. All developments and changes will be posted there so that we advise you to check the EAAS-website now and then during the next months. Preliminary thanks to all those who have helped us in the preparation of the conference, and all the best to you all, hoping that you had a creative as much as re-creative summer.

Heinz Ickstadt

Conference Registration and Hotel Reservation

The centerpiece of this issue features the conference registration and accommodation forms, so you can easily take them out and fax them to the Conference Secretary and to the Graz Tourist Agency, respectively. Please also note the special fares offered to EAAS conference participants by Austrian Airlines as given on the last page of the centerfold. The forms are also available for download from the EAAS conference website on the internet (<<http://www.let.uu.nl/eaas/eaas2000.htm>>), and from the delegates of the constituent associations represented on the EAAS Board.

Participants are strongly encouraged to send back registration and accommodation forms at their earliest convenience; be aware that you save money if you make your bookings by February 14, 2000 at the latest. The International Gardens Exhibition 2000 opens in Graz just a few days before our conference begins, and we expect a good extra number of tourists in town for that attraction.

The conference takes place at Karl-Franzens-University, which is situated a mere 20 min. walk from the city center. All major hotels in Graz are well connected to streetcar or bus lines, and you can expect to get to the university in 10-20 minutes. Upon receiving your hotel reservation, Graz Tourism will advise you about the best public transport connection from your hotel. For advance information about Graz the university, please visit the websites <<http://www.graztourism.at>> and <<http://www.kfunigraz.ac.at>>.

Plenary Lectures:

To date, plenary lecturers are Christian Feest (Frankfurt/M.), Richard Martin (Germany/The Netherlands), Brian Wolf (Yale), Leo Marx and Lawrence Buell (MIT and Harvard; Plenary Dialogue Lecture).

Parallel Lectures:

Frederik Brøgger, University of Tromsø: "The Conception of Nature in the American Romantic Age is a)anthropomorphic? b) anthropocentric? c) other?: Excursions into Emerson, Whitman, Thoreau, and Melville" *Teresa Cid, University of Lisbon: "Rising Tides: The Power of the Great*

American River and its Impact on American Life and Literature" *Peter Coates, University of Bristol*: "Garden and Mine, Paradise and Purgatory: The Barron Garden - a Landscape of Power in Northern California" *Rocío Davis, University of Navarra*: "Through Yellow Light: Writing the Landscape of Asian America". *Paul Giles, University of Nottingham*: "Cyberpastoral: Transnational Projections of Virtual American Nature". *Paul Neubauer, University of Freiburg*: "American Landscapes of Terror: From the First Captivity Tales to 20th Century Horror Stories" *Ulf Reichardt, University of Hamburg*: "Nature, Nation, and Time in *American Poetry*" *Joan Richardson, City University of New York*: "Emerson's Moving Pictures" *Susanne Rieser, University of Vienna*: "Spectacular Nature: The Breakdown of 'Culture' into 'Nature' in Action Film" *Luigi Sampietro, University of Milan*: "Notions of Nature from Puritanism to Transcendentalism" (tentative) *Tadeusz Slawek, University of Lublin*: "'Mathematics of Creation': Thoreau, Lane, Olson, and the Problem of Loss in American Description and Sub-cription of Nature"

ANNOUNCEMENT

EAAS TRAVEL GRANTS FOR THE STUDY OF THE UNITED STATES

The EAAS is pleased to announce the institution of EAAS travel grants for postgraduate students in the Humanities and Social Sciences who are registered for a higher research degree at any European University. Two kinds of grants are available, the **Transatlantic Grant** and the **Intra-European Grant**. It is expected that between four and ten scholarships will be available each year and the scholarships will be aimed predominantly at young scholars in Eastern and Central Europe. The maximum single award granted will be \$6000.

The Transatlantic Grant will permit the holder to conduct research which illuminates some aspect of the relationship between the United States and Europe, or between the United States and a country or countries within Europe in a designated university in the United States. The term of the grant will be between three weeks (minimum) and eight weeks (maximum). Successful applicants will receive a grant intended to cover return travel, living expenses, and a limited amount of travel within the United States where appropriate. Health insurance will also be provided. *Only students registered for a Ph. D. are eligible to apply for the Transatlantic Grants.*

The Intra-European Grant will allow the recipient to conduct research for a period of up to four weeks in an American Studies Centre or University library in Europe. *Graduate students who are registered either for a Ph. D. or a Master's degree by research are eligible to apply for the Intra-European Grants.*

The Intra-European Grants are also available for institutional research projects involving up to three scholars (M. A. or Ph. D.) based on the cooperation between two American Studies institutes in Eastern and Western Europe. In this case, applications may be made collectively; each (sub)-project, however, will also be evaluated individually.

Although the EAAS grant programme is especially meant to encourage American Studies research in Eastern Europe, applications from Western European scholars will be welcome if they are part of an institutional project as outlined above.

Applications must be made on the official form and should include written confirmation from the host institution that the researcher will have access to the necessary resource materials, and a letter from the student's academic supervisor. Applicants will also be required to supply a detailed estimate of the cost of their visit, including the cost of travel, subsistence, and incidentals. They should also state the minimum amount of money needed to make the trip possible. Applicants are encouraged to seek supporting or matching funding wherever possible.

Grantee recipients will be responsible for making their own arrangements for travel and accommodation. Travel must be completed within twelve months of the grantee being notified of the award. Grantees will be required to make a report to the grant committee, normally within thirty days of returning from their research visit.

The **strict** closing date for applications is **March 3, 2000**. Successful applicants will be informed in April 2000. Application forms are available from the EAAS Board representatives of constituent associations (see relevant addresses in this issue of American Studies in Europe). Forms may also be downloaded from the EAAS home page on the World Wide Web, at <http://www.let.uu.nl/eaas> or <http://www.salsem.ac.at/csac1>

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EAAS on the Internet

EAAS offers members two electronic options, one a distribution list, in Internet, open by subscription, the other an EAAS Home Page on the World Wide Web, accessible to anyone anywhere in the world with an interest in the affairs of EAAS. The two are a result of the collaboration of Dr Jaap Verheul of Utrecht University, The Netherlands, and the Center for American Studies at the Salzburg Seminar, Austria.

The Address of the Distribution List EAAS-L is eaas-l@let.uu.nl

The purpose of EAAS-L is to distribute information about the EAAS and American Studies in Europe in general. Subscribers to the list - subscription is free and open to anyone with access to e-mail - will receive the current American Studies in Europe and an advance copy of the next issue as it becomes available. Also updated information on the activities of member associations will be sent through this list

Members are encouraged to use this list to provide and access other information that might be useful to Americanists in Europe, such as news about new research or teaching projects; information on new Internet resources; announcements of conferences, jobs, grants and fellowships; and inquiries about American Studies topics. Finally EAAS-L functions as a discussion list.

EAAS-L is moderated by Dr. Jaap Verheul (E-mail: jaap.verheul@let.uu.nl)

To contribute to the list send your messages to eaas-l@let.uu.nl or to the moderator. You can also submit information by disk to Jaap Verheul, History Department, Utrecht University, Kromme Nieuwegracht 66, 3512 HL Utrecht, The Netherlands. Tel: 31 30 253 6034. Fax: 31 30 253 6391

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The EAAS Home Page is being developed in a collaboration between Dr Verheul and the American Studies Center, Salzburg. At present it can be accessed at either <http://www.let.uu.nl/eaas> or at <http://www.salsem.ac.at/csac1>

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Activities

From 7-9 May, 1999, BLASA hosted an international interdisciplinary conference, organized by William L. Chew III, Vesalius College, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, with support from the Belgian Fonds National de Recherche Scientifique and the Belgian Communauté Française. The conference was entitled "National Stereotypes in Perspective: Americans in France, Frenchmen in America," and brought together sixteen scholars from history, literature and the arts. The resulting collection of essays is currently under consideration for publication with Rodopi Press,

Amsterdam

American Studies Day, Centre Universitaire de Luxembourg, 27 April 1999

Publications:

Jean-Jacques Weber and Clara Calvo. *The Literature Workbook*. London: Routledge. 1998
A. Sinner and J.J. Weber, eds. *Festschrift Armand Michaux*. Publications du
Centre Universitaire de Luxembourg. (in print, 1999)

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General Assembly, Friday October 1, 1999 (14h) in Paris (Université Paris IV, Amphi Champollion)

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Activities:

DGfA Special Conferences 1999/2000

22.-23. Oktober 1999 - Gesellschaft und Diplomatie im transatlantischen Kontext (Wittenberg),

Organizers: Hans-Jürgen Grabbe, Michael Wala

5.-6. November 1999 - Vladimir Nabokov at 100: Centennial Conference (Freiburg i.B.),

Organizer: Paul Neubauer

12.-13. November 1999 - Gegenwärtige Entwicklungstendenzen des amerikanischen Regierungssystems (Frankfurt/Main), Organizer: Hans-Jürgen Puhle

4.-6. Februar 2000 - The Role of the Intellectual (Berlin), Organizers: Sabine Bröck, Anne Koenen, Klaus Milich, Gisela Welz

18.-20. Februar 2000 - Historikertagung: Constructing Identities in American History: Self, Group, Nation (Tutzing), Organizer: Michael Wala

11.-14. Mai 2000 - Sites of Memory in American Literatures and Cultures (Regensburg), Organizer: Udo Hebel

13.-16. Juni 2000 - Jahrestagung: Millennial Perspectives (Dresden)

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Activities:

1998-99 was an eventful academic year for American studies in Great Britain. The annual conference at the University of Glasgow was a great success with speakers coming from American Studies communities around the world. One innovation was a major plenary lecture sponsored by Cambridge University Press, publishers of the association's journal, the *Journal of American Studies*, which itself continues to thrive in the hands of Richard Gray, Editor, and Jay Kleinberg, Associate Editor. The 2000 conference will be held from 6-9 April at the University of Wales, Swansea (see the call for papers below).

BAAS has supported several conferences for post-graduates, including ones at the Universities of Sussex and Birmingham. In cooperation with the American Studies Resources Centre at John Moores University Liverpool, there have also been successful events for secondary school teachers of American subjects. Each of the sub-committees of the association has been very active. For example, BAAS Paperbacks, the book series overseen by the Publications Committee and published by Edinburgh University Press in association with BAAS, continues to expand. The Library and Resources Committee has sponsored a lively annual meeting of its own and plans are well advanced for updating several major reference works in our subject. The Development Committee has been mainly preoccupied with preparations for the UK's next Research Assessment Exercise and the like, and the Chair of BAAS and the Development Committee chair, Douglas Tallack, have both been particularly assiduous in lobbying various agencies to press the case of American studies as an inter-disciplinary subject that sometimes gets overlooked in the scramble for limited funds and proper recognition.

CALL FOR PAPERS for the Annual Conference of the **BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES** hosted by the Department of American Studies, University of Wales Swansea, 6th-9th April 2000

The BAAS Annual Conference for the year 2000 will be hosted by the Department of American Studies at the University of Wales, Swansea from April 6-9. Though there will be no specific or overarching theme for the conference, we hope that the timing of the Conference might help celebrate the millennial year and highlight the historical and ongoing cultural and social ties between Wales and America, as well as showcase the tremendous diversity and strengths of American Studies by featuring interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary papers from as wide a range of disciplines as possible. Papers are therefore welcomed on any American Studies topic, broadly defined.

Swansea, Wales is a culturally diverse and thriving city located at a crossroads between industrial South Wales and areas of outstanding natural beauty that include the mountains of the Brecon Beacons National Park and the long coast lines and remote beaches of the Gower peninsula - all

within easy reach of Cardiff and London and generally accessible to the rest of Britain. Plans are being made to include cultural events and countryside excursions that will capitalise on the strengths of the American Studies community in Swansea and throughout Wales and the rich cultural heritage and natural beauty of the area.

Paper Proposals should not exceed one page and must include a provisional title and a brief vita. If submitted individually these will be organised into appropriate panels; alternatively, panel proposals by two or three paper-givers sharing a common theme may be submitted. Proposals are due by October 1st 1999 and should be addressed, together with any queries or suggestions, to Michael McDonnell, Conference Secretary.

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Greece

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Activities

Annual NASA Conference 1999 : On June 2-4, 1999 the Netherlands American Studies Association held its annual meeting at the RSC. This time the conference theme was "The American Metropolis: Image and Inspiration." Over the past two decades, the rediscovery of the city by scholars in history, social sciences, film-and TV studies, musicology, art history and cultural and literary studies has generated a wealth of information about the American metropolis and its representation.

The Metropolis conference at the RSC, in which some 60 persons from several European countries (the Netherlands, Belgium, United Kingdom, Poland and Italy) and the United States participated, was very successful. Especially, the involvement of representatives of urban research groups from the universities of Birmingham/Nottingham and of Ghent, brought interdisciplinary comparisons.

One of the highlights was the evening lecture by prof. Portia Maultsby from Indiana University who described the development of a funk music in industrial cities, and shared her rich collection of funk music tapes with the attentive audience. Moreover, all presentations used illustrations, slides, musical fragments, or video tapes to show the versatility of the images of the city. Both European cities inspired American ones and vice versa. Other speakers addressed the impact of the metropolis on postmodern science fiction, life style, advertising, and the entertainment industry.

While discussing the difficulties and dangers of modern cities, the participants greatly enjoyed the peacefulness and charm of Medieval Middelburg.

A selection of the papers is scheduled to be published in 2000 in the series "European Contributions to American Studies" of the VU University Press in Amsterdam.

Annual NASA Conference 2000

On June 14-16, 2000 NASA will hold its next annual conference. The conference theme will be "Dreams of Paradise, Visions of Apocalypse: Utopia and Dystopia in American Culture." The ideas of newness and "perennial rebirth" has persisted throughout American history. Time and again Americans have described themselves in terms of renewal and new beginnings, often mythically envisioned as a pastoral paradise. Yet, perceptions of the American future were not always utopian. From the first Americans have also struggled with dystopian projections of

America's decline and fall, and have imagined apocalyptic endings to a projected paradise. predictions of their own destiny, predicting their own decline and fall. This dialectic between "dreams of new beginnings" and "nightmares of apocalypse" has been particularly acute and apparent at watershed moments in American cultural history like wars, crises, and turns of century. The NASA conference to be held at the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, the Netherlands, aims to explore the cultural significance of these utopian and dystopian perceptions of the American future. It aims to do so from a multi-disciplinary angle (history, literature, sociology, religion, etc.), and seeks to give special emphasis to revisionary interpretations and to projects in the fields of religion, popular culture and media, and minority cultures. Scholars interested in participating in this conference are invited to submit a one-page paper proposal before November 1, 1999. Paper presenters are requested to cover their own travel and hotel expenses. Conference Secretaries: Hans Bak, American Studies, Catholic University Nijmegen, Postbus 9103, 6500 HD Nijmegen, The Netherlands, 31 24 361 2782 (KUN), E-mail: h.bak@let.kun.nl Jaap Verheul, American Studies Program, Utrecht University, Kromme Nieuwegracht 66, 3512 HL Utrecht, The Netherlands, fax: 31 30 253 6391, E-mail: jaap.verheul@let.uu.nl

Conference about Morality and the State in the Netherlands and the United States

On 23-24 September 1999, the Roosevelt Study Center, Middelburg, the Netherlands, in cooperation with Leyden University organizes a conference on: *Regulating Morality: A Comparison of the Role of the State in Mastering the Mores in the Netherlands and the United States*. The purpose of this interdisciplinary conference is to compare the experiences of state efforts to control moral behavior in two countries by exploring the historical developments in regulating morality and the contemporary efforts to implement moral policies. The importance of the presence of a strong national myth will be tested by comparing the histories of prostitution and abortion policies in both countries, the course and contents of family law (divorce, adoption, homo marriage), and the jurisprudence and legislation with respect to euthanasia. These case studies reveal the strategies, successes, and (unintended) consequences of state regulation and evaluate the influence of a national myth and elite leadership in shaping morality. For information and registration contact the Roosevelt Study Center, P.O. Box 6001, 4330 LA Middelburg, the Netherlands, tel. 31 118 631590. Fax: 31 118 631593. Email: secr@zeeland.nl Registration fee Dfl 50,00 payable at the desk. Lunch and refreshments are included.

Recent publications by NASA-members

Jaap van der Bent, Mel van Elteren, Cornelis A. van Minnen. *Beat Culture: The 1950s and Beyond*. European Contributions to American Studies XLII (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 1999).

Jaap Jacobs. *Een zegenrijk gewest. Nieuw-Nederland in de zeventiende eeuw* (Amsterdam 1999). Transl forthcoming.

Jaap Kooijman. *And the Pursuit of National Health: The Incremental Strategy Toward National Health Insurance in the United States of America*. (Amsterdam/ Atlanta, GA: Rodopi, 1999). Amsterdam Monographs in American Studies.

Hans Krabbendam and Jaap Verheul. *Through the Cultural Looking Glass. American Studies in Transcultural Perspective*. European Contributions to

American Studies XL (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 1999).
Tity de Vries, ed. *Dynamics of Modernization. European-American Comparisons and Perceptions*. European Contributions to American Studies XLI (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 1998).

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Activities

In September 1998, a three-day workshop "Teaching American Studies in Central and Eastern Europe" was organized by the PAAS members at the Maria Curie Sklodowska University in Lublin and the US Embassy in Warsaw. Teachers from Belarus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Russia and Ukraine participated in the workshop sessions led by European and American scholars, including EAAS President Heinz Ickstadt and immediate past-President Rob Kroes. In the panel discussion there emerged agreement that regional cooperation was necessary in practicing American Studies in Europe and that Poland served as an excellent bridge between the countries with well-developed AS programs and those still creating them.

Encouraged by the success of the first workshop, the same team of people are organizing another seminar, the theme of which is "Nationhood and Citizenship". This time it is meant for American Studies PhD students from Central and Eastern Europe and will be held in Pulawy from 24-26 September 1999. Participants are recruited by invitation.

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Activities 1999

The 1999 Cultural Studies Seminar, the fourth of its kind and co-sponsored annually by ASAT, Ege University, USIS-Ankara and the British Council in Turkey was held in Izmir on 12-14 May 1999. Having "Dialogue and Difference" as its theme, the Seminar gathered around 100 participants from various universities in Turkey as well as from the U.S. and the U.K.

The Conference Proceedings from last year's Cultural Studies Seminar devoted to "Popular Culture" have been published by ASAT and the British Council in Turkey, and can be purchased from the Association. Please contact Baris Gumusbas, E-mail: gumusbas@eti.cc.hun.edu.tr

The earliest upcoming event is the 24th annual American Studies Seminar, to be held in the world-famous historical site Cappadocia (also known for its wines) on 20-23 October 1999. Entitled "Communicating America: Media, Culture, and Nation in the Age of Information," this year's seminar will explore how media and information technology have transformed society, culture and politics both at national and global levels and attempt to provide some context to these transformations. Those wishing to attend the Seminar please contact Baris Gumusbas, E-mail: gumusbas@eti.cc.hun.edu.tr We are expecting all EAAS members for four days of scholarship, heated debates, ancient church-visiting and wine-tasting!

The traditional lecture series organized by ASAT continued during the academic year 1998-1999. Among this year's lectures were Yonka Krasteva's "20th Century Literary Explorations of the American Dream," Jeff Howlett's "A 1960s Genealogy of the Old West: Thomas Berger's Little Big Man," Ken Rose's "Rockefeller Philanthropy and modernization in America," Frank Towers's "The Murder of Adam Kyle, Jr.: Flashpoint on the Urban South's Road to Civil War," Thomas Winter's "'Slaves of a Depraved Appetite': Peter Roberts, Race, Gender, and Consumption," Selhan Savcigil Endres's "Feminism on the Border: Sandra Cisneros's The House on the Mango Street and Woman Hollering Creek," Yusuf Eradam's "Bartleby Visiting Emily: 'I'd prefer not to' or the Inevitable Meeting of Two Artists in Defiance."

Aiming to serve as a medium of communication among members, the first issue of the newsletter *ASAT NEWS* came out in May 1999.

Call For Papers

Journal of American Studies of Turkey invites submissions as articles, review essays, book reviews or letters to the editor on any aspect of American Studies. Deadline for the Spring 2000 issue: 31 December 1999. For editorial correspondence or more information, write to Gonul Pultar, Editor, Dept. of English, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey, fax: 90 (312) 266-5071, phone: 90 (312) 290-2044, E-mail: gonul@bilkent.edu.tr

Reviews

The editor is always pleased to hear from members of EAAS who wish to review for American Studies in Europe. They are reminded that they can find volumes currently seeking reviewers of the EAAS homepage at ww.let.uu.nl/eaas

Reid Mitchell, All on a Mardi Gras Day: Episodes in the History of New Orleans Carnival (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999). Pp.243. ISBN 0-67401623-8

Carnival Studies has blossomed in recent years and attempts to theorise the cultural significance of Carnival abound. Many of these, while they seek to interpret the function of Carnival, are rather dismissive of socio-historical context. The same cannot be said of Reid Mitchell's book, however, which takes a refreshingly non-theoretical approach to the phenomenon and offers a readable and engaging history of New Orleans Carnival.

The book relates and contextualises a number of significant stories from the history of this fascinating event. The chronology of tales, taken from letters, journals, memoirs etc., together with Mitchell's informed and perceptive interpretations, combine to form a vivid social history of Carnival and of New Orleans itself.

It begins with the 1804 Carnival season and an account of a clash between French-speaking Creoles and English-speaking Americans. When one "American interrupted a French dance with an English quadrille" the evening degenerated into a "battle between reels and waltzes" and, later, a singing contest in which 'Hail Columbia' vied with 'Enfants de la Patrie'. Carnival provides an arena where social groups can assert their cultural identity and, consequently, where antagonisms can be aired. Inevitably, then, conflict has been part of the Carnival throughout its history and this extends to the organisation of the event itself. Mitchell ends his study with an account of a fierce dispute among members of the New Orleans Council about enforced desegregation within Carnival activities. Despite this, Mitchell can still find enough enthusiasm to celebrate the Carnival in utopian terms, as "a model for just society, the joyous community, the heavenly city". Certainly this collection of episodes in the turbulent life of New Orleans Carnival attests to the potential of individual and collective creativity and to its endurance in the face of social conflict and turmoil. An informative and entertaining books.

Paul McDonald
Wolverhampton

University of

Nancy A. Walker (Ed), What's So Funny?, (Wilmington, Delaware: Scholarly Resources Inc., 1998), Pp. 284. \$55.00. Cloth ISBN 0-8420-2687-8.

What's So Funny? is the first title in a new series from SR Books, under the heading "American Visions: Readings in American culture." As the preface makes clear, each book in the series is designed to be an anthology of seminal writings on its chosen topic - in this case the role of humour within American society.

The series is intended to cater for a varied readership - attracting "the scholar, student and general reader." To serve such an end, the book provides an extensive and accessible introductory chapter by the editor, Nancy Walker. This chapter frames two of the key concerns for the writers included in the anthology - namely the difficulty in pinning down exactly what humour is and does, and the need to locate these questions specifically within an American context. It combines usefully a detailed overview of the development of American humorous forms with the concomitant evolution of their academic study.

The rest of the volume is made up of fifteen extracts from key works in the study of American humour, including contributions by Constance Rourke, David Marc and Lawrence E. Mintz, and covering such diverse humorous forms as the comic strip, stand-up comedy and the situation comedy. Each extract is prefaced by a short paragraph that locates the author and their work within a cultural context, and the historical trajectory of the study of American humour. The extracts are well chosen, and provide a tantalising but satisfying glimpse of the breadth and depth of the subject. They also provide a good sense of the way in which humorous forms have been integral to the American experience. Combined with the comprehensive annotated bibliography, they make for an impressive opening volume to an ambitious new series.

James Lyons

University of Nottingham

Phyllis Cole, Mary Moody Emerson and the Origins of Transcendentalism: A Family History (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998). Pp. viii+370. 37.50GBP. ISBN 0-19503949-1.

Making her bed "in the form of a coffin" and having in the estimation of her nephew Ralph Waldo Emerson, "worn out a great many" death shrouds in her daily dress before she died, Mary Moody Emerson has long been a source of entertaining anecdotes in the biography of her more famous relation. It is only with this exceptional new book that she receives the sustained attention that she deserves in her own right and that is necessary to unravel the nature of her formative influence on the younger generation. Cole's scholarship reveals how traditions, stories, and ideas reverberate through a notable family history in a manner that justifies a shift from speaking of "Aunt Mary" to "nephew Waldo."

Born just before the American Revolution and living into the middle of the Civil War, Mary was a self-educated, extraordinarily gifted woman who consistently misspelled the words "necessity"

and "imagination," but lived her life by them both. Unmarried and outspoken--perhaps Waldo's very model for solitude and self-reliance--she transformed her life of boarding with others into one of vigorous correspondence and spiritual mentorship to many.

Based substantially upon Mary's diaries (discovered by Cole in the family archives), this remarkable book succeeds as both a "family history" and a history of ideas centering around one woman, but it remains a less complete explanation of the "origins of transcendentalism" than the title might suggest. Emerson had to part sharply with the Calvinist tendencies of his Aunt's New Light pietism in order to follow much of the religious vision for which he is known, and there is little here of great significance concerning other transcendentalist innovators. Nonetheless, Cole marshals conclusive evidence for her thesis that Emerson "appropriated and assimilated" his Aunt's language and ideas throughout his life, and that she may well have been foremost in his mind when crafting his transcendentalist manifesto, *Nature*.

The book lacks a bibliography and its index could offer more topical detail, but it represents an exemplary contribution in nearly all other respects. Cole has delivered a portrait of a luminous mind and a significant influence who until now we have known mostly as she appears on the cover: a shadow behind others, framed in silhouette.

Branden T.C. Miller Wolfson College, Oxford

Joann P. Krieg, *A Whitman Chronology* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1998).
Pp. xii+207. ISBN 0-87745-654-2.

For a poet whose works are so massively sprawling, and for whom there is an ever-growing wealth of biographical details, this slim, modest-looking chronology of Whitman is surprising in its ability to provide a vivid and detailed account of Whitman's life year-by-year and, at times, day-by-day. Undoubtedly it will become a vital research aid for Whitman scholars by providing quick and easy reference to events and details of Whitman's life. It is also highly useful -- and accurate in all cases I tested -- in locating references to those events and details in other works of Whitman scholarship. For serious readers of Whitman, this is a book that will save you a lot of time in chasing references.

Joann Krieg's aims for the book are threefold. Firstly she hopes that it will provide 'scholar and general reader alike with [an] account of selected events of Whitman's private and public life.' This aim is admirably fulfilled: though one may argue over the inclusion or exclusion of certain events (the so-called 'Southold scandal' of 1840-1841, of which much is made in David Reynolds' excellent biography, is not mentioned; and the date of Harry Stafford's birth, March 23 1858, is also unaccountably omitted from p. xx), Krieg does not set out to be exhaustive. What we do get is a lively, fascinating and readable plotting of Whitman's life. In her second and third aims -- that it points out 'areas of major critical or scholarly disagreement' and 'refer[s] the reader to sources for further study' Krieg is also successful. Of course, though, these aims merely serve to emphasise that this is a book to complement, not supplant, other Whitman studies. Its usefulness is directly related to the usefulness of the Whitman collection in your

library.

However, there are moments throughout this book that speak volumes more than would seem possible in this sort of scholarly work. The necessary brevity with which certain events in Whitman's life are here described resonates starkly, for me at least, back into the poetry itself. Krieg notes, for example, that on September 14, 1825 'The unnamed Whitman infant dies'; and that on January 1, 1892 'In a codicil to his will ... nothing is left to Doyle.' After reading the death of Whitman's six-month old younger sibling, and the break-up of his relationship with Peter Doyle, laid so bare, I will read Whitman's poetry with a different intensity. And that's not a bad achievement for a scholarly work.

Nick Selby University of Wales, Swansea

James J. Connolly, The Triumph of Ethnic Progressivism: Urban Political Culture in Boston, 1900-1925 (Cambridge, Massachusetts, and London, England, 1998). Pp. viii+260. \$45. ISBN 0-674-90950-X

This book by James Connolly, initially a doctoral dissertation at Brandeis University, raises fundamental questions pertaining to the nature and function of Progressivism in the first decades of the twentieth century. Scholars will however point out that the bottom-line argument is not new in itself: Progressivism's multifarious texture and multi-faceted (if not at times contradictory) internal impulses have indeed been exposed in a number of much-celebrated "obituaries" (Peter Filene, Daniel Rodgers, Richard McCormick, et al.) James Connolly's merit lies in his use of the more specific context of turn-of-the-century Boston to warn that conventional accounts of the period may not be applicable to a number of local situations, thus opening new ground for research.

Boston's "ethnic" brand of Progressivism roots itself in an entrenched Irish-Yankee conflict, the Irish group being, as one observer once remarked, "the only oppressed majority in the world" (p.1). James Connolly's study accordingly surveys the construction of Boston's ethnic character, with each party to the conflict not only availing itself of the language of Progressivism to promote their own values, but also mobilizing voters among ethnic lines. James Connolly's contention is that most social tensions, such as the mid-1970s riots and protests after a federal judge ordered Boston to desegregate its schools, as well as more recent and present-day ethnic and racial relations in the city, can be traced back to the Progressive Era. In fact, the period's so characteristic "non-partisan" stance seems to have weakened the political buffer, thereby paving the way for far less consensual (and sometimes overtly radical) appropriations of the Progressive rhetoric.

The book will of course appeal to anyone interested in urban studies: it includes interesting accounts of such issues as boss politics or suburbanism, a statistical appendix, and a (short) bibliography of selected primary sources (secondary works are only mentioned in notes). Connolly's approach of Progressivism as a language will also appeal to those interested in turn-of-the-century journalism, including the muckraking press: such reformers as Lincoln Steffens

(*The Shame of the Cities*, 1904) were interestingly active in Boston, thus providing an interesting link between the local situation and the wider context of Progressivism. Indeed, *The Triumph of Ethnic Progressivism* is less a book about Boston itself than a book about the meaning of Progressivism at the municipal level. It is, in that sense, an interesting step in the constant reassessments of the Progressive Era.

Nicolas Gachon

University of Toulon, France

Fiona Venn, *The New Deal* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1998). Pp. xiv+128. ISBN 1-85331-222-3

Fiona Venn has aptly dedicated her study: “To my New Deal students, past, present and future”. The *New Deal* is indeed a work meant for students, one whose writing was obviously - and commendably - motivated by teaching considerations. Relying on secondary sources, Fiona Venn’s argumentation does not come up with any groundbreaking contribution. The overall approach itself is quite conventional, which clearly appears in the chapter headings: “The Depression”, “The Early New Deal, Relief and the Pursuit of Recovery”, “The Later New Deal and Reform”, “The New Deal in Action”, “The New Deal in Decline”. This, however, should not be regarded as a weak point: the book is simply not intended for scholars.

A new volume in the British Association for American Studies series, Fiona Venn’s work will be extremely helpful to students, facilitating their access to a difficult question. The book, from this point of view, does contain major contributions: a useful assessment of the state of historiography (including recent interpretations); a presentation of the various roles played by a number of agents - beside Franklin D. Roosevelt’s own personal significance to the New Deal - in the implementation of reform; an illuminating comparative analysis of two other leading industrial powers (Great Britain and Germany); an attempt at isolating the exact period when the New Deal order did indeed come to an end. The book also opens with a clear chronology and ends with an up-to-date “further reading” section.

One point - maybe - deserved more attention. If the birth of the New Deal within the dynamics of Progressivism is well described, its relations to present-day liberalism remain somewhat ambiguous. Did Ronald Reagan really mark the end of an epoch (p.106)? How long did “the liberal Supreme Court which emerged during the Roosevelt era” really survive (*Ibib.*)? The ambiguity seems to be linked to the various meanings of term “liberalism”, a most difficult issue for students. Yet students should be made able to replace the advent of today’s minimalist brand of liberalism in the post-New Deal era, which, it is true, can be regarded as being another question. As far as this particular book is concerned, then, Fiona Venn provides all the necessary information and historiographical apparatus for them to develop their own interpretations of the New Deal.

Nicolas Gachon

University of Toulon, France

Iain Halliday, *The Progressive Tendency and American Painting and Architecture, 1880–1945* (Catania: C.U.E.C.M., 1998). Pp. 213. 28,000L. ISBN 88-86673-03-5.

As indicated by its title, Halliday's study represents an attempt to outline the mutual influence that existed within social and artistic ideas of progressivism during America's modernising years. As an introduction, the book proves adequate. Yet the study is frequently weakened through the author's apparent lack of research. Halliday's ideas on progressivism barely stretch past the examples of Jane Addams and Walter Lippman, and too often this leads to unsophisticated conclusions. To conclude that progressivism sought new forms designed to express and explain modern, industrial America leaves us with the ironic example of Standard Oil. In addition, Halliday seems happy to stretch the time-frame of the progressive movement to include certain artist and architects, yet makes no attempt to reconcile the various progressive ideologies that span the same period.

In the vein of Trachtenberg's *The Incorporation of America* and Kasson's *Amusing the Million*, Halliday begins his discussion with Chicago's seminal 1893 World's Fair. Halliday mentions neither however, and the many invaluable insights they contain are missed. The same can be said for the excellent canon of work that exists on the fair. As a result, the opposition that existed between the classical White City and the commercial Midway – an issue with much resonance as regards progressivism's shifting concerns between the individual, the collective and mass culture – is left untouched. Further, as Thomas Bender and William Taylor have noted, the idea of the White City, and specifically its desire to merge civic ideals and horizontal, rather than vertical, building, is important when considering turn-of-the-century urban architecture. Nothing is made of the 'aesthetic tension[s]' of this period, and progressivism's relation to both public spaces – municipal buildings, train stations, and bridges – and the capitalist client are left untouched.

This said, the book does also concern itself with American painting, and these sections are certainly more impressive. Given the range of the period, Halliday does well to be informative and concise. It is only a pity that more is not made of Roosevelt's visit to the Armory Show. As the leader of institutionalised progressivism met with the leading progressive artworks, he felt them "repellant from every standpoint."

Richard Haw

University of Leeds

Peter Messent. New Readings of the American Novel. Narrative Theory and its Application. 2nd edition, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1998. Pp. xvi+328. ISBN 1 85331 234 7.

This is, as the cover announces, a *new edition* of Peter Messent's selected critical readings of American realist and modernist novels, well-received when they were first published in 1990. Overly expectant readers, however, are advised to also read the text on the back cover, where they discover that this paperback is the second edition of the book, with a "new introduction." As it is, even this modest element of newness turns out to be a bit of PR euphemism, since what we actually find upon opening the book is an unchanged, and only the short "Preface to the New Edition" (pp. x-xvi) is actually new. There Messent repeatedly mentions things he would do differently were he to write this book in 1998, and one is almost led to assume that this "new" edition is the wish of the publishers rather than the author. Given this situation, the only option a reviewer of this volume has is to assess how Messent's critical readings have withstood the

winds of time since they first saw the light of print about 10 years ago.

Overall, the readings still demonstrate the author's familiarity with critical and narrative theories up to the late 1980s; his ability to apply the thoughts of Bakhtin, Barthes, Genette, Iser, Rimmon-Kenan, Eagleton, and others to selected American novels between 1881 and 1937 continues to be enlightening and useful to students of American literature. Most importantly, the readings by and large serve the author's declared purpose of lifting the traditional veil of mysterious 'knowledge' from 'authoritative' interpretations of literature and making recent tools of the trade accessible to the interested student.

What strikes a critical reader in 1999 as peculiar, though, are two aspects of a more general nature. The first concerns the choice of subject as well as the justification for writing this book: In his "Preface to the New Edition", the author comments that the European critics mentioned above do not write about American literature and states his intentions, in applying their critical terminology to American texts, to show "how useful such a cross-fertilization might be." (xi) Somehow, this sounds as if Bakhtin *et al.* wrote their theories exclusively for "European" literature rather than for literature in general. How "cross-fertilization" can result from applying "European" theory to "American Literature" remains a mystery; as it stands, the statement sounds a bit ominous: Are we to understand that American Literature - whose positive reception in England has a comparatively short history - is finally considered to be 'great' enough to deserve the application of European theories? Similar ambiguously phrased statements can also be found in passages relating to questions of multiculturalism, gender, and ethnic literatures, e. g., pp. 6f, 170f, 244f, 287. I think that a certain diction is one of the elements in this study that suggest its age; it might give rise to misunderstandings, as many contemporary critical sensibilities in the age of deconstruction, discourse analysis, and post-colonialism may no longer share the author's 'universe of discourse'.

While one might consider this a minor problem of political correctness, the second aspect is of a different order and derives from the fact that Messent's understanding of 'literature' is never clearly defined. However, we do repeatedly come across statements that lead one to assume that the author considers 'fiction' as something that is constructed and somehow opposed to 'history', which seems to be innocent of construction, though we are never told how and why this can be so.

For example: Towards the end of Chapter 1, discussing *The Great Gatsby* in terms of narrative levels, focalization etc., Messent introduces the concept of 'history', which has gone unmentioned so far. Referring to the fact that the first-person narrator Nick Carraway informs the readers about things/events he cannot have known in any of his narrating roles, Messent concludes: Nick converts history into fiction; not what he sees but what he imagines becomes important. His totalizing vision is an artistic one (as well as an ideological and emotional one): it gives shape to the narrative he writes. Nick becomes a kind of non-fiction novelist, who in telling us what he factually sees and knows of Jay Gatsby (history), is always ready to pass on the baton, to use Mailer's phrase, to Nick the fiction writer. (pp.38)

Even if we allow for the fact that the author here follows Rimmon-Kenan's adaptations of Genette's terminology - defining 'history' as "what he sees" is not a very felicitous turn of

phrase. To cast Nick into a Maileresque, Janus-faced (non-)fiction novelist not only complicates matters unnecessarily by suggesting that there is something like a historical 'reality' in the fictional world of this novel (after all, Nick Carraway never claims to present an historically accurate account of events, least of all of Jay Gatsby's life) but also implies an understanding of history as somehow objectively given, in contrast to fiction as a subjective - "artistic" -version of it. This position is reaffirmed a little later when we read, in reference to the final paragraphs of Fitzgerald's novel, "Nick removes Gatsby from his historical frame" (p. 39) and supposedly creates "a Keatsian world which lacks historical referent. In doing this, he removes Gatsby out of history." (p. 40)

The statement is illuminating, revealing that the author's conceptual understanding of art and its relation to life/history shows significant affinities to that of the New Critics: Life/History is what one sees happen, pass, change; Art/Literature is timeless, enduring, unchanging. Such an understanding of literature, even if it is nowhere near that of the contemporary critical avantgarde, is absolutely legitimate. One would expect, however, that this position is clearly stated in the introduction. According to the text on the back cover, the intended audience consists of "students when first introduced to the concept of narrative theory"; this group's knowledge of the history of literary theory is likely to be rather modest, and a clear positioning would help them put the information offered in this volume into proper contextual perspective.

More intriguing is the question concerning the degree to which can remain rooted close to New Critical thinking while applying, e. g., Roland Barthes' *S/Z: An Essay*. There, Barthes' thinking is already in transition towards poststructuralist and deconstructivist positions which no longer accept the fixed, supposedly timeless distinctions and categories of New Criticism - or, for that matter, Structuralism. Not unexpectedly, Messent here runs into serious methodological difficulties, as becomes obvious in Chapter 5, "*The Portrait of a Lady* and *The House of Mirth*. A Barthesian Reading": Though accepting, with Wolfgang Iser and Steven Mailloux, the significance of the reader in the constitution of a text in the act of reading, Messent cannot fully embrace Barthes' concept of the reader's co-authorship as developed in *S/Z*. He therefore decides to "arrest the unbounded free-play of Barthes' model to trace the particular determinate critical lines I wish to pursue" (p.165). Whether one sees this as a serious attack on the integrity of Barthes' thinking or just as a pragmatic necessity, is open for discussion. It speaks for the author's solid critical knowledge and 'readerly' skills that the pages following this statement employ (modified) Barthesian terminology for exemplary and useful comparative analyses of the beginnings of the two novels.

Yet these and similar ambiguities, as they turn up throughout the book, often send rather confusing signals to the (student) readers, mystifying rather than clarifying the application of narrative theory. It is therefore this reviewer's sincere wish that Peter Messent soon find the energy and time for a really *new and revised* edition that allows his remarkable critical and methodological talents to unfold unhampered by conceptual indeterminacies.

Walter Hölbling

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Thomas J. Lyon, ed. *The Literary West: An Anthology of Western American Literature* (New York: Oxford UP, 1999). Pp. xii+444.

ISBN 0-19-512461-8.

Thomas J. Lyon's *The Literary West* attempts to offer his readers a different image of the West than we are accustomed to. This West was inhabited and sung by Native American tribes centuries before it loomed in the imagination of Euro-American colonists. It was traveled and described by Spanish explorers from Mexico before the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 turned it into U.S. territory. It was and continues to be home to ethnic minorities for whom it represents not a primarily natural landscape, but an urban environment marred by economic exploitation and racial discrimination. This other West is the parched landscape of Dorothy Scarborough's Texas novel *The Wind* (1925). It is the disillusionment of the dream of economic opportunity of Hamlin Garland's "Under the Lion's Paw" (1891) and John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939). And it is a land scarred by the white man's obsession with perfecting nature, a compulsion which has led, as the numerous authors of "green" western literature included in Lyon's anthology point out, to a possibly irrevocable destruction of the original eco-systems.

Lyon's project to bring to the attention of literary historians the existence of a Western literary tradition that is polyglot, politically engaged, and environmentalist is commendable. At the same time, however, this reader is reluctant to agree with his claim that this alternative West is the true or "real" one, while the heroic West of popular writers like Owen Wister, Zane Grey, and Louis L'Amour is a mere simplified construct. The reluctance augments as Lyon proceeds to declare that this allegedly "real" West is the pale of "serious" literature only, as opposed to popular or, in his words, "grade B" literature. Postmodernism, with its critique of the concept of real and its revaluation of popular culture, suggests that such distinctions are often misleading. The recent vision of the West as an opportunity to connect with nature and thereby regain a state of spiritual communion is not any more realistic than the older idea of the West as wild, bountiful nature awaiting to be put to use. In different ways, both compensate at an imaginary level for over-industrialization and the excessive concentration of wealth, ills which plagued nineteenth-century America as they do now modern America. As for popular westerns, the scholarship on dime novels (which are mentioned in the introduction but excluded from the selection) has shown that they resisted as well as incorporated dominant ideology. Ann Stephens's *Malaeska* (1860), for instance, the first dime novel and a western, undercuts with its strong female protagonist the myth of the patriarchal western hero as defender of helpless women.

While this reader would have wished for a vaster selection from those very popular westerns to which Lyon objects, *The Literary West* is an excellent starting point for the investigation of a body of literature which has only fairly recently gained academic recognition. In fact, its extensive critical apparatus, which includes an overview of the evolution of the genre in the introduction, a guide to further reading, a comprehensive western chronology, and introductory notes to over forty selections, makes it a good choice as a classroom text.

Paola Gemme

University of Genoa

Mick Gidley, *Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indian, Incorporated* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1998). Pp. xii + 330. \$59.95. ISBN 0-521-56335-6.

In his new book, Mick Gidley offers us a thorough and insightful investigation of Edward S. Curtis's monumental North American Indian project, one of the largest anthropological enterprises ever undertaken. When, after almost four decades of work, it was finally concluded in 1930, it amounted to twenty volumes of illustrated text and twenty portfolios of large sized pictures, a "musicale" on Native American cultures, and a narrative documentary film entitled "In the Land of the Head-Hunters" (1914).

As Gidley puts it, the book intends to be a "study of the project as a whole, what it was, and, to some degree, what it meant". What it was, we discover, is a collective rather than an individual enterprise, one shaped by the direct contribution of Curtis's numerous field assistants, some of whom were Native American, as well as by the indirect but nonetheless powerful influence of the wealthy patrons who financed the project and demanded a product suited to their aesthetic and ideological expectations. What it meant, Gidley shows us, is precisely what the financial and cultural elite that could afford the volumes wanted to hear. The Native American of Curtis's pictures is either a savage Indian displaying his victims' scalp, one who deserves imprisonment in a reservation, or, more commonly, a vanishing Indian, a melancholy figure who seems to contemplate the demise of his people, a demise which, in turn, is constantly represented as natural and inevitable rather than the result of white policies.

Gidley's ability lies in how he complicates his narrative of the project's meaning. He is attentive, for instance, to the tensions that characterize the position of the white dominant group which produced and consumed the North American Indian volumes. On one hand, the project intended to be "salvage ethnology", that is, to record a way of life allegedly soon to disappear. On the other hand, however, neither Curtis nor his patrons advocated the preservation of Native American culture. On the contrary, they endorsed the assimilation of Native Americans into mainstream culture. In fact, Curtis was aware, to some extent even proud, that by paying tribe members to perform sacred rituals for his camera, he himself played an important role in the destruction of tribal ways. The white ethnographer's attitude towards his subject, Gidley shows us, was thus to both to memorialize (on paper) and destroy (in practice).

The position of the Native American subject of ethnography was equally complex. True, the North American Indian project largely recreated Native Americans according to white racial ideology, but it was not without resistance and partial victories on their part. Contemporary analyses of Curtis's materials, for instance, has revealed that tribe-members would at times perform rituals backwards in order not to contravene restrictions on the recording of religious ceremonies while seemingly acquiescing to the white ethnographer's wishes. Thus, far from being passive objects of representation, Native Americans succeeded at times in resisting the ethnographic project.

Much more could be said in praise of Gidley's book. It combines theoretical sophistication with the meticulous examination of unpublished primary texts ranging from letters to field-trip memoirs. It is readable even for a non-specialist. It supplements the analysis of texts with a documentary appendix to each chapter, so that it can be used as an anthology of writings about Native Americans as well as an interpretation thereof. Still, some things could have been done differently. Gidley offers at times too much about what the project was and too little about what

it meant. This imbalance is especially evident in the chapter devoted to Curtis's documentary film on the Kwakiutl. Gidley rightfully defines the movie's plot "absurd", but does nothing to prepare the reader for the "hideous sorcerers" and "evil magic" encountered in the synopsis from a theater handbill reproduced in the document section. The way in which the meaning of Native American rituals is distorted by the ethnographer's enplotment would definitely have deserved more explanation, while less space could have been devoted to Curtis's movie work prior and following "In the Land of the Head-Hunters". On a different topic, Oxford University Press could have printed better reproductions of Curtis's pictures. Gidley's texts at times comments upon details that cannot be distinguished in the illustrations, as is the case for the human scalp supposedly displayed in "The Old Cheyenne", which is lost in a dark blur. Despite all this, Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indian, Incorporated is worth not only reading but keeping on the shelf as an important contribution to the study of white representations of Native American culture and Native American defiance thereto.

Paola Gemme

University of Genoa, Italy

John White and Brian Holden Reid, eds., Americana. Essays in Memory of Marcus Cunliffe (Hull: University of Hull Press, 1998). Pp. xviii+380. ISBN 0-85958-670-7

Americana, edited by John White and Brian Holden Reid, is a collection of fifteen essays written by leading British Americanists to commemorate the academic achievement of Marcus Cunliffe (1922-1990). Before one reads the essays, it is worth having a look at the bibliography of Cunliffe's writings provided at the end of the volume. The thematic scope of his scholarly output is indeed impressive: Cunliffe's historical works, reflecting his major interests, probe a rich variety of issues in American history from the Revolution to the Civil War, but of no lesser importance are his introductions to such books as Swift's Gulliver's Travels, Kipling's The Jungle Book, or Twain's The Prince and the Pauper as well as his articles on various aspects of American literary tradition. The realization of Cunliffe's versatility is essential for understanding the astounding thematic diversity of the articles collected in the volume.

The book was designed as a *festschrift* for Cunliffe in the late 1980s and its first edition came out in 1991, already after the scholar's death. The editors admit that whoever ventures to prepare such a volume, they must inevitably face the dilemma of selection and arrangement of contributions. Preferably, essays which appear in a publication of this kind should concentrate around similar issues, share methodological assumptions etc. The concern which runs through the articles in Americana is primarily with the construction of American character and identity; as the editors assert, such a preoccupation entails a dual perspective. Essentially, the American experience and its implications should be studied both from within and from outside. Such a conviction underlies the theses and observations made by the contributors to Americana.

It would be unfair to choose some essays for closer presentation and leave the others undiscussed, because practically all of them live up to the highest academic standards. Instead, let us have a brief look at the list of the contributors and the issues which they explore: Brian Holden Reid and John White (the life and achievement of Marcus Cunliffe), Robert Lawson-Peebles (the perpetuation of the figure of George Washington in the national consciousness

versus eighteenth-century versions of heroism and domesticity), Louis Billington (the experiences and activities of British Methodists in America in the first half of the nineteenth century), Howard Temperley (antebellum views on problems and solutions connected with the abolition of slavery), Hugh Brogan (Alexis de Tocqueville's views in the years preceding the Civil War as reflected in his correspondence), Peter J. Parish (the perceptions of America by nineteenth-century British writers, e.g. Trollope, Thackeray, Arnold), Bruce Collins (the military tradition in the South before 1861), Malcolm Bradbury (the ironic mode in the American Renaissance, especially in Hawthorne's fiction, with comparative references to Dickens), Richard Crockatt (the achievement of Carl Becker), Mick Gidley (representation and misrepresentation of Indians in selected literary works), Arnold Goldman (the merits of F.S. Fitzgerald's non-fiction), John White (the development of Kansas City style in jazz), Vivien Hart (the regulations concerning minimum wage in Britain and America), Brian Holden Reid (anti-American attitudes in the British army during the Second World War), Rupert Wilkinson (the reflections on American character in the works of Margaret Mead, David Potter, and David Riesman).

What the authors of the volume share and what constitutes its greatest asset is the awareness of a dynamic relation between history, society, religion and arts. The articles in the collection trace the emergence, strengthening, and possible subversion of national models and stereotypes, with particular emphasis laid on the functions of tradition and imagination. The authors take interest in the spheres of life where the individual experience and the national experience collude or clash. The essays basically pertain to three disciplines: history, literature, or more broadly arts, and the history of ideas, though some of them are also rich in sociological observations. This methodological diversification enables one to discern affinities between certain historical or cultural phenomena which would otherwise remain unnoticed. The comparative perspective assumed by a number of the contributors is of vital importance; needless to say, the history of the relations between Britain and America is exceptionally complex and the study of it demands scientific objectivity and thorough analysis. In this respect, the authors of *Americana* fulfil their tasks masterfully: in this way, they establish directions to be followed by Americanists from outside the United States wishing to probe American character from the vantage point of the experience of their own nation in the New World.

Marek Paryz

Warsaw University

Pierre Lagayette, ed., Strategies of Difference in Modern Poetry: Case Studies in Poetic Composition (London: Farleigh Dickinson, 1998). Pp. 179. £28.50 ISBN 0-8386-3698-5.

The present book gives a platform to nine voices of mostly European American Literature scholars (the one American exception being the first essay by Charles Altieri). The essays, edited by Pierre Lagayette, deal with a wide spectrum of issues in 20th century poetry. The approach of each writer ranges from close reading to personal reader/teacher history.

Charles Altieri explores the process of the expressivist affirmation of the self in two poems by W. B. Yeats. Gudrun M. Grabher analyzes sample poems by A. R. Ammons and Jorie Graham to argue for a merger, via epistemological empathy, of the poetic self with the object described by

the poem. Alain Suberchicot enlightens the way the lyrical "I" is redefined in the poetry of Wallace Stevens by means of tonal and metric variation. In another essay on Stevens, Anne Luyat-Moore examines the friendly dispute of a French philosopher and Stevens over the relationship of reality to the poetic subject. Axel Nesme offers a close reading of a longer poem by Theodore Roethke against the backdrop of Roethke's literary models. A general discussion of the relationship of the poet to his predecessors is a helpful introduction to the issue. The essay by Massimo Bacigalupo, dealing with Ezra Pound, centers on the problem with the author's own critical authority over his work. Geneviève Cohen-Cheminet discloses the success and failure of the poetic testimony of Charles Reznikoff. The final two essays deal with creative divergence. Véronique Rauline discusses the linguistic, social, and political repercussions of the bilingual poetry of the Nuyorican poet Tato Laviera while Taffy Martin probes the love/hate relationship of the Irish poet Thomas Kinsella to the English language and the old masters of Irish literature.

Observing the postmodern espousal of plurality, this book brings essays on "minority" poetic voices, heretofore unheeded in the poetic discourse. Thus, Pierre Lagayette has succeeded in foregrounding difference as a necessary part of the process of poetic creation, a positive state of dynamic flux to be explored differently by each poet, rendering, if successful, unique results. The present collection of essays enriches our critical understanding of the role difference plays in the works of several modern to postmodern poets. A ready source of creative power, their strategies of composition can be explored beyond the quotidian; ideally, they should serve to 'make it new'.

Jiri Flajsar

Palacky University

Thomas J. Brown, Dorothea Dix: New England Reformer (Cambridge, Massachusetts and London: Harvard University Press, 1998. xvi, 422pp. £21.95)

This excellent biography uses Dorothea Dix's crafting of a public career out of the doctrine of women's separate sphere to illuminate both worlds. Thomas J. Brown is the first biographer of Dix to implicate her in a broad cultural context rather than see her narrowly as a crusader for the insane. Mindful of how her campaign against the "heroic treatment" of bloodletting and other harsh regimens in favor of "moral therapy" for mental illness depended less on medical science than cultural confidence in humanity's innate spiritual capacity, Brown treats Dix as a representative person. She tragically failed to see that her own career, no less than the nation's, depended on institutional power as well as moral authority.

Hence her ultimate defeat on every front. Her successful campaign for state funded asylums culminated in her frustrating failure to persuade Congress to fund a similar national program with a land grant from the national domain. Brown convincingly rejects the idea of earlier biographers that Dix's attempt to lead the Union nursing effort during the Civil War was a minor footnote in a single-minded life devoted to the cause of the insane. Rather, she sought the logical culmination of her public career in her effort to assume the largest public office an American woman had yet filled. She owed the ensuing ruin of her reputation to her failure to see how little good her moral authority would do her in newly bureaucratic Washington. She lived to see moral therapy for the insane challenged by somatic theories and the idea of women's moral superiority -

the basis, she believed, of her own career - challenged by new feminists emphasizing legal and institutional equality.

Brown's very success in portraying Dix as tragically blinded to the institutional and structural bases of her career makes it possible to ask similarly of him whether he sufficiently credits her triumphs and the role of her moral authority in them. The same might be asked of the broad sweep of 19th century culture thoughtfully examined in this fine book.

James Hoopes Babson College

Announcements

Nelson Algren: An International Symposium, 9 June 2000, Sponsored by the School of English, University of Leeds

Proposals (max. 250 words) are invited on any aspect of the work of Nelson Algren. Submissions might include issues relating to gender relations, urban space, addiction, and transience. The conference fee is £15. (£8 concessions) and will include registration, programme, buffet lunch and refreshments.

The keynote speaker will be Bettina Drew (author of Nelson Algren: A Life On The Wild Side).

Proposals for individual papers of twenty minutes should be sent by 1 November 1999 to: Robert Ward, School of English, University of Leeds, Leeds, West Yorkshire, UK, LS2 9JT. E-mail: engrpw@english.novell.leeds.ac.uk Fax: Abroad [44] UK 0 113 233 4774

Conference on the Relationships between Fine Arts and Literature

A conference on "Art and Literature in 20th-Century America" will be held at the University of Salerno at Fisciano, Italy, on 1-2 December 1999. Katherine Manthorne, from the Smithsonian National Museum of American Art in Washington DC, will deliver the opening lecture on "Visual Arts in the First Half of the Twentieth Century: Postscript to the Whitney's American Century Exhibition". The list of speakers includes: Maria Vittoria D'Amico (Catania); Cristina Giorcelli (Rome); Martin Heusser (Zurich); Rosella Mamoli Zorzi (Venice); Andrea Mariani (Pescara); Mario Materassi (Florence); Bianca Maria Pisapia (Rome); Caterina Ricciardi (Rome). for the final program and further information, please contact Prof. Michele Bottalico, Dipartimento di Studi Linguistici e Letterari, Università di Salerno, Via Ponte Don Melillo, 84084 Fisciano (SA), Italy. Fax: 089-962079.

Call for Papers: International Conference "Focusing the Vietnam Era: Contemporary Views of American Literature and Culture in the Great Sixties" - Seville, 29-31 March 2000

This conference, organized by the American Studies Research Group of the University of Seville, aims at exploring the way in which scholars within the field of American Studies view and try to bring into focus the cultural and literary achievement of one of the most important yet

contradictory periods in 20th Century America. We seek to probe into what might be called “the great sixties”, a period which roughly goes from the mid-fifties to the mid-seventies. We consider that this is a particularly appealing field since many of the attitudes and values that took shape as a result of the challenges, redefinitions and upheavals of these years are still relevant at the beginning of the new millennium.

Conveners might address the literary and/or cultural aspects of the following topics: The Vietnam War; Counterculture; Civil Rights Movement; Women’s Liberation; Gay and Lesbian Rights Movement; Cultural manifestations of ethnic minorities; New departures in poetry, narrative and drama; and Critical challenges to the literary canon.

The conference will take place in Seville, in southern Spain, from the 29th to the 31st of March, 2000. Lecturers who have already confirmed their attendance include William D. Ehrhart (Vietnam veteran and poet), Elaine Tyler May (Professor of American Studies, University of Minnesota), and Lary May (Professor of American History, University of Minnesota).

Convenors should send a brief vita (about one paragraph) and a long abstract (300-500 words) of a twenty-minute paper (nine pages including notes and bibliography), either in English or Spanish, by 10 January 2000. We hope to be able to publish a selection of the proceedings. All correspondence should be addressed to: Congreso Vietnam, Dpto. de Literatura Inglesa y Norteamericana, Facultad de Filología/Universidad de Sevilla, C/Palos de la Frontera, s/n, 41004 SEVILLA (SPAIN), Telephone: 34-95-4551555, Fax: 34-95-4551552, Email: jguijarro@siff.us.es or mtoda@siff.us.es

The conference fees are: 5000.-Ptas (If paid before February 21st)/ 7000.-Ptas (If paid after February 22nd) to be paid by bank transfer to the following account: 0004/3002/96/06004321067 (Banco de Andalucía). Please specify: Congreso Vietnam.

International Conference: University of Reims, 10 and 11 March 2000

What’s in a detail: Lire le détail

Communications will all start from a seemingly illegible, useless, resisting detail taken out of a literary or pictorial work of art. Why can this irreducible element turn out in the last analysis to be necessary for us to understand the meaning of the work? Can we construct a specific sort of logic in order to make sense of the way we read the work taking that detail into account?

Contact: Daniel Thomières, Département d’anglais, Université de Reims, 57, rue Pierre Taittinger 51096 Reims Cedex, Tel: 03 26 91 36 64

‘From Sahara to Sunbelt?: Narratives of the South and Southernness in the Twentieth Century’

School of American and Canadian Studies, University of Nottingham, Saturday 4 December 1999, 10am-5pm

We are inviting proposals for papers to be given at this one-day conference. Proposals of no more than 500 words for papers dealing with fictional and/or nonfictional narratives - novels, short stories, poetry, drama, film, history, biography, autobiography, music, etc. - of the South and Southernness in the twentieth century are welcome. Please send proposals by 1 October 1999 to Professor Richard H. King at: (mail) School of American and Canadian Studies, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD; (fax) (0115) 851 4270; (email) Richard.King@nottingham.ac.uk All general enquiries should be directed to Professor King.

The conference fee will be approximately £10 (£6.50 postgraduates/unwaged), including buffet lunch and interval refreshments. Further details, including speakers, will be announced soon.

Fifth International F. Scott Fitzgerald Conference Université de Nice, June 27-July 4, 2000

The noted author and scholar Malcolm Bradbury has been announced as keynote speaker. A reception is planned in Juan-les-Pins, at the Belles-Rives Hotel which was the Fitzgeralds' villa. Papers and/or abstracts as well as proposals for panels should be submitted *in triplicate* by October 15, 1999. All aspects of Fitzgerald's work and career are welcome, but proposals relating to his year in France, his relationship with Hemingway and Gerald and Sara Murphy, "Tender Is the Night" and short stories set in France, as well as other aspects of his European connections are of particular interest.

Contact: Professor Ruth Prigozy, English Department, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11549, Tel.: (516)463-5462, e-mail: Rprigozy@aol.com

Conference Director: Professor Ruth Prigozy, Program Director: Professor Jackson R. Bryer, University of Maryland On-site Director: Dr. Doina Laroque, Université de Nice

Call for Papers: "Reading William Gaddis", 24-25 March 2000, LOLitA/Université D'Orléans, France

For the first time in France, a colloquium will be dedicated to the work of William Gaddis, who died on December 16, 1998. The 3Laboratoire Orléans-Tours de Littérature Américaine² (LOLitA) organizes an international conference entitled 3Reading William Gaddis/Lire William Gaddis² at the University of Orléans, March 24-25 2000. Also intended as an homage to the author of *The Recognitions*, *JR*, *Carpenter's Gothic* and *A Frolic of His Own*, this conference will try to assess the situation of William Gaddis's work in the field of contemporary American literature. Participants will be invited to share and confront their reading(s) of William Gaddis's novels as part of LOLitA's ongoing reflection on the modes (and attached theories) of reading contemporary fiction.

Here is a non-exhaustive list of issues to be addressed:

Critical reception: what is the place of Gaddis's work in contemporary fiction? What types of critical readings have been made so far? How can the experience of reading *The Recognitions*, *JR*, *Carpenter's Gothic* and *A Frolic of His Own* be defined? What is it that we read exactly when we read William Gaddis? How does or can one read such a text as *JR*? How is the act of reading

at stake in the four novels (for instance, how does the reading oscillate between constraints and the temptation to drift along?) What are the pleasures of reading?

To read and reread is to experience the singularity of Gaddis's writing, so what links can be established between the reading of Gaddis's novels and their respective aesthetics and poetics? With Gaddis, a certain *ethics*² of reading (he wished his readers would accept to make a little *effort*²) seems to lead to an aesthetics of reading (only certain kinds of attentive readings can render the form of the text truly visible). Could this in turn lead to a poetics of reading that would somehow be in keeping with Gaddis's writing but also more generally contribute to delineating a poetics of reading contemporary fiction?

Papers will be in English; their presentation should not exceed 25 minutes (about 8 to 10 pages, or 12000 to 15000 signs).

Paper proposals deadline: 15 November 1999. Please send a one-page abstract by post or e-mail to the conference coordinator: Brigitte Félix, 74 rue Édouard de la Boussinière, 72000 Le Mans, France, Phone 33-(0) 243231239 (bfelix@univ-lemans.fr).

Call for Papers : Annual Conference - Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA)
Dreams of Paradise, Visions of Apocalypse Utopia and Dystopia in American Culture, June 14-16, 2000, Roosevelt Study Center, Middelburg, The Netherlands

The ideas of newness and "perennial rebirth" has persisted throughout American history. Time and again Americans have described themselves in terms of renewal and new beginnings, often mythically envisioned as a pastoral paradise. Unbound by a slavish reverence to obsolete traditions they have persistently explored a new future that might be a shining example to all. Whether symbolized as a City upon a Hill, a New Frontier, or the First New Nation, the American experiment sought to inspire other nations and cultures. Yet, perceptions of the American future were not always utopian. From the first Americans have also struggled with dystopian projections of America's decline and fall, and have imagined apocalyptic endings to a projected paradise. This dialectic between "dreams of new beginnings" and "nightmares of apocalypse" has been particularly acute and apparent at watershed moments in American cultural history like wars, crises, and turns of century. Over time, also, a change has taken place in the mythical and metaphorical vocabulary of the dialectic, as "America" came less and less to be defined in terms derived from a Christian, Western civilization and theology.

The Netherlands American Studies Association conference to be held at the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, the Netherlands, on June 14-16, 2000, aims to explore the cultural significance of these utopian and dystopian perceptions of the American future. It aims to do so from a multi-disciplinary angle (history, literature, sociology, religion, etc.), and seeks to give special emphasis to revisionary interpretations and to projects in the fields of religion, gender, popular culture and media, and minority cultures.

A selection of the conference proceedings will be published in the series *European Contributions to American Studies* (Amsterdam: VU University Press). The conference volume will be edited by the conference organizers Hans Bak and Jaap Verheul.

Scholars interested in participating in this conference are invited to submit a one-page paper proposal before November 1, 1999. Paper presenters are requested to cover their own travel and hotel expenses.

Conference Secretaries: Hans Bak, American Studies, Catholic University Nijmegen, Postbus 9103, 6500 HD Nijmegen, The Netherlands, + 31 24 361 2782 (KUN), E-mail: h.bak@let.kun.nl.
Jaap Verheul, American Studies Program, Utrecht University, Kromme Nieuwegracht 66, 3512 HL Utrecht, The Netherlands, tel. +31 30 253 6034, fax. +31 30 253 6391, E-mail: jaap.verheul@let.uu.nl.

Colloquium focusing on the broad topic of American spying, and recent activities, or global strategies of American intelligence, will be held at the Pôle Universitaire Latour-Maubourg in Valence (87, avenue de Romans, 26000 Valence, télécopie 04 75 56 20 76) on November 19-20, 1999.

Papers may be presented in American, English, or French, in the fields of covert operations, media studies, biological process control, mind control, human rights, technological development, infiltration, torture, experimentation, harassment, military kidnappings, implants, behavior modification, public relations, etc.

Proposals should be sent by email or letter to: Colloquium Chairman: William SCHNABEL <William.Schnabel@u-grenoble3.fr>, Centre de Valence - Pôle Universitaire Latour-Maubourg 87, avenue de Romans 26000 Valence, téléphone: 04 75 78 10 21, télécopie: 04 75 56 20 76

French Association for American Studies May 2000 Conference - Aix-en-Provence America as Image: Call for Papers

Though images are a pervasive form of American culture, they remain relatively un-represented in the practice of American studies. The year 2000 appears to be a good time for an exploration that should go beyond the mere accumulation of monographs on various kinds of "American pictures". The conference will aim at promoting a theoretical approach of two discursive objects and their "archaeological" links:

- the image, rather than particular genres or media;
- America, rather than the United States as a country.

In this context the European perspective will be of particular interest.

Sessions will be organized around the following themes:

1. AMERICA / IMAGE. Our first goal is to study the parallel genesis and the relevance of two discursive objects or forms that have long been associated for better or for worse in a number of discourses on/of modernity, particularly European ones, and to investigate their common philosophical and political ground, in particular by asking whether America/Image is an

unspoken condition for the European project.

2. AMERICA AS IMAGE OF THE FUTURE: A HISTORY TO BE WRITTEN. This theme is linked to the former, but will call for a more ideological perspective. It can be explored from a variety of sources, media, and points of view. Has America been a tool for thinking out the future, how and why? It might thus be possible to define the project of an intellectual, cultural, and political history, which should not be strictly restricted to the European point of view.

3. AMERICA BEYOND WORDS: THE IMAGE AS APPEAL. Is America the continent of super reality, and why? Or, why is the object "America" so often mediated by images? How does this appeal to the image operate, and what does it reveal as to the status of each of the two objects (America / image)? These questions might provide an opportunity for reexamining some of the undertakings - either large or small - that have sought to "visualize" America.

4. A CULTURE OF IMAGES? This is a more predictable theme, and thus one in which the use of specific examples will be most necessary to avoid clichés and preconceptions. The conference should be an opportunity to sketch out a history of forms, genres and practices of image-making and image-consumption in the United States, as well as to take up, from a sociological standpoint, the issue of "popular" culture and its transmission abroad.

5. THE IMAGE AND TEACHING AMERICA. All the previous themes should be justified and expanded by a reflection on the role of images in our teaching practices as Americanists. Progress might be made by assessing the state of things and by investigating certain forms and contents of such practices.

If you wish to give a paper and contribute to our debate, please send a brief proposal to François Brunet (Universite Paris 7 - Denis Diderot), e-mail: brunetf@paris7. jussieu.fr or Jean Kempf (Universite Lumière - Lyon 2) e-mail: Jean.Kempf@ univ-lyon2.-fr before May 15, 1999.

Polish Association For American Studies (Paas), Annual Conference 1999, Lodz, December 9-11,
"Apocalypse Now: Prophecy And Fulfilment"

CALL FOR PAPERS

The theme will, from the perspective of the millennium's end, provide opportunity for investigating the fascination of the American culture with both promise and punishment. We invite papers exploring continuities and fluctuations of the sense of America's special destiny, its spiritual and civilizational mission, its concerns with catastrophic upheavals and self-destructive urges. To what extent have such dilemmas been characteristic of the American cultural consciousness? How do they manifest themselves in politics, social sciences, literature, the media, or the visual arts? Are, for example, the current preoccupations with cultural hybridity and the intensified questioning of the role of English as The national language to be perceived as opening vistas for millennial fulfillment or as harbingers of annihilation to national identity and social cohesion?

Please, send proposals of 20-30 minute presentations by September 1, 1999 to: Zbigniew Maszewski, Department of American Literature and Culture, University of Lodz, Al. Kosciuszki 65, PL-90-514 Lodz, Poland. Fax: 48 81 636 6337. E-mail: jagamasz@kryisia.uni.lodz.pl

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation International Center for Jefferson Studies Short-Term Fellowships and Travel Grants, 2000

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, which owns and operates Thomas Jefferson's historic home at Monticello, is pleased to announce a program of short-term residential fellowships and travel grants at its International Center for Jefferson Studies open to all scholars working on Jefferson projects. Foreign nationals are particularly encouraged to apply.

SHORT-TERM FELLOWSHIPS are awarded for periods of one to three months to doctoral candidates and postdoctoral scholars from any country. Awards carry a stipend of \$1,500 for United States and Canadian fellows plus pre-approved round-trip airfare, and \$2,000 for overseas fellows plus airfare. Residential accommodation may be available on a limited basis. Fellows are expected to be in residence at the Center during the course of the fellowship, and no awards are made for work carried on elsewhere. Fellows have access to Monticello's expert staff and research holdings as well as to the extensive resources of the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia. Occasional visits may be made to the Library of Virginia and the Virginia Historical Society in nearby Richmond, and to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Applicants should submit four copies of (1) a succinct description of the research project (500-words), and (2) a curriculum vitae. In addition, please arrange for three references to be sent directly to the Center at the address below.

TRAVEL GRANTS are available on a limited basis for scholars and teachers wishing to make short-term visits to Monticello to pursue research or educational projects. Application procedures and deadlines are the same as for fellowships.

Deadlines for Applications: 1 November 1999 and 1 April 2000 Candidates who submit applications by 1 November will normally be considered for awards between February and July, and candidates who apply by 1 April for July to January.

Applications and references should be addressed to the Fellowship Committee, International Center for Jefferson Studies, Monticello, Post Office Box 316, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902, USA. Announcement of awards will be made no later than 1 January and 1 June 2000.

The fellowship and grants program is underwritten by endowments established for this purpose by the Batten Foundation and First Union National Bank of Virginia, and by a grant from the Coca-Cola Company.

COMMONWEALTH FUND CONFERENCE - 'THE STATE OF AMERICAN HISTORY'

The Commonwealth Fund Conference in American History for the year 2000 will be on the theme of 'The State of American History.' It will take place at University College London from 17-19 February. Speakers who have already agreed to take part include John Ashworth, Alan Brinkley, Christopher Clark, Adam Fairclough, Daniel Feller, Neil Foley, Robert Gross, Howell Harris, Michael Heale, Jay Kleinberg, James Kloppenberg, Patricia Nelson Limerick, Simon Newman, Michael O'Brien, Peter Parish, Joy Porter, Michael Tadman, Douglas Tallack, David Turley and Peter Way.

For more information, contact the conference chair: Melvyn Stokes, Dept of History, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, England or e-mail commonwealth.fund@ucl.ac.uk

XVIth CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

Conference theme: Transitions and Transgressions in an Age of Multiculturalism

at the University of South Africa (Unisa), Pretoria, South Africa, 13-19 August 2000

Theme of Roundtable 4: The Transition from European to North American Influences in Africa: Which conventions shaped storytelling and orature in the past? What are the determining factors in contemporary African writing?

The full call for papers is available on the web at <http://www.puk.ac.za/engwww/saval>.

Due date for submission of titles and abstracts is 31 May 1999.

Contact person Round Table 4: Loes Nas, Department of English, University of the Western Cape, Private Bag X17, 7535 Bellville, South Africa. Fax: 27 21 9592202,

Monographs on American Literature

The series "Voix Américaines", published by Editions BELIN and edited by Marc CHENETIER publishes every year 8 128 page- monographs on American authors by French scholars. Every volume costs only fifty francs. Four come out in January and four in September.

The volumes are written in French by specialists and aim at introducing American authors to students and the general public.

Leaflets, order forms and subscription forms can be obtained from Sylvie GILLET (at Editions Belin, 8 rue Férou, 75006-Paris, Fax : 01 43 25 18 29)

Published so far are volumes on Gertrude STEIN, Toni MORRISON, John DOS PASSOS, John HAWKES, William GADDIS, William GASS, Guy DAVENPORT, Ralph

ELLISON, John BARTH, Erskine CALDWELL, Robert COOVER, Norman MAILER, Shelby FOOTE, Willa CATHER, James PURDY, Grace PALEY.

In January, four more volumes will be available (Bernard MALAMUD, Jack KEROUAC, Richard BRAUTIGAN, H.D. THOREAU).

Marc Chenetier, Institut Charles V, 10 rue Charles V, 75004-Paris , Tel: 01-44-78-34-14,
Fax: 01-44-78-34-99

Melus Europe Conference, Universite d' Orleans, France, June 22-25, 2000

Europe and the United States: Comparative Ethnic Literatures

This conference will highlight the comparative aspects of different ethnic literatures within the United States or between the United States and Europe. We welcome proposals for workshops and papers on such topics as: sites of memory; genealogy; autobiography; traveling theory; theoretical contaminations; comparative critical approaches; childhoods; children's literature; stereotyping; narrative perspectives; paradigms of internment; experiences of translation; constructing the ethnic; immigration/emigration/migration; nostalgia; memory and forgetting; citizenship; eating ethnicity; ways of death and dying; American ethnics in Europe; Europeans in the US.

Keynote speakers: Wolfgang Binder (University of Erlangen); Barbara Christian (University of California at Berkeley); A. Robert Lee (Nihon University, Tokio); Amy Ling (University of Wisconsin at Madison); Lisa Lowe (University of California at San Diego); Sterling Stuckey (University of California, Riverside)

Deadline for proposals: October 1, 1999 Send your c.v. and a one-page proposal to: Dr. Heike Raphael-Hernandez, University of Maryland (European Division) Im Bosseldorn 30, 69126 Heidelberg, Germany, hraphael@faculty.ed.umuc.edu and Dr. Giulia Fabi, University of Rome, bed7418@iperbole.bologna.it (no attachments to this e-mail address)

For membership information, contact: Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg doro.fischer-hornung@urz.uni-heidelberg.de

First University Of Malaga Conference On American Theatre: "The political and the personal in American Theatre and Drama" 22-24 May 2000

Proposals (max. 300 words) should reach us by 20 November and papers (20min., MLA Style, PC compatible, Word or WordPerfect) by 30th January. Among topics to be discussed, always in relation to the personal and the political, are: issues of race, ethnicity, class, sexual preference, and gender in American theatre; questions of theory, realism/fantasy, the "family play," the non-Broadway play, the historical perspective, film versions, text/performance, playwrights and directors, the theatrical space, the power of the reviewer, translation/performance of American

plays in Spain. We hope to publish selected papers.

Send proposals and papers to Barbara Ozieblo, Dpto. de Filología Inglesa, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Universidad de Málaga, 29071 Málaga, Spain. Tel.: 34 952 131795; Fax: 34 952 131843. Emails: narbona@uma.es; ozieblo@uma.es

Barbara Ozieblo, Dpto. de Filología Inglesa, Universidad de Málaga, 29071 Málaga, Spain. Tel.: 34 952 131795/443897. Fax.: 34 952 131843. ozieblo@uma.es

Call for Papers

EurAmerica: A Journal of European and American Studies

1. EurAmerica is a quarterly journal published by the Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica, Taiwan. It welcomes papers in European or American literature, philosophy, history, sociology, economics, education, library science, political science, international relations, and legal studies. Books reviews related to these areas are also solicited. Contributions should not have been published or be under consideration elsewhere.

2. Papers should be clear typescripts or photocopies and should conform to the format and style appropriate to the disciplines of the manuscripts submitted. A 180-word abstract, as well as 5 keywords, should be submitted along with the manuscript.

3. The first page should be a title page containing the name(s) of the author(s), affiliation(s), mailing address, and phone/fax number(s).

4. All papers will be reviewed by two readers. The author(s) will receive six copies of the journal and fifty offprints of the paper upon publication.

5. Please address submissions and inquiries to: Ms. Huei-Hwa Chang, Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica, Nankang, Taipei 11529, Taiwan or to the following e-mail account: euramerica@ sinica.edu.tw

6. The four issues are to be published in March, June, September, and December respectively.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

hosted by the Department of American Studies, University of Wales Swansea,
6th-9th April 2000

The BAAS Annual Conference for the year 2000 will be hosted by the Department of American Studies at the University of Wales, Swansea from April 6-9. Though there will be no specific or overarching theme for the conference, we hope that the timing of the Conference might help celebrate the millennium and highlight the historical and ongoing cultural and social ties between Wales and America, as well as showcase the tremendous diversity and strengths of American Studies by featuring interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary papers from as wide a range of

disciplines as possible. Papers are therefore welcomed on any American Studies topic, broadly defined.

Swansea, Wales is a culturally diverse and thriving city located at a crossroads between industrial South Wales and areas of outstanding natural beauty that include the mountains of the Brecon Beacons National Park and the long coast lines and remote beaches of the Gower peninsula - all within easy reach of Cardiff and London and generally accessible to the rest of Britain. Plans are being made to include cultural events and countryside excursions that will capitalise on the strengths of the American Studies community in Swansea and throughout Wales and the rich cultural heritage and natural beauty of the area.

Paper Proposals should not exceed one page and must include a provisional title. If submitted individually these will be organised into appropriate panels; alternatively, panel proposals by two or three paper-givers sharing a common theme may be submitted. Proposals are due by October 1st 1999 and should be addressed, together with any queries or suggestions, to Michael McDonnell, Conference Secretary. Please note that e-mail submissions are welcome but must be made in the body of the text and not as attachments. Unless specifically requested, receipt of proposals will not be acknowledged, but acceptances and rejection notices will be sent out to all. Please feel free to circulate this announcement widely.

Dr. Michael A. McDonnell, Department of American Studies, University of Wales Swansea,
SA2 8PP, UK. 44 0 1792 295 305 (tel.), 44 0 1792 295 719 (fax),
<m.mcdonnell@swansea.ac.uk>

II Conference on English and American Studies

Small Worlds: Visions of Childhood in Contemporary Literature In English, March 9-11, 2000,
University of Navarre, Pamplona, Spain

The conference will address contemporary representations of children and writing for children in English. Topics may include, but are not limited to: the child and childhood as theme, child perspective, childhood autobiographies, bildungsroman and künstlerroman, children's literature, archetypal representations of children, writing the ethnic or postcolonial child, children and a sense of place, childhood and memory.

Abstracts in English (500 words) for 20-minute papers may be sent to the conference organizers before October 31, 1999: Dr. Rocio G. Davis and Dr. Rosalia Baena Modern Languages Department, University of Navarre, Pamplona 31080, Spain, Tel: 948-425600, Fax: 948-425636, Email: rgdavis@unav.es / rbaena@unav.es

Rocio G. Davis, Modern Languages Department, University of Navarre, Pamplona 31080, Spain,
Tel: 34 948 425600, Fax: 34 948 425636, Email: rgdavis@unav.es

EAAS CFP: "Culture Agonistes: Text Against Text": Call for Papers: Hellenic Association for American Studies May 25-28, 2000, University of Athens, Athens, Greece

Papers are invited to address current debates going on in the United States and Europe in a variety of disciplines in community and the academy - in literature, linguistics, literary theory and cultural studies.

Suggested topics are: American feminism and postmodernism, postcolonialism and postmodernism, Marxism and postmodernism: contentions and contests; the debatable texts of multiculturalism; center and periphery; the changing relations of philosophy and politics in an era of deconstructionism; gendered gazes; competing texts in American film theory; ways of reading literary texts: new horizons and battles.

Closing date for proposals is October 1st, 1999. Please send a one-page proposal and a brief biographical statement to: Professor Robert Crist, University of Athens, School of Philosophy, Department of English Studies, University Campus Zografou 157 84, Fax: 00301 7248 979, E-mail: desnos@otenet.gr or Associate Prof. Theodora Tsimpouki, University of Athens, School of Philosophy Department of English Studies, University Campus Zografou 157 84, Fax: 00301 7248 979, E-mail: tsimpouki@otenet.gr

American Theatre and Drama Society

For more than 10 years now, the American Theatre and Drama Society has been promoting the study of American playwrights, actors, designers, critics and audiences from a welter of perspectives (historical, contemporaneous, intercultural, intermedial, etc.) Every year its international membership has been meeting as a Focus Group at the Annual Conference of the Association for Theater in Higher Education, to conduct its business meeting and present scholarly papers (9 panels in 1998, 12 panels in 1999 including the graduate student Debut Panel, sponsored by ATDS). There, too, the Betty Jean Jones Award for Outstanding Teacher of American Theatre and Drama is awarded (which in 1999 went to Don Wilmeth). In addition, ATDS oversees several sessions at other conferences, like those of the Modern Language Association and the American Literature Association.

During the year members are kept abreast of developments and activities within the field of American theatre and drama through the *Newsletter*, which appears three times a year, and the ATDS Web page (providing access, amongst other things, to the syllabus bank). They also receive *The Journal of American Drama and Theatre*, whose articles range from Tennessee Williams, Maria Irene Fornes, Maryat Lee, and David Belasco, to Julian Eltinge, Theatre Arts Monthly, regional theatre, A.R.Gurney, and the 1969 State Department sponsored cultural exchange program, "Kaleidoscope of the American Dream."

Subscription to the American Theatre and Drama Society ensures inclusion in *the Annual Membership Directory* which allows for further networking between scholars and academics. Join ATDS in an effort to promote the study of American theatre and drama. Dues are limited to \$15.00 for student, adjunct, part-time or temporarily employed members and \$25.00 for general members. Checks should be made payable to the American Theatre and Drama Society (in U.S.

funds) and sent to

James J. Kolb, Membership Secretary, American Theatre and Drama Society, 54 Hamlet Road, Levittown, NY 11756-4130, E-mail: drmjjk@hostra.edu @ vub.ac.be

The Collegium for African American Research (CAAR) launched its new FORECAAST series and presented the first two volumes at the CAAR biennial conference in Münster, Germany, March 18-21, 1999:

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Publications By Members

"Città reali e Immaginarie del Continente Americano" eds. Cristina Giorcelli, Camilla Cattarulla, Anna Scacchi (Edizioni Associate, Roma, 1998, pp. 724). The volume contains 48 essays in five languages (English, French, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese). In English, the essays by the following authors: Thomas Angotti, Ronald Bush, Dominique Marcais, Stephen Materson, Pierre-Yves Petillon, Daniel Pope, Paula Rabinowitz, Doc Rossi.

Clara Sarmiento. *Os Moliceiros da Ria de Aveiro: Quadros Flutuantes*. (edited by Camara Municipal de Aveiro, May 1999), 160 pp. ISBN 972-9137-44-7. A study on the moliceiro, a traditional type of boat from the Portuguese northern coast. This book focuses specifically on the study, categorization, listing and description of the panels which adorn this boat with colourful naif paintings and expressive sentences. With 260 colour pictures and a detailed summary in English. Order through Livraria Municipal de Aveiro, Largo de Santa Joana, 3800 Aveiro, Portugal. Phone: 351-34-425380. E-mail contact: jcsarmiento@mail.telepac.pt

Hans Krabbendam and Jaap Verheul, *Through the Cultural Looking Glass. American Studies in Transcultural Perspective, European Contributions to American Studies XL* (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 1999).

Tity de Vries, ed., *Dynamics of Modernization. European-American Comparisons and Perceptions. European Contributions to American Studies XLI* (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 1998).

Jaap van der Bent, Mel van Elteren, Cornelis A. van Minnen, *Beat Culture: The 1950s and Beyond, European Contributions to American Studies XLII* (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 1999).

Krzysztof Andrzejczak. *The Writing in the Writing: Author as Hero in Postwar American Fiction*. International Scholars Publications, New York, 1998.

Anne Deysine (Paris 10) has just published : *Argent, Politique, Corruption*. A volume dedicated to the fatal triangle Money, Politics and corruption. It can be obtained by ordering from PUBLIDIX, Université de Paris 10 Nanterre, 200 Avenue de la République, 92001-Nanterre Cedex, France, and costs 100FF.

Jerzy Durczak. *Selves between Cultures: Contemporary American Bicultural Authobiography*. 2nd ed. International Scholars Publications, New York, 1998.

The proceedings of the 1996 NASA conference on American biography and autobiography have appeared and can be ordered through VU University Press, De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam (email: vuuitgeverij@vuboeckhandel.nl). Hans Bak & Hans Krabbendam, eds. *Writing Lives: American Biography and Autobiography (European Contributions to American Studies 39)*, 315 pp. ISBN 90-5383-617-9. Contributors include Stephen Arch, Kathleen Ashley, Douglas Brinkley, Susan Castillo, Ann Charters, Isabel Duran, Joan Hedrick, A. Robert Lee, Jeffrey Meyers, Axel Nissen, Barbara Ozieblo, David Seed, Madeleine Sorapure, Linda Wagner-Martin, a.o.

Irmina Wawrzyczek. *Planting and Loving: Popular Sexual Mores in the Seventeenth-Century Chesapeake*. Wydawnictwo UMCS, Lublin, 1998.

Marek Wilczynski. *The Phantom and the Abyss: Gothic Fiction in America and the Aesthetics of the Sublime, 1798-1856*. Poznan, 1998.

Maria Diedrich, Carl Pedersen, Justine Tally, eds. *Mapping Africa America. History, Narrative Formation, and the Production of Knowledge*. Hamburg: Lit Verlag, 1999. Forum for European Contributions in African American Studies, vol. 1.

Justine Tally. *Paradise Reconsidered: Tony Morrison's (Hi)stories and Truths*. Hamburg: Lit Verlag, 1999. Forum for European Contributions in African American Studies, vol. 3.

Paola Loreto, *La contemplazione dell'emblema. La poesia eretica di Emily Dickinson* (Milano: Unicopli, 1999), pp. 153

Paola Loreto, *La voce di Robert Frost. Un timbro grave sotto un tono leggero* (Milano, CUEM, 1999), pp. 267

A New Simple Quiz

1. What has hope to do with Rhode Island?
2. Connect Fred Astaire and Marlon Brando?
3. Who or what is the brown thrasher?

Answers to the simple quiz in newsletter 41

1. Gore Vidal
2. Jacqueline Kennedy
3. James Gordon Bennett, Sr

The next issue of American Studies in Europe will appear in February 2000. All items for inclusion should reach the editor by 15 December 1999.

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