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Editor:

Martin Heusser

Englisches Seminar

Universität Zürich, Switzerland

E-mail: heusser@eaas.info

Webmaster:

Hans-Jürgen Grabbe

Zentrum für USA-Studien

Martin-Luther-Universität

Halle-Wittenberg, Halle, Germany

E-mail: grabbe@eaas.info

Website:

<http://www.eaas.info>

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT: SUMMER NOTES



This is August. And the nature of traffic at Larnaka Airport has been sadly altered since we were a leisurely, hopeful and happy part of it ...

Nevertheless, basking in the heat that sweeps Europe and in the afterglow of our Nicosia Conference, I feel the delight of rest from a number of tasks that kept the officers and conference

organizers very busy until early Summer, as well as the perspectival pleasure of planning for things soon upon us.

The gathering in Cyprus was successful and highly convivial, both for reasons I had the occasion of pointing out here in the pre-conference period and because of organizational features that improved, in the opinion of all participants, the atmosphere of events too often felt to be part of a merely formal routine rather than as a genuine moment of communication. I think particularly, of course, of the well-attended first *pre-conference* business meeting, and of the warm, humorous, tight and generous addresses of welcome by our local hosts at the opening ceremony. I think above all of the highly symbolic and unspeakably moving poetry reading by Greek and Turkish Cypriot poets organized by Stephanos Stephanides and Gur Genc in the UN headquarters at the heart of the "Green Zone." And I do not forget the spontaneous gusto of both trained and neophyte dancers and performers on a certain Sunday evening.

Among developments should mostly be counted the latest organizational stages of the *European Journal of American Studies* and the installation of its Editorial Committee, with whose members I met in May, at the Roosevelt Study Centre in Middelburg, soon after their election by the Board at the Cyprus conference. It is currently working at the establishment of a scientifically representative Advisory Board and at the gathering of the articles that will constitute the first real issues (after the "test issue") of EJAS. The Call for Papers has been widely spread and appears again in the following pages.

Also to be welcomed is the take-off of the first younger scholars' initiative, under the form of an encounter around 19th-century literature in Poland, with the help of seed money provided by EAAS out of its too meagre holdings. A number of travel grants were distributed for that occasion, *in addition* to the Intra-European and TransAtlantic grants EAAS keeps making available. The Women's shoptalk, organized in Cyprus for the first time, promises to develop into a forum run by female European Americanists and steps have been taken to ensure coordination between these initiatives and the Board and officers of EAAS. Neither last nor least, it has been decided, thanks to the existence of our website and of the newly created journal, to try and make European research yet more visible by making available, in the margins, so to speak, of the e-journal, a "European library of American Studies" listing available books published in English by Europeans on subjects American over the last two or three decades. This, linked with the fact that the site of EJAS draws the attention of its visitors to all Americanist European journals, should help propagate the result of our collective labors, make sure European research is more frequently referred to, not only by our non-European colleagues, in the US and elsewhere, but also within Europe, it being rather astonishing that articles and books published by Europeans too rarely refer to the work of the colleagues closest to their specialty and/or place of activity, and most easily reachable. Members of EAAS are also reminded that the listserv, maintained by our colleague Jaap Verheul, is too little used in the light of its possibilities. The fact that its recipients can opt for selected items of information should encourage people to subscribe who don't wish to receive undue numbers of messages that do not concern them directly.

A number of other projects should soon be hatching, testifying to the dynamism and vitality of our association, to the dedication of its Board whose debates are essentially governed by notions of general service and a concern for the common good, not by mere special interest preoccupations born of research field, gender, national affiliation or any other such preferential parameter, let alone an interest in some mysterious power structure that would be risible were it anywhere to be detected. Synergy, not atomization, is what the Board works towards; elections of Board representatives by national associations and participation in the collective definition of the tasks to be undertaken are the means by which any active member of EAAS can offer his/her shoulder to the collective wheel. Most requests are legitimate, most protests can be heard, most demands can be voiced, most suggestions followed by effect provided their authors actively volunteer positive

ideas, work, energy, means of all kinds to implement them. Any kind of change, at the end of the day, has to be *worked* into the fabric of our realities. No objective obstacle validates the occasional gap between the overall satisfaction courteously voiced at the General Meeting and rare expressions of unease that, although quite natural, do not see fit to use available channels of communication, therefore vanish into unidentifiable rumor and thus make sure the potential validity of their origin cannot be documented, examined, remedied.

As we begin to rev up for the 2008 Oslo Conference, in particular, it would be splendid indeed if all members of EAAS who worry that national, gender or other types of representation have not always ideally fit their desires *volunteered* papers, lectures, workshop *responsibilities* etc., so that the Board have enough material to select from and can make even more certain allow fair representation prevails while not jeopardizing quality for adventitious reasons. The Board, if I may remind all, can only select proposals for our Conference from among those it has in fact received. Not sending proposals on time and then complaining is not helpful. By the same measure, should energies be available for the production of texts destined for the European Journal, should good will manifest itself under the form of help to peer-review papers in the various specialties of our profession, of specific support proposed to various local initiatives, or of assistance in locating potential sources of funding for a variety of new enterprises, all those who endeavor, day after day, to make things work in EAAS would, I am sure, be very grateful. When the Board meets again in April 2007 in Wittenberg, it will as a matter of course review what proposals made in this spirit have reached it and, as usual, do its utmost, according to its place, role and duties to implement them.

The selfless dedication of Officers and Board members, of the new Editorial Committee of EJAS, of our younger and women colleagues who have taken it upon themselves to innovate and create new opportunities and places for discussion are matters to rejoice over. As is the recent election, in Nicosia, of two new officers (Jenel Virden as Secretary General and Martin Heusser as Vice-President) who were gracious enough to take on the time-consuming tasks previously assumed by our friends Gülriz Buken and Ole Moen, often beyond the call of duty and at the expense of their own personal welfare. To the latter two goes my immense gratitude for the work accomplished. Not only in the past: even the following pages have much benefited from their prolonged activity. To the former two, whose dedication to the service of EAAS had previous

occasions to be tested in their function as Board members, a warm welcome and heartfelt thanks for the labor already accomplished since Nicosia. Meeting with all on the occasion of the two-day hand-over reunion organized in Paris in *June* (a direct and welcome consequence of our recently revised statutes) made for a perfectly smooth and collaborative quick transition.

It's been two years of highly pleasant and rewarding work, so far, from my point of view, culminating in the feast Antonis Balasopoulos and his colleagues had organized for us. I trust my enjoyment of these tasks

shall go on unabated as we now have Oslo in pleasurable and motivating sight, thanks to the hospitality of our Scandinavian colleagues. Then, come 2010, it will be Dublin, as decided in Nicosia; but this, assuredly, is a different story, to be written collectively at some other juncture. All the same, for the generous proposal of our Irish friends, many early thanks. And on to the numerous tasks at hand.

With warm greetings to all.
Marc Chénétier, President EAAS.



As the president put it: “The gathering in Cyprus was successful and highly convivial ...”

EAAS BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICERS:

President: Marc Chénétier, Université de Paris VII, Institut Charles V, 10 Rue Charles V, 75004 Paris, France
Phone: +33 1 57 27 58 79 Fax: +33 1 5727 5801
E-mail: chenetier@eaas.info

Vice President and Board Member for SANAS: Martin Heusser, Englisches Seminar, Universität Zürich, Plattenstrasse 47, 8032 Zürich, Switzerland
Phone: +41 44 634 3551 Fax: +41 44 634 4908
E-mail: heusser@eaas.ch

Treasurer and Board Member for DGfA: Hans-Jürgen Grabbe, Zentrum für USA-Studien, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, 06099 Halle, Germany
Phone: +49 345 552 3520 Fax: +49 345 552 7272
E-mail: grabbe@eaas.info

Secretary General and Board Member for BAAS: Jenel Virden, American Studies, University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RX, United Kingdom
Fax/Phone: +44 1482 465 303
E-mail: virden@eaas.info

BOARD MEMBERS:

Marcel Arbeit, Department of English and American Studies, Palacky University, Křížkovského 10, 771 47 Olomouc, Czech Republic
Phone: +420 68 563 3104 Fax: +420 68 563 3111
E-mail: arbeit@aix.upol.cz

Jesús Benito, Departamento de Filología Inglesa, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Plaza del Campus, Universidad de Valladolid, 47011 Valladolid, Spain
Phone: +34 983 42 3747 Fax: +34 983 42 3421
E-mail: jbenito4@fyl.uva.es

Tiziano Bonazzi, School of Political Sciences, University of Bologna, Strada Maggiore 45, 40125 Bologna, Italy
Phone: +39 051 2092501 Fax: +39 051 239548
E-mail: bonazzit@spbo.unibo.it

Isabel Caldeira, Instituto de Estudos Norte-Americanos Faculdade de Letras, Universidade de Coimbra, 3000-447 Coimbra, Portugal
Phone: + 351 239 859982 Fax: + 351 239 836733
E-mail: mic@ci.uc.pt

Catherine Collomp, Université Paris VII ? Denis Diderot, 10 rue Charles V, 75004 Paris, France
Phone: + 33 1 47252656 Fax: 33 1 57275801
E-Mail: collomp@paris7.jussieu.fr

Gilbert Debusscher, Faculté de Philosophie et Lettres, Université Libre de Bruxelles, avenue F. D. Roosevelt 50, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium
Phone: +32 2 650 24 02 Fax: +32 2 650 49 20
E-mail: gdebusscher@admin.ulb.ac.be

Jerzy Durczak, Department of American Literature and Culture, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Pl. Marii Curie Skłodowskiej 4, 20-031 Lublin, Poland
Phone: +48 81 5339 689 Fax: +48 81 5375 279
E-mail: durczak@klio.umcs.lublin.pl

William Anthony (Tony) Emmerson, School of History and International Affairs, University of Ulster at Jordanstown, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland, BT37 0QB, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 28 7032 4644 Fax: +44 28 7032 4925
E-mail: wa.emmerson@ulster.ac.uk

Sarolta Marinovich-Resch, Institute of English and American Studies, University of Szeged, Hungary, Egyetem u. 2, Szeged, 6726, Hungary.
Phone: +36 62 544260 Fax: +36 62 544259
E-mail: resch@lit.u-szeged.hu

Rodica Mihaila, Director, Center for American Studies, Univ. of Bucharest, Str. Pitar Mos 7-11, 70151 Bucharest, Romania
Phone: +40 21 211 1820
E-mail: rodica-mihaila@b.astral.ro

Niels Bjerre Poulsen, Center for the Study of the Americas/ Department of English, Copenhagen Business School Dalgas Have 15, 2000 Frederiksberg, Denmark
Phone: +45 3815 3170 Fax: +45 3815 3845
E-mail: nbp.eng@cbs.dk

Yuri V. Stulov, American Studies Center, European Humanities University, 3 P. Brovki St., Minsk 220000, Belarus
Phone: +375 17 232 7036 Fax: +375 17 2315062
E-mail: stulov@yahoo.com

Meldan Tanrisal, Department of American Culture and Literature, Hacettepe University, 06532 Beytepe, Turkey
Phone: +90 312 297 8500/8520 Fax: +90 312 299 2085
E-mail: meldant@hacettepe.edu.tr

Theodora Tsimpouki, University of Athens, Department of English Studies, University Campus Zografou, 15784 Athens, Greece
Fax: +30 1724 8979
E-mail: tsimpouki@enl.uoa.gr

Tatiana Venediktova, MSU, Department of Philology, 41, Leninsky prosp., Moscow 117334, Russia
E-mail: vened@philol.msu.ru and vtatiana@mtu-net.ru

Jaap Verheul, History Department, Utrecht University, Kromme Nieuwegracht 66, 3512 HL Utrecht, The Netherlands
Phone: +31 30 253 6034 Fax: +31 30 253 6391
E-mail: jaap.verheul@let.uu.nl

Reinhold Wagnleitner, Department of History, University of Salzburg, Rudolfskai 42, 5020 Salzburg, Austria
Phone: +43 662 8044 4733 Fax: +43 662 8044 4133
E-mail: reinhold.wagnleitner@sbg.ac.at

MINUTES OF THE EAAS BOARD MEETINGS

6-10 April 2006, Nicosia, Cyprus

Session 1: Thursday, April 6, 09:00-10:35

Item 1: Welcome

President Chénétier thanked the hosts, represented by Antonis Balasopoulos and Theodora Tsimpouki, for their impressive pre-conference work and welcomed the delegates to the meeting. Unfortunately, Yuri V. Stulov was unable to attend for personal reasons. It was agreed that the president would send a greeting to Stulov on behalf of the Board. NASA delegate Jaap Verheul was also prevented from attending the meetings, but NASA was represented by Hans Bak during the first session on Thursday and by Marja Roholl at the last session on Monday.

Item 2: Minutes of the Cambridge Board Meeting, April 13-15, 2005

The minutes were adopted without revisions.

Item 3: Report of the Officers' meeting at Nicosia, January 4-6, 2006

The minutes of the Officers' meeting at Nicosia were reported and accepted without comments.

Item 4: The President's Message

The president gave a comprehensive report of the activities of EAAS since the Cambridge meeting and outlined plans for the year ahead. Among the things mentioned were:

- **the EAAS Articles** have now been revised and are posted on the website; only minor practical things in connection with the registration in Wittenberg remain to be completed
- **the website** has been upgraded and is functioning well
- **the Newsletter** has gone electronic and initial problems have been solved satisfactorily; considerable sums of money have been saved by that change
- **proceedings:** method of publishing and/or publisher should be reconsidered; time to go electronic?
- **the European edition** of the Italian National Journal is now ready for distribution
- **EJAS**, the electronic *European Journal of American Studies*, was launched in January (delayed in order to make the first issue appear in 2006 to ease the pressure on the Editorial Committee in preparing the following issue). A call for applications to the Editorial Committee had been broadcast
- **fund-raising:** the president's efforts to raise money from corporations and foundations met with little success. The seemingly most promising in-

stitution approached, the Hippocrene Foundation, also failed to grant support. The EU refers applications to existing permanent programs, into which the EAAS fits poorly, but groups of universities should by all means take advantage of available programs

- **the Young European Americanists:** the president has been in touch with them with an eye to helping them organize their activities
- **conference innovations:** (1) new shoptalks: Women's Shoptalk; The Young European Americanists' Shoptalk; and the European Cluster of American Studies (ECAS) Shoptalk;
- (2) the EAAS General Meeting had been moved to Friday, 15:00-16:30, to enhance attendance
- The **American Studies Network** met at Keele University 11 March and wishes closer cooperation with EAAS; the ASN will continue to offer its book prize
- The **Salzburg Seminar** received a grant of € 500 from the EAAS in support of its work and in honor of Olin Robinson
- **Travels and contacts:**
- the president had traveled extensively, much on behalf of the EAAS, to events in various member countries: The Netherlands (Amsterdam), Russia (Moscow), Turkey (Istanbul), Spain, and Japan. This year he might be going to Bulgaria to attend the national convention of the Bulgarian AS Association, which desires some form of affiliation with the EAAS. Unfortunately, president Chénétier was prevented by conflicting schedules from attending the IASA conference in Ottawa, Canada, in August of 2005, and he will also be missing the ASA conference in Oakland, CA in October 2006, for the same reason. However, ASA president Emory Elliott and IASA Giles had both been invited to and accepted attending the Nicosia conference. Professor Elliott was able to attend; Professor Giles was unfortunately prevented from doing so by other duties
- the hand-over meeting had been scheduled – and accommodations booked – for June 23-26, in Paris.

The president closed his introductory remarks by an optimistic statement regarding the foreseeable future of the EAAS.

Item 5: Report of the Treasurer

Treasurer Hans-Jürgen Grabbe reported a slight decline in membership from 4,217 to 3,946 (a 271 drop).

By December 31, 2005, the account balance stood at € 19,929.37, a growth of € 8,889 over the preceding year. Expenses were low. However, some Newsletter expenses will appear in the 2006 fiscal year account as will initial costs of establishing the EJAS. € 500 were donated to the Salzburg Seminar, and three travel grants, two Trans-Atlantic and one Intra-European, totaling € 5,050 were granted. The treasurer concluded that the financial situation of EAAS is sound.

Hans Bak, the Steward of the Amsterdam Trust Fund, joined the meeting under this item to report on the status of the ATF. He pointed out that travel grants may continue to come out of the Amsterdam Fund. It was agreed to invest part of the fund in a slightly higher risk category (to be raised from a “conservative” to “defensive” risk profile) for better returns on investments. The end-of-year 2005 holdings of the Amsterdam Trust Fund were € 210, 461, with earnings at € 8,023 in 2005. It was decided to reduce the amount of liquid cash in the Trust Fund.

Michel Granger was unanimously elected to replace Carlos Azevedo on the team of Auditors.

Item 6: Report of the Vice President (newsletter separate item)

A considerable portion of the VP Büken’s time had been devoted to the Newsletter (separate item); she thanked Webmaster Grabbe for invaluable assistance in helping with technical problems/specifics and proof-reading. Fund-raising had been an uphill job. Sources are scarce for activities such as those of the EAAS. Local/national efforts related to conferences seem to be the most effective way of raising money. She therefore encouraged decentralized efforts in this area.

Item 7: Report of the Secretary General

Secretary General Moen admonished all members of the Board to promptly acknowledge reception of e-mail messages to minimize unnecessary prodding and duplications of calls. He lauded the chief local organizer at Nicosia, Antonis Balasopoulos, for his pre-conference work, and drew attention to the excessive demands that had been made with regard to teaching aids, which had meant quite a challenge to the local organizers (PowerPoint requests going through the ceiling). The SG recommended that EAAS adopt a restrictive policy in this respect at future conferences. In closing the SG thanked the president, the vice-president, and treasurers for their support and willingness to provide information, lightening his workload.

Session 2: 11:00-12:30

Item 8: (1) Update on the European American Studies Journal and other web projects

The Journal: The president gave an update of his preparatory work on the journal project. He (and two colleagues for back-up purposes) had gone through a session of technical training, which enabled him to produce the first issue at a very early stage of the project. In order to jump-start the journal, the president had invited contributions from the various national associations to give historical accounts of the AS movement in the various countries.

Under ideal conditions, the journal may be published biannually: For instance one thematic issue in May and one cumulative edition in December. The call for volunteers to serve on the Editorial Committee had been advertised in the Newsletter, and 11 colleagues had applied. The president presented the qualifications of the various candidates, and the Board unanimously decided to appoint the following pioneer team for a three-year period:

Editorial Committee

Mattia Carratello (Italy)

Pawel Frelik (Poland)

Hans Krabbendam (The Netherlands)

Cornelis van Minnen (The Netherlands)

Roxana Oltean (Romania)

Giles Scott-Smith (The Netherlands)

Marek Wilczynski (Poland)

The committee will have its initial meeting at the Roosevelt Research Center on April 27-28. The Board delegated considerable authority to the editorial committee as to organizing itself, e.g. electing chief editors, deciding on staggered terms, nominating an advisory board, etc.

[At its foundation meeting on April 27, two editors were elected by the Committee:

Editor for literature, culture, the arts, and American Studies:

Pawel Frelik, ejas-lit@eaas.info

Editor for history, social sciences, and international relations:

C. A. van Minnen, rsc@zeeland.nl]

The Newsletter

The president and VP gave reports on the Newsletter. The president thanked VP Büken for the tremendous amount of work she had dedicated to the Newsletter, in particular to the process of converting it to an elec-

tronic publication. Although the process had entailed a lot of work, the result has been successful and has triggered few complaints, despite the moderate amount of enthusiasm initially marshaled for the project among members of some national associations. Apart from its many practical advantages, the web version also saves the EAAS considerable sums of money, which now can be put to better use. Webmaster Grabbe was also given thanks for his contributions in the process. Grabbe reported impressive numbers of visits to the website and to the Newsletter in particular, which attests to its successful transfer.

The Newsletter must be seen in connection with the EAAS website and the new journal website. For the time being the Newsletter will be published on the EAAS website, with a link to the EJAS (and vice-versa).

The Website and Distribution List

The website operates well and is frequently visited. People are getting more apt at updating information and submitting announcements to the website. The EAAS-L Distribution List is not used to a satisfactory extent, however, according to messages from its moderator, Jaap Verheul. Delegates were encouraged to make more use of this channel themselves and to advertise its usefulness to the members of their respective national associations.

Item 9: The EAAS Articles: an update

The EAAS Articles have now been revised. A few technicalities remain before the establishment of the EAAS as an organizational entity proper has been completed by its formal registration with the German authorities, but treasurer Grabbe is working on the final details. The association now has its permanent headquarters at Wittenberg, Germany.

Item 10: Applications for membership and future policy

Several national associations and local American Studies organizations have approached the EAAS in recent years with an eye to becoming members. In Prague the Board decided to encourage prospective members to form regional associations which then could apply for membership. The main reason for this policy was the desire to keep the size of the EAAS Board at the present level (about twenty) to keep it manageable, both practically and economically. At Nicosia the president informed the Board that the Bulgarian American Studies Association (BASA) had been in contact with him with an eye to becoming a member association. The president informed the Board that he might attend the national conference of BASA, October 27-29, 2006, to

discuss its plans and tentative procedures. The Board decided to reconsider its entire representational make-up in order to be able to accept new associations into EAAS. One proposal was to reorganize EAAS into regional units, allowing each region to be represented on the Board by a system of rotation. In order to prevent discrimination of new applicant associations, current member associations should also be included in the rotation system. Jenel Virden volunteered to produce a document exploring the possibilities of a geographical reorganization of EAAS, which will serve as a basis for the Board's discussion at its meeting in Wittenberg in 2007.

In the meantime individual applicants should be encouraged to join existing national associations and potential applicant associations should be asked to approach other applicant associations or member associations in their region to explore the possibilities of regional solutions.

Item 11: The Young EAAS Scholars project

The president will continue his attempts at engaging the YEA in constructive talks to accommodate the wishes of its members for a more visible participation in EAAS work. The Board was willing to allocate some money from the proceeds of the Amsterdam Trust Fund, for instance to finance a local conference for this group. [Such an initiative is now under way in Poland, concerning 19th-century literary studies.] The YEA had also been given a separate shoptalk at the Nicosia conference.

Session 3: 14:30-16:00

Item 12: Conference Format and Desirable Reform(s)

The Board decided that there was no immediate need for basic changes in the format of the conference. This time around three new shoptalks had been added and the EAAS General Meeting had been moved to the opening day, so it was decided to see how these changes turned out before introducing other alterations. The feedback after Prague had been generally good.

Item 13: The 2008 Conference in Oslo: A progress report

Secretary General Moen reported that planning was well underway for the Oslo conference. A professional congress organizer will be employed. Some of the social occasions will take place downtown, where most of the conference hotels are located, whereas the academic program will mainly be held at the main campus of the University of Oslo, which is located on the metro

line, 10 minutes from downtown hotels by metro, and 15-20 minutes by streetcar or bus. However, because of the climatic conditions he forwarded a plea from the local organizers that the conference be moved to May 9-12. Easter falls very early that year, and the time preferred is the Pentecostal/Whitsun weekend, which will be an advantageous time also because Monday, May 12, is a national holiday, making all university rooms earmarked for the conference available also on the final day of the conference. The Board unanimously granted his request.

Item 14: The theme of the 2008 conference

The main theme of the conference proposed by the organizers was “E Pluribus Unum?” The Board accepted that proposal, giving the Officers’ Hand-over Meeting at Paris the mandate of adding a clarifying paragraph defining the theme further, with the possible addition of a subtitle as well.

Item 15: The 2007 Board Meeting in Wittenberg

Treasurer Grabbe assured the Board that the plans for the 2007 Board meeting were in good stead, offering preliminary travel and accommodation information as well.

Item 16: Venue for Board Meeting 2009

On behalf of his university, Martin Heusser invited the Board to have its 2009 Board Meeting in Zürich, a proposal which was received with applause and endorsement.

Session 4: 16:25-18:00

Item 17: Venue for the BIENNIAL Conference 2010

On behalf of the IAAS, Tony Emmerson invited the EAAS to have its 2010 Biennial Conference at the University College Dublin’s Clinton Centre for American Studies. The Board enthusiastically and affirmatively accepted the proposal. This means that the EAAS, in the period 2006-2010, will have visited the most remote corners of the association’s geographical area, which is a laudable feat.

Item 18: Rules regarding refunds to conference defaulters

The number of “no shows” at conference is a nuisance factor (and an extra financial burden) to conference organizers. The Board decided on these remedies:

1. If notification is given at least one month in advance, full reimbursement will be granted.

2. If notification is given at least one week in advance, 50% of the fee will be returned.
3. If later or no notification is given, there will be no reimbursement.
4. Registration without accompanying payment will not be recognized.

Item 19: The pre-conference report of the local organizers

Antonis Balasopoulos gave a comprehensive pre-conference report. One of his main tasks had been the efforts to meet the enormous number and range of AV aids requests. Another complicating factor had been the last-minute decision of the U.S. Embassy not to hold the opening reception on the embassy premises. However, the event had been moved to the university grounds without too many difficulties, although it had entailed considerable extra work for the organizers. He also announced that the university would give an extra reception at the Mall on Sunday night. [Both events turned out to be very successful social occasions!]

Item 20: Policy on AV requirements at conferences

In light of the high number of requests for AV equipment at this conference the Board decided to adopt the policy of providing electronic AV aids only to “AV subjects.” This policy statement will be made in the conference announcement.

Item 21: Conference Proceedings

Marcel Arbeit reported that the Prague proceedings had been finished in time for the conference, and that Rob Kroes had brought 30 copies to the conference. [The volumes were put up for sale at the book exhibition, but at the end of the conference there were enough copies left to provide the Board members with their copies.] The cost and distribution of the proceedings leave quite a lot to be desired, and one will look around for other publishers, who might offer more attractive conditions than the current publisher. Also, going electronic may be an option once the format of the new electronic site (where the journal is being published) has been decided on. However, as to the Nicosia proceedings, it was decided to produce a paper version. The following Editorial Committee was elected: Antonis Balasopoulos, University of Cyprus (Leader), Theodora Tsimpouki, University of Athens, and Gesa Mackenthun, University of Rostock. The committee will receive two papers from the chair(s) of each workshop (ranked as no. 1 and 2) by September 15. Editors will impose a uniform style standard on contributors.

Session 5: Friday, April 7, 09:00-11:20 (The Senate Room, University of Cyprus)

Item 22: Auditors' Report and vote on budget/accounting

The Auditors, Tony Emmerson and Michel Granger, reported that they had found the EAAS accounts as submitted by the Treasurer in good order and in keeping with sound business practices, after which the Board unanimously adopted the report.

Item 23: The Officers' respective areas of special duties, etc.

The current division of labor should be continued: the VP will be editor of the Newsletter and will administer the travel grants. The president will assume the main responsibility for fund-raising, but he expects to be supported in this venture by the members of the Board, who should be more active in their pursuit of funds for the association. Also, other specific tasks may be delegated to particular Board members to lighten the workload of the Officers and to bring the Board members more actively into the operation of the association. The Editorial Committee of EJAS may, for example, call upon Board members to act as advisory members on specific issues. In general, better contact with the national associations – especially between the delegates and their respective national leaderships – is desirable. That way Board policies can be more easily implemented, and feedback from the general membership can more readily reach the EAAS leadership. The delegates were encouraged to take a more active part in the running of the association between conferences than has hitherto been customary.

Item 24: Financial policies

The channeling of funds into the publication of the Newsletter will now constitute a smaller portion of the EAAS treasury. Also, when the initial organization and establishment of the EJAS have been completed, the cost of running the journal will be fairly modest. These facts make the financial prospects of EAAS brighter.

Anticipated expenses:

- the travel funds should be continued and perhaps be extended to include post-doctoral candidates. € 10,000 should be spent every year, the expenses shared evenly between the Fulbright Program and EAAS as long as the Fulbright Program continues its matching grants. Proceeds (€ 3-4,000) from the Amsterdam Trust Fund may be drawn on. In 2005, the following grants were given: Ewa Antoszek, Maria Curie-Sklodowska University, Lub-

lin, Poland, received € 2,500 to go to University of California, Riverside, to study Chicana culture for her Ph.D. thesis; (2) Konrad Walewski, American Studies Center, Warsaw University/Marie Curie-Sklodowska University, Lublin, Poland, received € 2,100 for studies at New York libraries for his Ph.D. project on New Wave science fiction; (3) Eniko Maior, Partium Christian University, Oradea, Romania, received € 450 for a two-month research stay at the University of Debrecen.

- EJAS: (1) travel expenses for initial meeting of Editorial Committee. The Committee will later correspond by e-mail (2) technical assistance
- website: € 1,000 for running costs
- Newsletter costs for 2005 (of the order of € 850) will be charged on the 2006 account
- seed money may be used on small projects to increase the visibility of EAAS. For example, small grants may be spent on (1) certain doctoral stipends (2) regional post-doctoral conferences (3) seed money for innovative initiatives enhancing EAAS activities and profile
- conference fees and per diems: to be kept at present levels

Item 25: Election of Vice-President and Secretary General; Hand-over Meeting

The nomination committee (Marc Chénétier, Gilbert Debusscher, and Rodica Mihaila) proposed the following nominations:

Vice-President: Martin Heusser; Secretary General: Jesús Benito.

Jenel Virden also expressed a willingness to serve.

After a break in the deliberations, Jesús Benito withdrew his candidacy. The election gave the following result:

Vice-President: Martin Heusser by a unanimous (19) vote.

Secretary General: Jenel Virden by 16 votes (1 no and 2 abstentions). President Chénétier thanked Gülriz Büken and Ole O. Moen for their services to the EAAS as VP and SG respectively.

The formal Hand-over Meeting will take place in Paris, June 23-26.

Session 6: 11:45-12:50 (The Senate Room, A 105, University)

Item 26: Lobbying and outreach

The EAAS will continue its effort to reach associations and groups sharing an interest in American Studies as well as political bodies, NGOs, business corporations, foundations, and other institutions of useful

influence. The European Cluster of American Studies (ECAS) was granted a special shoptalk session at this conference. These outreach efforts may also be used in fund-raising contexts.

Item 27: The Archives and History Project

Treasurer Grabbe informed the meeting that the Records and Archives project is going well. A doctoral student at Halle is working on a history of EAAS. The founding documents, located at the Salzburg Seminar, Schloss Leopoldskron, will be copied and put on deposit in Wittenberg. Grabbe is working to make the administration of the archives attached to the Center for United States Studies at Halle-Wittenberg (so that the archives will have a permanent organizational “home” there, and continuity will be assured after his retirement). The LOGO, with the required software for stationery, etc., is now in good working order.

Item 28: Items/Issues for the General Meeting

The General Assembly had been moved to Friday, 15:00-16:30, in order to encourage attendance. The agenda was as follows:

1. Words of welcome by the President
2. The President’s report
3. The new Vice-President and Secretary General
4. The American Network Book Prize
5. Publications and information:
 - a. The Newsletter
 - b. The website
 - c. The electronic journal
6. The Treasurer’s Report
7. Membership: new applications and policies
8. The 2008 Biennial Conference in Oslo, May 9-12
9. The 2010 Biennial Conference in Dublin
10. Proposals from the membership
11. Any other business

Item 29: Other pre-conference business

Book reviews: It was decided to keep the book review section at the EAAS website, with a link to the EJAS website, for the time being. This issue should also be addressed by the EJAS Editorial Committee, when established, with an eye to future changes/adjustments. For now, books should go directly from the publisher to the reviewer on the advice and direction of the Book Review Editor, Theodora Tsimpouki (tsimpouki@enl.uoa.gr). The list of reviews should be divided into a section for “recent” and “older” reviews (which should also be kept for a considerable length of time for reference purposes).

Bibliographies:

The president proposed to add a bibliographical section to the EJAS site containing publications in English by EAAS members. He will write the national associations, asking for compilations of books by their members. In this way, a considerable amount of “hidden” knowledge may be brought to the attention of colleagues throughout and outside Europe.

Session 7: Monday 10, 13:00-14:05 (The Senate Room, University)

Item 30: Wrap-up session: Evaluations and plans

The general feedback from the conference as experienced by the members of the Board was generally very positive. The move of the General Assembly to the opening day was a successful change. Attendance was well over a hundred, which was a great improvement over past years.

There were a few complaints about a couple of workshop in which chairs had not followed the guidelines for operation of the workshops, especially with regard to time-keeping. The following recommendations were adopted:

- Workshop guidelines must be emphasized even more strongly.
- A further effort must be made to have more women chairpersons at the next conference.
- Workshops must be further distributed across the schedule, so that there are fewer parallel sessions. There had been some complaints about that (as always). This time there were few sessions Sunday afternoon. The practice of spreading dual workshop sessions over two days seems to be successful.
- Handouts at workshops are to be encouraged.
- Antonis Balasopoulos, the chief local organizer, was very satisfied with the student assistants, who had done a great job during the conference. The operation of AV equipment had also run quite well, with only very minor problems.

The SG will send a letter to all chairs, asking them to:

- send in their 250-word workshop reports to the SG by May 15
- send to the Editorial Committee of the Nicosia proceedings (c/o Antonis Balasopoulos), their two essays for nomination to the proceedings, ranked as no.1 and 2 respectively, by September 15.
- The essays should be 15-20 double-spaced pages (12 pt. Times New Roman).

Plenary and parallel lecturers should also be offered to submit their contributions (same length).

In closing, the president thanked the local organizing committee – Antonis Balasopoulos, Nephie Christodoulides, and Thekla Constantinou – represented by the first of these, for their phenomenal dedication and careful attendance to the challenges implied in organizing such an event, a pronouncement which was supported by a standing ovation from the Board members.

14:05: The meeting was adjourned.

We certify that this is a true summary of the proceedings:

Prof. Marc Chénétier
President

Prof. Ole Moen
Secretary General



Memories of the Cyprus Conference.



Four of the seven editors of EJAS at our Middelburg meeting at the end of last May: Pawel Frelik, Mattia Carratello, Cornelis A. van Minnen and Hans Krabbendam. Missing is Giles Scott-Smith; absent were Marek Wylczinski and Roxana Oltean.

WORKSHOP REPORTS EAAS BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

7-10 April 2006, Nicosia, Cyprus

“Conformism, Non-Conformism, and Anti-Conformism in the Culture of the United States”

Workshop 1

Conformism in Hollywood Cinema

Reynold Humphries, Université de Lille, France

Celestino Deleyto, Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain

The workshop successfully explored a variety of issues ranging from a 1930s horror film to the cartoons of Tex Avery, a modern film on blacklisting in the 1950s to questions of genre, gender and ideology in contemporary Hollywood. The question of money and success was central to several papers, ranging from the eponymous heroes of *Freaks* as signifiers of Depression victims of economic and class warfare to the heroine of *Working Girl* who must learn to behave like a man and betray other women. The notion of the board room as symbol of financial and sexual happiness is seemingly demolished in the conclusion of *Fight Club* where hero and heroine join hands as corporate skyscrapers are blown up. However, Fincher's film was seen as “acting out non-conformity” rather than genuinely advocating it. Role playing of a very different sort is a concern of *The Front*, where supposedly liberal opponents of blacklisting are ultimately more interested in conforming than in protesting. The papers on Avery and contemporary romantic comedy highlighted narrative structures. If their evolution is determined by a need to conform to real-life attitudes to love in the latter, the former often adopted a purely conventional form in an attempt both to undermine it through parody and to present an ideological criticism of the Disney tradition. The papers in the two sessions raised lively debates from the audience which revolved around issues of ideological determinism vs. historical contextualization and the ideology of cinematic forms, as well as further discussion of the topics of the individual papers.

Workshop 2

From a Melting Pot of ‘Entropy’ to a ‘Crack-Potting’ Ecriture

Jaroslav Kušnír, The University of Prešov, Slovakia

Dan Horatiu Popescu, University of Oradea, Romania

The workshop sought to explore various aspects in the poetics of contemporary, crack-pot realist authors, aspects meant to reconsider, re-write or *creatively ex-*

tend the poetics of the earlier, postmodern generation. Based on the bedrock of feminism, the paper of Pihua Ni (National Chiayi University, Taiwan), “Father (Dis)Figured in Donald Barthelme’s Fiction,” aimed at arguing that Barthelme is one of the rare male postmodernists who inscribes, consciously or not, feminist undermining of gender patriarchy in his postmodern revision of literary patriarchy. An ethical dilemma was raised by Susanne Rohr (J. F. Kennedy Institute, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany), in her “Crackpot Realism at Its Most Radical: Melvin Jules Bukiet’s Holocaust Comedy *After*.” Her paper dealt with the term coined by Slavoj Žižek to designate a new form of representing the Holocaust under comic parameters, and applied it to the dynamics involved in the so-called process of “the Americanization of the Holocaust.” What Stipe Grgas (University of Zagreb, Croatia) tried to prove, in “Conformism and New Regionalism in American Fiction,” when analyzing Annie Proulx’s focus upon a particular place, her turn to a new spatiality, was how such an approach has been used to blaze a pathway out of the paralyzing influence of the great postmodernist texts. Boris Vejdovsky (Lausanne University, Switzerland) revealed the drama of the end of certain narrative modes, in his “The Performance and Counter-Performance of the U.S. Melting Pot in Tony Kushner’s *Angels in America*.” In this respect, Kushner’s play and its cinematographic adaptation may be read as a critique of the postmodern narrative strategies that have sought to recompose the world after the dissolution of its stabilizing dichotomies after 1989.

Workshop 3

Poetickall Bombshells

Bent Sørensen, University of Aalborg, Denmark

Nephie Christodoulides, University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus

The workshop was comprised of eight papers given over two sessions. The central themes of the workshop were the interrelations between poetics and poetical practice, on the one hand, and the notions of conformism and non-conformism on the other. Non-conformism was interpreted broadly to encompass political as well as personal and poetic non-conformism. The period focused on in the sessions was the 1950s and 1960s (with a perspective towards more recent decades in a few of the papers). Papers dealt primarily with poets associated with various groups and movements of the 50s/60s, such as the Beats, the New York School, and

others. The main findings of the workshop centered on the paradoxes of poets formulating non-conformist manifestoes and practices on the aesthetic level, and yet conforming to other-defined norms in other spheres, be it the political or professional fields. Poets such as Jack Kerouac and A.R. Ammons were shown to be similar in their aesthetic practice, despite strong political discrepancies and very different receptions. Poets such as Michael McClure, Allen Ginsberg, John Cage, Frank O'Hara, Andrei Codrescu, and others were shown to have followed practices that were very conscious of the materiality of poetry – both its textuality and embodiment – yet to be constrained in ways they had not anticipated, whether it be by official ideologies, the economy, or personal factors such as sexual orientation or religious beliefs. Other papers pointed to similar binds in the practices of Robert Duncan, as well as Greek-American poet Olga Broumas and African-American poet Audre Lorde.

Workshop 4

Democracy from Above? Individual Rights, Religion, and the 'Common Good' in the Contemporary USA

Walter W. Hölbling, University of Graz, Austria
Jon Roper, University of Wales, Swansea, UK

This workshop produced an eclectic range of papers appropriate to an interdisciplinary conference in American Studies. In the first session, two papers focused upon the American tradition of democratic dissent. One examined the resurgence of interest in Tom Paine which transcends the views of those early critics who attacked his views on religion as a way of discrediting his arguments for democracy. The other examined contrasting religious and secular impulses behind social reform movements in the nineteenth century. The final paper contextualized American democracy in terms of the contemporary critique established within the academic discipline of American Studies which is influential in those countries where former Cold War stereotypes of America have been deconstructed following the collapse of the Soviet Union. During the second session, papers discussed the identity politics of Latino dissent, the ways in which the United States used film propaganda as a tool of democratic nation-building in post Second World War Europe (and in contrast to current attempts to do the same in the Middle East), and *The Plot Against America* and *The Manchurian Candidate* as a novel and a film in which narratives are resolved through the contrivance – only with partial success – of a happy ending.

Workshop 5

Acquiescence, Defiance, and the South [The Southern Studies Forum (SSF)]

Jan Nordby Gretlund, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark

Valeria Gennaro Lerda, University of Genova, Italy

Three sessions featured ten speakers from eight European countries and two from the United States; the number of nations represented reflects that 'the South' is increasingly a globalizing concept. Five speakers addressed the issue of Southern conformity from a historical angle. The papers addressed acquiescence and rebellion in antebellum factories, over self-indulging power plays among the colonial gentry of Virginia, today's conforming, defiant, or anti-conforming mountain Hillbilly, South Carolina's age-old political use of dissent and the changing of its political culture, and today's breaking up of religious convictions and a growing Southern atheism. The historical papers as a whole may suggest a need to revisit Southern history in the light of American history in general. Seven papers dealt with manifestations of a rebellious spirit in the South as reflected in its fiction. William Faulkner, as Southern dissenter and as a dissenter within, was the topic in three papers on family and 'home' patterns (with Willa Cather, the Cold War, and dissent as a way of life). Three others, inspired by a profoundly religious but also category-defying Flannery O'Connor, were on aberrant defiance in her South. One paper established the presence of internal conflicts in fiction by Barry Hannah, Cormac McCarthy, Ron Rash, and other new Southern writers. The interconnections between the historical and the literary papers were obvious in the tensions, ambiguities, and contradictions revolving around universal issues of class, race, and gender relations. The three sessions were well-attended and the papers were questioned and discussed.

Workshop 6

Transgressions and/as Conformism in the Literature of After-War American Culture

Nick Selby, University of Glasgow, UK

Maria Anita Stefanelli, Università Roma Tre, Italy

The workshop explored the dynamics of conformism, anti-conformism and non-conformism through the lens of cultural and intercultural critique, the deconstruction of subject and identity, the resistance to economic and political pressure in art, the aesthetics of mixed media, and eco-criticism. Topics spanned, in terms of time, over the second half of last century: from the political and commercial function of African-American plays of

the fifties and sixties investigated by Jochen Achilles (University of Würzburg) to the anthologies of the last three decades of last century characterized by experimentalism and language aesthetics as accounted for in Manuel Brito's and Matilde Martín's talks (Laguna University). Other topics covered the radical feminism and search for a new identity of Adrienne Rich (Adina Ciugureanu, Ovidius University), the aesthetic critique of bestial poetry as represented in J.M.Coetzee's work (Thomas Pughe, University of Orléans), the mixed media artistic experiments explored through Kenneth Patchen's 'poetry with jazz' (Holly Farrington, Middlesex University) and the painting with writing products which sprung from Rivers' and O'Hara's artistic collaboration (Soren Hattesen Balle, University of Aalborg). The workshop participants interrogated artistic forms created by rebels and dissenters to discover patterns of ideas that developed into newer orthodoxies, thereby opening the critical field up to new challenges and further provocative questions.

Workshop 7

Conformism & Non-Conformism in US Women's Literature in the 19th and 20th Centuries

Tatiana Komarovskaya, Minsk, Belarus

Magdalena Zapadowska, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

The four papers on 19th-century women's literature indicated problems and attitudes which became cardinal in the 20th century. Helena Maragou demonstrated that the mystery, violence and eroticism of L. M. Alcott's tales were a manifestation of Alcott's conforming to the literary market. Ina Bergmann discussed J. W. Howe's *The Hermaphrodite* as a self-portrait of the author struggling to reconcile the woman's traditional role of wife and mother with her role of artist in the male-dominated professional sphere. Michele Ware argued that E. Wharton consciously replaces the figure of the sick woman with the sick man, and treats male illness as an expression of moral and physical cowardice and a manifestation of epistemological and aesthetic uncertainty. Gregory Tomso examined M. W. Freeman's representations of same-sex eroticism as part of her critique of bourgeois morality and social relations. Paulina Ambroży showed how dissatisfaction with the woman's place in society found expression in G. Stein's and M. Moore's formal experimentation. Carmen Mendez discussed the female Beats and the socio-political, literary, and generic manifestations of their non-conformism. M. Messmer examined the conformist and non-conformist ways in which the figures of ancient Mexican myths blend with Virgin Mary in contemporary Chicana literature. Finally, A. Accar-

do analyzed motherhood in Grace Paley's writings. Thus, the papers addressed the historical development of American literature, the most important aesthetic phases of its development, and the main concepts of women's literature.

Workshop 8

Alternative Text as a Cultural Transplant

Olga Panova, Moscow University, Russia

All the contributors considered "alternative" literary texts written in America in the 20th century, mainly in the postwar period. Three papers were focused on the problems of translation, adoption and interpretation of American non-conformist writing across cultures. Cross-cultural contacts make a part of complex identity quest and sometimes become an ardent question in the period of drastic changes that a country is undergoing, as in the Eastern-European countries in late 20th century. Petr Kopecky, Ganna Kolomiets, and Olga Panova discussed translation and transplantation of the American counter-cultural patterns – Beat and rock poetry – and the role they played in the "revolution in consciousness" in their native countries (Czech Republic, Russia, Ukraine). In socialist countries American non-conformist writing was "a gulp of freedom"; at the same time, however, patterns and textual strategies were adopted and thus transformed to become totally unrecognizable. These curious "mutations" stopped being understood as foreign transplants and became an integral part of the recipient culture and mentality. T. Narita and M. Stroe addressed so-called "aesthetic non-conformism." In the focus of their attention was a non-conformist poet seeking alternative patterns to implement in his own work. Sometimes he addresses another rebel artist of a different epoch (as do Allen Ginsberg and William Blake), or he strives to overcome the limitations of his contemporary native Western mentality with its common values and prejudices. T.S. Eliot started his intriguing quest – a pilgrimage to the East – decades before "dharma bums" and "Zen aficionados" of the 1950s and 1960s.

Workshop 9

The Problem of Double Allegiance in the Literary Production of Asian Americans (1985-2005)

Elisabetta Marino, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy

Patrycja Renard, Université du Littoral, Dunkerque, France

Five papers were presented during the workshop. Lina Unali focused on the role of narrative and history in Amy Tan's *The Bonesetter's Daughter* and in Jung

Chang and Jon Halliday's *Mao*. Theresa Botelho centered her paper on detective figures in Asian American fiction. Heather Gardner analyzed Todd Shimoda's *365 Views of Mt. Fuji*. Klara Szmanko looked at Chang-rae Lee's *Native Speaker* and worked on the issue of identity in those novels. Ignacio Oliva talked about identity problems presented in contemporary American Indian women poets. A lively discussion summarizing the main strands and the future developments of Asian American literature and criticism followed both the first and the second session of the workshop. Inevitably, the issue of stereotypes was one of the unifying principles of the workshop: the characters of the literary works were shown to be constructed as a reaction to Western ideas of what an "Oriental" man or woman should be; the authors could either conform to or disclaim the widespread ideal of an ethnic writer as an ethnographer; the representation of one's motherland as a country in the literary works could confirm or invalidate the stereotype of that country in the minds of the Western reading public; and, finally, the question of the elements of Chinese history and culture which are acknowledged or ignored in the West was also tackled. A few key words emerging from the discussion were landscape, communism, blending in, memory, the threat of history, life-writing, identity vs metamorphosis, inside vs outside, and the visual vs the literary.

Workshop 10

Film as a Subversive Art

Alan Bilton, University of Wales Swansea, UK

Juan A. Suarez, University of Murcia, Spain

The recent reprinting of Amos Vogel's seminal polemic, *Film as a Subversive Art* (1974), as well as the release of a documentary commemorating Vogel's work on *Cinema 16* (2003) provided a fitting opportunity to question whether cinema, or indeed the moving image, can still be perceived in any way as scandalous, revolutionary or recalcitrant. David Roche's paper dealt with subversion in the films of David Lynch, reading his oeuvre as a series of deliberate and provocative deviations from the norms of Hollywood cinema. Roche did however concede that in time, Lynch's signature aesthetic might form a new 'norm' defined by Lynch's auteurist position, a series of conventions that the audience could immediately recognize and assimilate. This then seemed to beg a key question: Does subversive art require a stable and consensual sense of the normative in order to function as an artistic 'other' – and is this precisely what seems to be breaking down in our contemporary, postmodern world? Stephen McVeigh's paper on "Clint Eastwood's Subversions of *Shane*"

addressed this very issue, exploring the tensions and contradictions inherent in the gap between Eastwood's professed Republican politics and the political implications of his films; the paper ultimately argued that it is precisely the genre's implied conservatism that allows Eastwood to deconstruct its values and assumptions. Similarly Hilaria Loyo argued that Jim Jarmusch's 1995 neo-western *Dead Man* successfully disrupts national myths of westward expansion and individual heroism, concluding that the unsettling effect of Jarmusch's film proved that these myths, and indeed the very concept of the West, continue to resonate in Bush's America.

Workshop 11

Site of Passage: The City as a Place of (Non)conformity in Contemporary American Multicultural Literature, Art, Theater and Film

Hans Bak, Radboud University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Jeanne Cortiel, University of Dortmund, Germany

The eight papers in this interdisciplinary workshop straddled the fields of literature, art, popular culture, film, theater, the musical and photography; and jointly explored the multicultural city both as a site of personal, cultural, sexual, social and racial strife, and dislocation, and as a theater of interaction, dialogue and negotiation. Theoretically well-informed, different papers drew on (or challenged) the framing urban-studies insights of Michel de Certeau, Henri Lefebvre, Richard Lehan and others, and on this level interacted surprisingly well. All presenters having read each other's papers beforehand, ensuing discussion was lively and productive, and marked by continuity and coherence between both sessions. Discussion included but also transcended the interpretation of specific verbal and visual texts (Anna Deveare Smith, Helena María Viramontes) but also centered on larger questions such as the politics of "recognition" and (ethno-spatial) representation; the legitimacy of using "freaks" (Diane Arbus) to call into question physical, social or sexual norms; and issues of invisibility and (over)visibility, of division and communitas. Critically examined, also, was the celebration of interstitiality and hybridity as unwarranted modes of multicultural utopianism – is interculturalism but "the latest manifestation of urban phantasmagoria" and further proof of the powers of late capitalism to absorb "adversarial" forces of non-conformity? (Versluys). One of many questions left for further discussion and pursuit revolved about the city as a site of transience, contestation, and subversion versus the city as a space for nostalgic ethnic rootedness and conformity.

Workshop 12

The American Artist 1800-1865: Problems of Conformity and Non-Conformity

Izolda Geniusiene, University of Vilnius, Lithuania
Agnieszka Salska, University of Łódź, Poland

The workshop met for two sessions with three twenty-minute presentations in each meeting since two scheduled speakers were unable to attend for reasons of health or funds. The extra time provided a welcome extension of discussion periods since the presentations proved thematically coherent and the attending participants, interested and knowledgeable. The papers given in the first session outlined the workshop's temporal frame and traced within it the evolution of attitudes toward the postulate of American artistic exceptionalism and/or individual non-conformism. The opening talk supplied an overview of the series of annual Phi Beta Kappa addresses leading to "The American Scholar" while the following speakers examined selected aspects of the concept of art and the artist in early and late Emerson. The second session was given to presentations of specific works, authors, and some of their frontispiece portraits as exemplifications of issues indicated within the established frame. Although all the speakers were disciplined in timing their presentations, it would have been difficult with four papers in each session to accommodate the lively response they elicited. The workshop's organizers were additionally pleased that the six speakers represented a balanced mix of three generations of scholars: those nearing the end of their career, those in the middle of it, and those at the beginning of their professional experience. Scholars from old and new European Union countries were represented, and there was one Russian speaker but, sadly, no American scholar.

Workshop 13

Conformism, Non-Conformism, and Anti-Conformism in the War on Terror

Ruud Janssens, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Kate Delaney, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

The three papers presented in the first session of the workshop resonated particularly well with each other. In "Signs of Violence: Terrorism, Postmodernism, and the Nostalgia for Destruction," Andrew Gross examined representations of terrorism from modernism through postmodernism with specific reference to James, Conrad, and DeLillo, looking at the changing relations of symbols to violence and the transition from an avant-garde aesthetic to a culture preoccupied with

victims. In "The Oprahification of 9/11," Jaap Kooijman showed how the debates on the Iraq war on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* personalized the public debates by foregrounding the way in which the threat of terror and the war in Iraq are translated into the daily lives of *Oprah!* viewers, specifically housewives and mothers. Guillaume Marche's "Sexual and Gender Conformism, Non-Conformism, and Anti-Conformism in the War on Terror" documented the tightening of government control on sexual and gender conformity as part of the War on Terror but also pointed out opportunities for anti-conformists to seek to redefine the nation's sexual and gender contours. The second session provoked spirited discussion. Isabel Durán presented a comparative analysis of the terrorist attacks on New York and Madrid, linking her private reaction to terror and the public responses to it. Paul Rundquist analyzed conformity and opposition in the US Congress in the wake of 9/11. Comparing the Bush era with the previous half-century of Presidential-Congressional relations, he concluded that Congress's role and authority expand when there is divided party control of the White House and Congress.

Workshop 14

Making National Bodies: (Non-)Conformism and the Early Republic

Astrid M. Fellner, University of Vienna, Austria

Markus Heide, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany

The workshop aimed at investigating the thematic focus of the conference from a historical perspective: the papers looked at literary texts from the Early Republic and the post-revolutionary period, interrogating the meaning of conformism in a fragile republic that saw itself as an "experiment." After all, the political struggles of the time, particularly when seen in the light of conformism and non-conformism, reached a symbolic climax in the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 that aimed at suppressing dissent, enforcing national and political unity, and conforming the people to a political status quo. The contributions and the discussion were particularly interested in the discourse of the body during this early period of U.S. literary history. From a theoretical perspective, the trope of the body acquires particular strength when nationalism is understood in terms of "imagined communities." The body politic, the collective body, weaknesses and the strengths of a nation, are seen and described in terms of bodily functions: infections, virtuousness, and purity are key terms here. In the early USA the imaginary, the rhetorical, and the symbolic were employed for the creating, constructing, and making of a nation. Hence top-

ics such as the metaphorical employment of the body in literary texts or the body in the medical discourse of the time were taken up in some of the papers; other papers investigated how the republic and the nation were invented in foundational fictions and epic poems.

Workshop 15

Poetic/Artistic Groups, Schools, Movements – Between Belonging and Non-Conformism

Christa Buschendorf, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany

Joanna Durczak, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, Poland

The workshop focused on the potential tension between the programmatic non-conformism of aesthetic movements and the pressure of conformity within the respective poetic/artistic groups. Albena Bakratcheva (New Bulgarian University of Sofia, Bulgaria) started the discussion by addressing this very paradox with regard to the New England transcendentalists. Three contributions dealt with the conformist temptation, to which literary historians succumb, which for the sake of coherence create artistic groupings that turn out to be inappropriate to labeling individual writers. Lawrence Hussman (Warsaw School of Social Psychology, Poland) questioned the adequacy of the term ‘naturalism’ as applied to Dreiser by stressing the impact of Eastern philosophy on his late novels. Marie-Christine Lemardeley (Paris 3-Sorbonne Nouvelle, France) problematized the label ‘objectivist’ attached to the non-canon poet Lorine Niedecker. In close readings of selected poems, Lemardeley argued that while the poet’s lyrics are poems for the eye, the image is not at the center of Niedecker’s ‘poetics of reticence.’ The American reception of Robert M. Coates’ novel *The Eater of Darkness* as Dada was queried by Mathilde Roza (Radboud University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands) who claimed instead that the avant-garde writer’s eccentric prose should rather be considered a Dada hoax. Finally, there were two presentations that dealt with conformity caused by repressed sexuality. While Kenneth Rosen (University of Cyprus) explored sexual imagery in the poetry of Marianne Moore as an issue neglected by literary historians, John Leo (University of Rhode Island, USA) discussed film-maker Marlon Riggs as an example of the repression of homosexuality within the Black Arts Movement.

Workshop 16

The Descriptive Passage in American Fiction: A Strategic Textual Location?

Pascale Antolin, University of Bordeaux, France

William Blazek, Liverpool Hope University, UK

Key observations by the first panelists included: Michal Peprnik’s analysis of descriptions of the forest in J. F. Cooper’s *Leatherstocking* novels noting how they express sublime wonder and challenge contemporary views of nature; Tatiana Venediktova compared descriptions from Melville and Dostoyevski to demonstrate how the passages reveal the machinery of language; Natasa Karanfilovic and Aleksandra Isgarjan drew upon the fiction of Irving and Hawthorne to show how “setting as character” is created for sometimes opposite effects; and Fredrik Chr. Brøgger presented examples from Dos Passos’ *Manhattan Transfer* to examine how slippery language relates to dissolution of identity. The second panel began with Lucy Kay’s investigation of vulnerability in detective fiction. Françoise Sammarcelli followed with an analysis of “narrative cloggers,” devices that “contaminate” Nicholson Baker’s texts in order to both disorient and reconstitute their surfaces and depths. Jaroslav Kušnir explained how description in Davis Foster Wallace’s short fiction connects history with physical scenes to reveal an exhaustion of meaning. Through examples from nature-writing, Yves-Charles Grandjeat illustrated how in Annie Dillard’s work scientific discourse melds into the poetic, and how the descriptive passages emphasize interrelatedness in both nature and language. Discussions led to the observation that descriptive passages often combine a desire for unity and order with an opposing urge to distort, frustrate, even unravel the fictional text. The unanimous conclusion was that, while descriptive passages are expected to focus on the real, paradoxically enough, they serve the fictional strategy as well. This seems to be true throughout American literature, whatever the strategic purpose.

Workshop 17

War and Propaganda: Expressions of Home-front Conformism, Non-Conformism and Anti-Conformism in the Culture of the United States

John Dean, University of Versailles, France

Jörg Nagler, Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany

Erika Doss began our exuberantly successful group with an incisive visual study of how US war memorials have shaped public feeling with some key points that “memorials are used to bury memories [and are generally] visions of masculine authority.” Bernd Greiner’s study of US home-front Vietnam war propaganda drew out the tension between the crisis of confidence in public institutions, Lt. Calley & the My Lai massacre, and the ambiguous popular argument

that war is a law-free zone. With wit and exuberant intelligence Gary Gumpert & Susan Drucker exposed “The Rhetoric of Surveillance Technologies in the War on Terror” with key points about how “Every technological advance connects and disconnects us from our immediate environment” and the uneasy surveillance structure put in place in the USA since 9/11. Stanislav Kolar examined American responses to the holocaust with the provocative argument that this event did not conform to American heroism and thus took a couple of decades to enter the mainstream of US story telling. Agnieszka Soltysik’s study of John Wayne’s war films sharply disclosed the father figure potency of “Duke” Wayne, especially in *Sands of Iwo Jima* and *Green Berets*, while Hubertus Zander alertly reviewed nuclear fears and civil defense in the USA’s Age of Anxiety McCarthy-esque 1950s. And with keen insight on current events Eva-Sabine Zehelein explained the USA’s current Mrs. Bixby phenomenon of Cindy Sheehan and grassroots anti-conformism in the person of the Gold Star mother. Each morning session had such lively discussions that we almost missed lunch.

Workshop 18

Canon/Conformism in American Literature: Dialectics of Changes

Tamara Denisova, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kiev, Ukraine

The workshop was to a great extent based on the personal understanding of co-chair Ihab Hassan (who was prevented from attending) of conformism and non-conformism as categories that mean the adaptation of the persons/writer to the conditions of the natural and social state of being. Four themes were chosen to elucidate canon as moveable category from different points of view: its situation in the mainstream process after postmodernism in the works of Cormac McCarthy as analyzed by Ekaterina Stetsenko; the process of transcending Beat ideals in expression of normative culture as influence of Burroughs’s cut-up method on nowadays feminist writers as discussed by Polina Mackay; an attempt to define the concept of Americanness as a contemporary term and to trace how this idea can inform the production/expansion of the 19th-century canon, by Julian Cananau; and the ethnic position realized by Silvia Schultermantl, who concentrated on Asia-American women literature and the specificity of the process of its canonization. Our auditorium was not crowded, but those who were present showed great interest in the problems of canon; its essence and formation; its accordance with main American ideas, transformations and changes in society; and its conformity and non-conformism in this

development/movement. There were many questions to the speakers. Unfortunately there was not enough time for a full discussion. We did not reach a conclusion with respect to the canon, but clearly it remains an issue of major importance.

Workshop 19

Popular Heroes as Conformist Rebels

Carmen Flys-Junquera, University of Alcalá, Spain
Roman Trusnik, Palacky University, Czech Republic

The five papers presented in this workshop reflected the diverse portrayals of popular heroes in the U.S. culture and the creative interpolations found in contemporary popular genres. Jesus Benito was re-reading Paul Auster’s novella *City of Glass* in the light of Melville’s *Bartleby the Scrivener*, as both make the notions of conformism and non-conformity evolve around the idea of writing. Paule Levy analyzed Chang-rae Lee’s *Native Speaker* and focused on Lee’s use of the spy figure as a metaphor for Henry’s uneasy position as a Korean American, apparently perfectly integrated, yet still uncertain about his place in American society. Two participants, Arno Heller and Marco Sioli, focused on the Western themes. Contrasting Billy the Kid’s relative historical unimportance and the tremendous quantity and intensity of reception he has received up to today, Arno Heller looked into the changing image of Billy the Kid in American film. Marco Sioli offered a rethinking of Kit Carson’s autobiography, where he sees himself as a rebel in contrast to his eventual position within the army. Last but not least, Rüdiger Heinze provided a synthetic look into the filmic adaptations of comic book superheroes where he pointed out that many movies do anything but restore the social order or they present that social order as being far from satisfying or morally redeemable. The lively discussion of the papers reflected the often paradoxical readings and interpretations of popular heroes who are presented as rebels, but actually conform as well as the growing use of popular genres to portray an increasing diversity and complexity of American experiences and values.

Workshop 20

The Family of Man in Europe

Rob Kroes, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Maurizio Vaudagna, University of Piedmont, Vercelli, Italy

The *Family of Man* is the single most successful photography exhibition in the history of photography, in terms of the number of visitors, its lasting resonance as well as its international appeal. Mounted as a regular

show for display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, it was adopted for cultural diplomacy purposes by the USIA and sent abroad during the height of the Cold War. Now it is on permanent display in Luxembourg, in honor of Edward Steichen, a Luxembourg native and the show's original curator. The workshop explored various episodes in the life cycle of the show. Kristen Gresh (Ecole des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris) looked at Steichen's European inspirations and sources; Suzanne Wiedemann (Brown University, Providence/American University of Beirut, Lebanon), Marja Roholl (Erasmus University, Rotterdam/MIT, Cambridge, Mass., USA), and Eric Sandeen (University of Wyoming, Laramie, USA) reported on the show's reception in Berlin, Amsterdam, and Moscow. Rob Kroes addressed the history of critical readings of the show, from its Cold War context to the more recent acknowledgement of its relevance to Holocaust history. The audience engaged in animated discussion during the two sessions of the workshop.

Workshop 21

'God, Guns and Gays': Consensus and Dissent in American Political Culture

Edward Ashbee, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

Alex Waddan, University of Sunderland, UK

In the first session, Robert McKeever (University of Reading, UK) considered the US Supreme Court's 2003 ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas* that extended the constitutional 'right to privacy' to same-sex relationships. Alf Tønnessen (University of Oslo, Norway) looked at Paul Weyrich, one of the 'founding fathers' of contemporary conservatism. Alex Waddan (University of Leicester, UK) examined the ways in which the Democratic Party has responded to the rise of cultural issues in American politics. In the second session, Edward Ashbee (Copenhagen Business School, Denmark) surveyed the Bush administration's relative lack of zeal in its efforts to rein in pornography. He argued that despite lobbying by the Christian right and the administration's rhetoric, the 'industry' has survived more or less unscathed. Quinn R. Gorman (Babes-Bolyai University, Romania) assessed Morris Fiorina's representations of the 'culture war' in his recent polemic against the arguments of those who talk of 'two Americas.' In a joint presentation, Wayne V. McIntosh (University of Maryland, USA) and Cynthia L. Cates (Towson University, USA) considered the efforts of gun control groups to use the courts and the litigation process. They explained why, in contrast to the legal efforts that had targeted the tobacco companies, the use of the courts had been a relatively unsuccessful

strategy for gun control advocates.

Workshop 22

Photography in America: Issues of Individual, National, and Cultural Identity/Conformism, Non-Conformism, and Anti-Conformism

Klaus Rieser, Karl Franzens University, Graz, Austria

Katherine Hoffman, St. Anselm College, Manchester, New Hampshire, USA

"It is arguable that America's photography has been this country's greatest single contribution to the visual arts. Photography is the jazz of the visual arts. In no other art form has American work loomed so large" (Sean Wilentz). This workshop explored the role photography has had in contributing to the shaping of American individual, national and cultural identities. Katherine Hoffman gave a slide introduction of 20th century approaches to photography that illustrated various constructions of identity. Included were images by Steichen, Hine, Stieglitz, Lange, Frank, Arbus, Mapplethorpe and Sherman. Deborah Jenner delivered a paper, "Paul Strand: Doors of Perception – Wall St., N.Y.," which focused on Paul Strand's well-known photograph of Wall Street. Dimitrios Liokaftos' paper, "Imaging the Reformed Man: Exploring Physical Culture Photography 1880-1920," dealt with images of "body building" in American magazines of physical culture. Discussion following the papers focused primarily on the subject of physical culture images, the nature of body building, the role of illustrated American popular culture magazines, issues of gender – masculinity and femininity – in relation to identity construction and distinctions between "fine art" and commercial photographs.

Workshop 23

Conformities in Native American History, Politics, and Culture: Confirmations and Contestations

Arnold Krupat, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York, USA

Meldan Tanrisal, Hacettepe University, Turkey

Our workshop consisted of three papers, with comments by the co-chairs. The papers were: "Trickster Orthodoxy? Deceptive Appearances in Louis Erdrich's *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse* (2001)," by Michel Feith (University of Nantes, France); "Authenticity and Anti-Conformism in Thomas King's *The Truth About Stories*," by Imelda Martin-Junquera (University of Leon, Spain); and "Engaging the Question of Genocide," by Jeff Ostler (University of Oregon, USA). Feith's paper on a recent

volume by the well-known Native American novelist Louise Erdrich invoked the figure of the trickster to show the ways in which Erdrich in this text subverts a great many orthodoxies or “conformities” about gender, piety, traditionalism, language and meaning. Taking her cue from the title of King’s novel, Martin-Junqueira focused on storytelling, demonstrating the ways in which King’s book both sustains but also subverts traditional Native American narrative conventions. He uses autobiography and allusion to visual culture – *talk* about photographs – along with more familiar modes of narrative to demolish stereotypes of Indians and, too, to comment on Canadian politics in relation to First Nations people. Ostler traced the history of the word “genocide” as it has come to be used in relation to the devastation of the indigenous population of the U.S., outlining the ideological underpinnings of the long assault on Native America and its ongoing effects.

Workshop 24

Cyberspace Revisited: Digital Revolution vs. Transnational Digital Convergence

Tatiani Rapatzikou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

Allan Lloyd-Smith, University of East Anglia, UK

The four papers presented in this interdisciplinary workshop attempted to comment on digital technologies from a variety of perspectives. In particular, Mokhtar Ben Barka (France) talked about the way religious collectivity, consciousness and choice have been reformulated and reshaped with the advent of the WWW, which he views as a new space allowing new forms of religious participation to be performed. Arthur Redding (Canada) focused on the emergence of a cyber economy and its threatening impact on the ideological rights of labor workers. He stated that the transformation of labor into an immaterial and cybernetically-run force has now led to new forms of identity-production, transforming labor from a mere economic to a social, cultural and political power. Tatiani Rapatzikou concentrated on the examination of the conceptions and misconceptions that surround print and electronic literary production today. She examined the extent to which the convergence of literature and technology, since the late 1980s, has promoted as well as endangered the development and dissemination of literary texts due to the reading and writing habits that the WWW has introduced and facilitated. Claudia Schwarz (Austria) addressed the constructive nature of cyberspace by concentrating on the role of “The End of the Web” pages. Serving as hoaxes, these web pages satirize their own fakeness and inconsequentiality. Whether their existence denotes technical insufficiency or neglect is to be considered. They do mark, though, a reaction against the limitless choices that the WWW offers to internet users today.

ciency or neglect is to be considered. They do mark, though, a reaction against the limitless choices that the WWW offers to internet users today.

Workshop 25

Affect and Excess: The Politics of Melodrama

Ralph Poole, Fatih University Istanbul, Turkey

Ilka Saal, University of Richmond, VA, USA

The workshop sought to critically assess melodrama’s generic conservatism by disclosing its productivity and adaptability in times of social and political transformations. Approached from historical, formal, aesthetic, phenomenological, and psychological angles, the papers presented were dedicated to the multifarious and contradictory uses of melodrama in American culture. Klara Kolinska (University of Brno, Czech Republic) claimed that in melodramas during early American nationalism Indian characters based in historical figures like Metacomb served as exemplary models of American virtues. Wolfgang Hochbruck (University of Freiburg, Germany) claimed that shifts of conformisms in melodramas prior, during and following the Civil War reflected changes in theater economy and stage architecture. Verena Laschinger (Istanbul, Turkey) and Ralph Poole both argued that Henry James’ experimenting with the melodramatic mode not only paved the way to his scenic method, but also modernized the sensational melodrama by turning to realism and psychology. Ilka Saal in her discussion of proletarian melodrama during the New Deal claimed that leftist plays of the time did not call for open mass activism, but opted for the possibilities of a moral capitalism. Looking at the same period, Allison Whitney (Ottawa, Canada) in her analysis of the film *Stella Dallas*, demonstrated that the maternal melodrama did not always limit itself to women’s issues, but engaged in racial and class politics as well. Finally, Julian Hanich (Berlin, Germany) approached the phenomenon of weeping in the cinema while watching a melodrama as both a (shamefully) individualizing experience and (emotionally) pleasurable awareness of somatic consciousness countering the Western ‘culture of disembodiment.’

**No Matter If the Signs Are Greek or Turkish ...
Further Words from the President on the Occa-
sion of the UN Poetry Reading in Nicosia, April
2006**

Dear friends and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

In the course of organizing the conference that brings us all together, a vague sense of weariness sometimes happened to lord it, temporarily, over our enthusiasms. It always took only two thoughts to overcome it: the amazing amount of work and energy put into its organization by our friends in Nicosia, Antonis Balasopoulos prime among them, and the perspective of this poetry event, masterminded by Stephanos Stephanides and Gur Gench. That I still have some difficulty identifying who comes from where – North, South, both or elsewhere – bodes well for our evening.

There was no lack of wet blankets thrown over our enterprise, due to the situation prevailing on this divided island, the rising doubts concerning the future of the European Union, the problems that beset it and the frequent stiffness of political response to an event that aimed, in openly intellectual terms, at-among other things -, reaffirming the power of grass roots cooperation in times of apparent standstill. Grass roots, it is too often forgotten, do grow under the surface of this world. This initiative, in my mind, kept throwing these blankets off, being essentially a gesture of good will and an affirmation of the possibilities of cooperative action.

We stand in the middle of a city whose sun-shaped historic enclosure has been made to appear on maps as a blank-lidded half-closed eye, whose inhabitants, in spite of numerous efforts, have been led to live this side and that of a line that too often traverses minds as well as space. As intellectual workers, the only force of our testimony lies with such invitations to dialogue as this gathering. In all of us, by definition, I would hope, and to quote Robert Frost's famous lines,

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That sends the frozen ground-swell under it
And spills the upper boulders in the sun,
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.

We stand in such a “gap” because that “something” in us is part and parcel of our daily activity. Contrary to Frost's farmer neighbor, none of us here believes “Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top / In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed,” is a way of

improving the threatened world we live in. Our vocation lies in our refusal to “move in darkness,” rests on our too often muted belief that one can simultaneously-even at the cost of a metaphorical paradox ... – bring our little stone to the building process while chipping away what pebbles we can from walls that mistrust built, all over Europe, in spite of centuries-old common destinies.

I am therefore unspeakably grateful to all the men and women who brought about this evening of poetry and music. The premises we find ourselves in were made accessible thanks to the United Nations Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus, and more particularly thanks to the priceless contribution of Anita Thomas, UNFI-CYP Liaison Assistant and Bi-Communal Events Coordinator. The dedication of Stephanos Stephanides and Gur Gench, the willingness of the poets who will

read from their work before you tonight, the convivial contribution of the musicians you will hear were all essential, and no dividing line will fall between them in my thanks. “There are, Valéry knew, no details in execution.” And “no matter,” as Stephanos puts it in his “Ars Poetica,” “if the signs are Greek or Turkish.” Consider what you will hear, as he says, as the product of “a split tongue / Moving between reluctant whispers / [an] inaudible pulse articulating peace.”

Because I spend a large segment of my life getting things from one language into another, I am deeply aware of what is “lost in translation.” But tonight, I ask you to be kind enough to concentrate on what is gained.

And for what is obviously gained in these privileged moments, I thank all those – musicians, poets-artists, all –, Cypriot Greeks, Cypriot Turks, Cypriot Armenian-Cypriots, all –, who generously made it possible.

As we welcome the poets who are going to read in their native tongue, it may be apposite to train this audience for this somewhat unusual exercise. I shall do so by borrowing this invitation of the grand old man of contemporary French poetry, Yves Bonnefoy, to listen to images, “l'éclat qui manque à la grisaille des jours, mais que permet le langage quand le recourbe sur soi, quand le pétrit comme un sein natal la soif constante du rêve.”

Marc Chénétier, President EAAS
Nicosia, April 9, 2006



MINUTES OF THE EAAS HAND-OVER MEETING OF OFFICERS

24-25 June 2006, Paris, France

Attending: Marc Chénétier, Gülriz Büken, Hans-Jürgen Grabbe, Ole O. Moen, Martin Heusser, Jenel Virden

Item 1: Introductory remarks, President

President Marc Chénétier (MC) welcomed the group to the meeting and outlined the proposed schedule for the proceedings. Although the agenda was full he projected that the business would be complete by mid-day Sunday. He expressed his belief that he could see no difficulty in facilitating a smooth transition of new officers.

Item 2: Nicosia conference observations, President

Most elements of the conference had been discussed at the last meeting of the full Board at the close of the conference itself. MC has kept in touch with Antonis Balasopoulos and was happy to report that most of the feedback so far received had been positive. The conference proceedings articles are slowly coming in and will be discussed under Item 15. Hans-Jürgen Grabbe (HJG) reported that he had learned there was some dissatisfaction with the Cyprus conference regarding a perceived lack of gender balance in plenary lectures and workshop chairs expressed by some women delegates. He has been in correspondence with the recently constituted 'women's forum.' This would be discussed in more detail under Item 6. Ole Moen (OM) reported that he had heard positive reports about the conference from workshop chairs and other attendees and Martin Heusser (MH) concurred, noting that a high number of attendees were overwhelmingly positive about the Cyprus event. The Officers agreed that placing the General Assembly at the beginning of the conference had worked well in terms of gaining a much larger assembly than at past conferences.

Item 3: Minutes of Nicosia Board Meeting, Secretary General (outgoing)

Minor technical corrections were made to the minutes of the Board meeting in Nicosia such as deleting superfluous full stops and commas. Item 8 was amended by deleting the last sentence and adding 'nominating an advisory board' to the terms of reference for the editorial committee of EJAS. HJG agreed to make changes and circulate the revised minutes which would be finally approved at the meeting of the full Board in Wittenberg. MH recommended putting the full version of the minutes in the newsletter and on the web with the proviso that these minutes had been 'approved by

the officers and not the full Board of EAAS.' This was agreed and would also be the protocol for the minutes of this hand-over meeting.

Item 4: EJAS report, President

The procedures and protocols for the production of the *European Journal of American Studies* on-line (EJAS) were in place, with a few minor points to be finalized. There had been a meeting of the editorial committee and the President of EAAS in Middelburg in May. Unfortunately, only 5 of the 7 journal editors could attend; Marek Wilcznski and Roxana Oltean were unable to appear. Nevertheless, the meeting had been successful and two members of the committee were appointed as co-editors – Cornelis van Minnen (history) and Pawel Frelik (literature). It was agreed at this meeting that (1) the advisory board to the journal should represent a balance of disciplines within the field of American Studies and (2) the output of the journal would include 1 or 2 themed issues per year with 1 or 2 incremental issues as time and space allowed. Calls have gone out for papers for the first themed issue (Reading/Misreading 'America') and were now awaiting responses. It was acknowledged that this new endeavor of EAAS may take a while to become fully operational and, although some articles have already been submitted, it may transpire that in the first year only 1 or 2 volumes appear – one at the end of June and one at the end of December. The President of EAAS will be the legal director of EJAS but the journal itself will remain autonomous.

There had been no progress on the issue of staggering the length of terms of the editorial committee members; however the editorial team is aware of the need to provide continuity as well as change in the future representation on the editorial team. The composition of the advisory board to EJAS, however, had been debated and discussed at some length. The editorial committee was keen to ensure the representation of a wide variety of disciplines and sub-disciplines within the field of American Studies while also taking into account the geographical spread of national association memberships and the balance of issues such as gender. A tentative list had been drawn up and a schedule had been agreed by the committee for sending out letters of invitation in mid-July, hoping for a quick response in order to confirm the advisory board membership. It was agreed by the officers that the association and the

journal editorial committee are interested in having a Working Advisory Board (WAB) defined as a group of individuals willing to actively participate in the production of the journal at relevant points rather than just acting as figureheads for this new venture. It is hoped that this WAB could be in place by October.

Potential WAB membership was discussed at some length. Suggestions, such as approaching past presidents of EAAS, were discussed in some detail. HJG and MH recognized the importance of trying to include representation from as many national associations as possible while also taking care to balance the fields of expertise to ensure a well-rounded publication. Debate ensued among the officers about the necessity for a clear frame of reference and structure for the WAB and whether there should be a set of guidelines for nomination and confirmation of WAB members. It was agreed that there needed to be a careful and clear balance between the independence of the EJAS and the overseeing of the journal by the EAAS Board. MC pointed out that the editorial committee are in charge of editing the journal under the name of the EAAS with the ultimate goal of producing a good journal.

After much discussion it was agreed that (1) one of the co-editors of the EJAS would be asked to report to the full Board of EAAS at its annual meetings to explain how they had been meeting the mandate of the journal and (2) the officers of EAAS would be circulated with the list of potential WAB members in order to have some oversight of the journal endeavour. It was agreed that, following HJG's suggestion, it should be made clear to EAAS national associations that this new e-journal was not a venture in competition with their own journals but rather a new, joint venture under the widest possible umbrella of EAAS. MH noted how important it was to have transparency in the selection process for the WAB and OM noted that it would be best to have guidelines clarified at this early stage of the process.

It was agreed that the officers of the EAAS would review the editorial committee suggestions for the WAB and advise where necessary. This would, hopefully, lead on to work to clarify the nomination process. These recommendations would be taken to the meeting of the full Board in Wittenberg as clarifications under Item 8 (page 4) of the Nicosia meeting minutes.

Finally, the President noted the changes that *revues.org* had made to the template for production of e-journals that allowed for tracking of circulation,

future use of images and sound, numbering of paragraphs, and other technical details.

Item 5: Newsletter, Vice President (outgoing)

Gülriiz Büken (GB) reported that the transfer of files to incoming Vice President Martin Heusser had taken place. The deadline for submission of information from national associations to the new Vice President for inclusion in the next newsletter is 15 August. Issues appear in May and October and, in conference years, in January, which will happen next in 2008. Each newsletter also includes an article by the President. MC agreed to work on writing something for the newsletter by 15 August. While there are many recurring items in the newsletter, such as information on the American Studies Network (ASN) and the list of Board members, there are new items each time. The next newsletter should include an item written by the recipient of the ASN book prize. GB noted that she often looks through Jaap Verheul's listserv to identify any calls for papers (CFP) that might be relevant to include in the newsletter. The next issue should contain the workshop reports from Nicosia which the incoming General Secretary Jenel Virden (JV) will need to look over. The next newsletter should also contain the reports of the recipients of EAAS travel grants and it was agreed that HJG would forward contact details to MH. MC agreed to submit another CFP for the EJAS to MH for the next issue. Finally, GB noted the general need for photographs for the newsletter and the officers agreed to look into this, possibly contacting Jerzy Durczak for contributions.

Item 6: Website, listserv and women's forum. Treasurer

HJG reported that the application for a new domain (eu) was applied for originally in December 2005 and was re-submitted in March 2006 and is now in the process and will possibly be decided by the end of this year or early next year. Older reviews on the website have been put into a web archive so that only up-to-date or more recent ones appear on the principal reviews page. This page is also accessible from the EJAS site. Past conference programs have also been archived on the web. The listserv could provide an electronic forum for the proposed women's caucus, made for the exclusive use of EAAS members, for discussions and interactive possibilities. There was some concern, however, that the listserv does not reach enough people. MC agreed to mention it in his article for the newsletter. A filter has been installed on the listserv to restrict requests for information to only those of a chosen discipline. HJG has seen the women's forum proposed electronic fo-

rum and noted that it had been very well done. He has been in touch with the women's forum and offered to provide a venue for a future meeting at his institution but has not had a response as yet. JV agreed to act as liaison for the women's forum to the EAAS Board.

Item 7: Financial matters, Treasurer

HJG gave an account of the funds. There is currently €30,175 (minus €3,500 for cost of publishing procedures of Prague conference). HJG expressed his view that EAAS needs to divert some of this money out of the current account. He has put €10,000 into a time deposit account and that, along with the cost of travel expenses of the officers to this meeting should reduce the amount in the current account to an acceptable level. He suggested that EAAS wait until the end of the financial year to review the situation and then plan for other spending or decisions on any potential surplus. Officers' travel may need to be discussed. Currently MC pays for much of his travel from other sources but future Presidents may not have those resources to fall back on. Also, the EAAS officers do extra work for the association and may warrant having more expenses covered. This issue will be discussed at the Board meeting in Wittenberg.

Item 8: Travel Grants, Treasurer

EAAS has paid out 5 travel grants ranging from €1,300 to €2,000 for a total of €8,000. This amount is reflected in the budget sheet discussed under financial matters (Item 7). It now means that we can apply for Fulbright matching funds for next year. HJG also discussed the recent establishment of the 19th-century study group and the requests for travel funds he has received from some of the members of this group. The EAAS Board had agreed to look into expanding its activities by providing seed money for interesting projects. This current proposal is for a European Study Group for Nineteenth-Century American Literature which is planning to meet in Poznan, Poland, from 9-10 September 2006. To date HJG has received applications for funds from 7 attendees totaling €1400. The Officers approved these funds with a note that future projects that requested funding would need to be based on membership in an EAAS national association and preference would go to supporting younger scholars. HJG would draft a letter to be sent to the recipients of these grants encouraging them to join their national associations if they were not already members.

Item 9: Wittenberg Board Meeting, 12-15 April 2007, Treasurer

HJG reported that he has reserved 4 double rooms for

Board members attending with spouses and 16 single rooms for other Board members. The room costs were low (€25 single/€35 double) and the German Association was going to sponsor the banquet and reception. All of this would be paid for by EAAS per diems and the German Association. This means that Board members would only have to pay for travel. The officers will liaise to arrange an agenda, allocate time for meetings, and discuss the possibility of excursions.

Item 10: Oslo 2008 Conference, 9-12 May, Secretary General (outgoing)

OM reported that the person in charge of organizing the conference in Oslo will be David Mauk. Hotels have been booked which range from youth hostels to 4 star hotels. It is the pre-tourist season so prices should be a bit lower, approximating a range from €30-90 per night. The accommodation will be centrally located, necessitating a brief 10-15 minute ride on the Metro to the campus. OM noted numerous points about the conference including the fact that Monday will be a national holiday, there will be a reception at city hall funded by the mayor, a cruise on an Oslo fjord may be possible and there may also be an excursion to the Viking ship museum and a visit to the Edvard Munch museum. The United States Ambassador may well host a reception. There was some discussion among the officers about clarification of the theme in the CFP, which needs to be finalized as a matter of urgency. Subsequently the conference description was finalized and the Oslo organizers are able to go ahead with plans. The CFP will be formalized by the Secretary General (incoming) JV and sent on to HJG for inclusion on the web page and to MH for inclusion in the next newsletter. It was agreed that in future, proposals for conference themes should be accompanied with a paragraph description of what the theme proposal entails. It was also agreed that it was important to stress the direct relevance of any proposal to the theme and to get proposals to the Board members as early as possible before the meeting in Wittenberg for close scrutiny. OM suggested that this may even require writing back to proposers asking for clarification of their proposals. It was also agreed to ask for short (half page) c.v.s from workshop chairs to be attached to the proposals outlining their qualifications, current job position, most recent publication and current research. The 3 plenaries will follow the usual format: 1 American, 1 European and 1 local. Parallel lectures will be limited to 45 minutes, therefore allowing time for discussion. The formal host of the event is the Nordic Association but the Norwegian Association (ASANOR) will act as the actual host and the organizers will represent the Department of Literature,

Area Studies and European Languages. It was agreed the opening ceremony at Nicosia went well and as a result the opening speeches will be limited to approximately 5 minutes for each speaker.

Item 11: EAAS Board representation, President and Secretary General (incoming)

Although this item was not formally identified from the Board meeting in Nicosia to be part of the discussions in Paris, the need for the President to have clarification of views before meeting with the Bulgarian association meant that the officers took this opportunity to reflect on possible future plans with regard to representation of member associations on the Board. A wide range of possibilities were discussed including offering temporary membership, setting up regional associations, basing Board representation on data such as membership numbers and/or date of entry into EAAS. After much discussion the officers agreed the following statement, to be discussed at Wittenberg. "With a view toward resolving the problems associated with the ongoing success of the EAAS, as more national associations petition to join EAAS, and recognizing the underlying desire to promote the critical study of America and to promote European research in American Studies as a goal of EAAS, and also recognizing the desire to help colleagues in newly-emerging national associations dedicated to the study of America who have limited resources, the officers/Board of the EAAS, as currently constituted, would like to invite national associations who are members to: 1) consider voluntary collaboration with other national associations to form regional groupings and 2) consider ways in which member associations might help to fund less wealthy associations." It was agreed that MC would introduce the official application of the Bulgarian association at the Wittenberg meeting and JV would put together a document to promote discussion at the same Board meeting. A Bulgarian representative will be invited to Wittenberg.

Item 12: Outreach, policies and PR, President

MC stressed the need for a brain-storming session about possible ways and means of EAAS raising funds for future endeavors. He reported that he had continued to try the Brussels route for funding but had, so far, been unsuccessful. MC queried whether the commercial sector may be a possible source of investment into EAAS activities. HJG noted that most corporations were only likely to fund specific projects rather than institutions or organizations such as EAAS. This would mean that funding would be more likely to occur for a one-off event rather than as a lump sum to EAAS. It may be possible to get funds for a future confer-

ence but not necessarily an open-ended program. MC stressed that EAAS has less money than some national organizations but tries to cover the whole of Europe as the main part of its remit. HJG pointed out that MC had already put in a great deal of effort on the part of EAAS toward trying to locate funding. The process is ongoing and was clearly recognized as a slowly evolving course of action.

Item 13: YEA progress report, President

MC reported that the young European Americanists have now been renamed as EARL (European Americanists' Research and Learning). They have come up with one proposal so far which involves EAAS, which is the study group for 19th-century literature scholars discussed under Item 8. The age group of YEA is approximately 35-45 and it may prove difficult to sustain as members of the group move on. There is potential here for a possible conference but this would require that YEA come up with a plan.

Item 14: Nicosia workshop reports, Secretary General (outgoing)

OM reported that these have come in to him and he has been working to edit them for inclusion in the next newsletter and for the web. He had provided the officers with a partly edited version of the report, asking the new Secretary General to finalize the editing.

Item 15: Nicosia and future proceedings

HJG reminded the officers that the issue of possibly finding a different publisher for proceedings was raised at the Board meeting in Nicosia. So far there has been no progress in this area. As Treasurer he was able to report that EAAS had paid VU Press €3,500 for the production of 63 copies of the Prague proceedings at a cost of €56.36 per copy. The Free Press is not actively promoting the sale of EAAS conference proceedings and they have recommended printing on demand for future ventures. The officers held a long discussion about the future format of the proceedings and agreed that at this point EAAS would continue to produce proceedings in hard copy format (Nicosia) but that EAAS would also pursue the possibility of switching to another publisher that would be more active in promotion of the series, keeping in mind that EAAS needed clearly to be identified as the source of the work. HJG agreed to investigate the possibility of special EAAS volumes with another press and would collate details and report back to the officers with a view to bringing a proposal to the full Board at Wittenberg. MC noted the possibility of conference papers that do not make it into the printed volume being offered to the EJAS. It was also agreed to investigate the possibility of storing

past and future conference proceedings in pdf format for the archives of EAAS.

Item 16: Deadlines and programs

Deferred.

Item 17: Any other business

JV noted that the post-graduate representative to BAAS (Jo Metcalf) has been working to organize a post-graduate initiative. She has begun setting up an e-mail network as a means of promoting communication among post-graduate students in American Studies throughout Europe. JV will approach Ms Metcalf to ask if she could provide a short piece for the next newsletter describing the post-graduate network initiative.

HJG reported that the proposal to try to identify the 50 best books written in English on American Studies topics might lead to potential problems if a scholar whose work does not appear on the list takes offense.

MC reiterated that the idea was to help shape a European library of scholarship on America and publicize the good work going on throughout Europe.

OM suggested that the General Assembly meeting should be more formal by the keeping and distribution of a report, to include a summation of discussions as well as items and queries entered from the floor as it is a business meeting.

5 August 2006

Jenel Virden (Hull)
EAAS Secretary General



After all was said and done: The last gathering of the Hand-over Crew at the Cité Universitaire Internationale on the morning of their departure.

2008 BIENNIAL EAAS CONFERENCE

9-12 May, Oslo, Norway

"E Pluribus Unum" or "E Pluribus Plura"?

The motto "E Pluribus Unum" mostly subsumes an institutional and political will. But, from all historical data and possibly even more from contemporary dissensions, it appears that the social and cultural realities of America might well illustrate the possibility for an "E Pluribus Plura" version of the formula. How does the United States negotiate the inner tensions that, because of its constitutive diversity, might threaten its unity? How do traditions (political, artistic, literary...), modes of consensus building (from myth to national icons and patriotic assertions of exceptionalism), the feeling of a wished-for common good counteract potential strife and the tensions of particular interests and particular groups, make up for the aporias of nationhood and communitarian feeling, of ideological consensus and a tradition of dissent? Could it be that there are indeed several "Americas"? Is being an American necessarily being in many ways double? Can the politically unifying, centripetal power of the State, hidden under the neutral Unum, accommodate the centrifugal forces that might generate a societal and cultural "plura" out of the hallowed political and territorial "pluribus"? Do diversities imply, for their survival and development, a "middle ground," a "mainstream," a "tradition" – some kind of American norm? Seen in light of the various subdisciplines of our fields, these are some of the questions that might generate the wished-for contributions to this Conference.

Deadlines:

January 31, 2007: Deadline for submission of workshop and parallel lecture proposals to include a one-page abstract and a ½ page c.v. of potential workshop chairs and parallel lecturers.

Please do not submit proposals for individual workshop papers at this time. These will be sent to selected workshop chairs who will be announced in the May 2007 issue of ASE.

September 1, 2007: Workshop paper proposals (with 150-200 word abstract) to be sent to Workshop Chairs.

September 15, 2007: Deadline for sending the tenta-

tive list of speakers and titles of workshop papers to be included in the October 2007 issue of ASE.

December 1, 2007: Deadline for submitting FINAL titles of papers and names and addresses of speakers.

January 10, 2008: Deadline for information to be included in the 2008 biennial conference program.

Please send all information via e-mail to the EAAS Secretary General, Jenel Virden, at virden@eaas.info.

Guidelines for EAAS workshops:

1. A workshop may be chaired by one person, or, preferably, by **two persons from different countries**. No one may (co-)chair a workshop at two consecutive EAAS conferences.
2. Workshop sessions are **approximately 1:45 hours**.
3. Speakers are selected **by the workshop chairs** from those colleagues responding to the Call for Papers published in the ASE Newsletter of May 2007. The required number of speakers per session is **four**, the maximum number is **eight** (two sessions). **Note:** Of the speakers in any workshop, not more than **two** may come from the same country. Speakers **must** be members of their national Association for American Studies if there exists one in their home country. Speakers from Canada, Israel, Japan, and the USA must be members of their respective American Studies Associations. **No speaker can present more than one paper at the conference.**
4. Papers should be presented rather than read; chairs are encouraged to suggest this to their contributors.
5. The **maximum** presentation time for papers is **20 minutes**; chairs must keep their speakers within that time frame. The overall structure of the workshop is the responsibility of chairs; chairs **MUST** comply with these rules in order to: 1) allot each paper the same amount of time; 2) allow **sufficient time for discussion**.
6. Proposals for workshop papers, together with abstracts (150-200 words) **must** reach the **workshop chair(s) BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2007**. Chairs

are expected to send out acknowledgments of receipt of proposals and to inform proposers as early as possible whether their papers have been accepted.

7. Chairs are encouraged to send out **photocopies or electronic versions of abstracts/papers** to all speakers in their workshop **prior** to the conference.
8. Workshop chairs should **briefly** introduce the topic and the speakers at the beginning of the first session. At the end of the last session, chairs might want to sum up the conclusions of the presentations and discussions.
9. Speakers **must** present their papers **in person**; they are expected to be present at all sessions of their workshop.
10. Chairs are **responsible for selecting and editing TWO** of their workshop presentations and recommending them, in order of preference, for publication in the EAAS conference volume. Chairs are also encouraged to produce individual volumes based on their workshop papers. Please note, though, that in compliance with a unanimous decision of the EAAS Board at the 1998 Lisbon conference, EAAS subsidies for such volumes are

NO longer available.

11. Chairs will be asked to **present a post-conference report** to be published in the ASE Newsletter; it may therefore be useful to take notes during the sessions. The report of approximately **200-250 words** should give readers of the ASE an idea of the major arguments of papers and of conclusions reached in the workshop.
12. If **special technical equipment** (data projection devices, screens, audio equipment, computers, OHPs) is needed in a workshop, please inform the **EAAS Secretary General** (address above), who will consult with local organizers.
13. Please **address all correspondence concerning workshop matters to the EAAS Secretary General in the first instance** (address above). **Please acknowledge all correspondence from the Secretary General.**
14. Workshop chairs should make copies of these *Guidelines* available to their speakers.
15. A meeting of all workshop chairs with the EAAS Secretary General will be scheduled on the first afternoon of the conference to discuss last-minute arrangements,

The **EAAS Web Site** provides information about the European Association for American Studies – **The Articles, Officers and Board, Constituent Members**. Information on American Studies and related fields in Europe can be found under different entries in the navigation menu: upcoming conferences and the activities of member organizations under **Conferences and Events** and the **ASE Newsletter**; guidelines for submission and reviews of recent publications by members under **Book Reviews**. The link to **European Journals** is the recent feature added to the web site, which is hoped to be both valuable and practical for widening the peripheries of intellectual exchange among European Americanists.

EAAS Mailing List is our free EAAS-L distribution list that disseminates to its subscribers, information pertaining to American Studies in Europe. Thus, it provides a venue for member associations as well



as individual subscribers to post and, at the same time, to have access to information that might be useful to Americanists in Europe, such as research news, teaching projects, information about new internet resources, announcements of conferences, grants, fellowships, job opportunities, calls for submissions for Books and Journals and inquiries concerning American Studies in Europe in general. Members are encouraged to subscribe – if they are not already subscribers – to the EAAS Mailing List to follow up with recent academic activities conducted in Europe and thus contribute to maintain a dynamic interaction among the European Americanists. Members who wish to announce new publications are requested to include in their posting: Full bibliographical information (author/editor, title, place, publisher, and year of publication), ISBN number, retail price (and possibly discounts for EAAS members) and a 100-word abstract.

EAAS-L is moderated by Jaap Verheul, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

E-mail: Jaap.Verheul@let.uu.nl

To contribute to EAAS-L, please send your messages to: eaas-l@mailman.let.uu.nl.

To see the collection of prior postings to EAAS-L, you can visit EAASL Archives which is only available to the list members.

To subscribe to EAAS-L online, please fill out the form available at <http://mailman.let.uu.nl/mailman/listinfo/eaas-l>

EAAS TRAVEL GRANTS 2006

In its continuing effort to support young academics in the field, EAAS has paid out €8000 for a total of five travel grants this year. All are for transatlantic travel and went to the following applicants (in alphabetical order):

Emma Barber, BAAS (PhD), €1300: “The Effects of the Civil War on the Medical Profession in the U.S.”

Claudia Schwarz, AAAS (PhD), €1300: “The Ethics of Storytelling in American Media and Literature”

Tara Stubbs, BAAS (PhD), €1400: “Marianne Moore and Her ‘Irish’ Heritage”

István Vida, HAAS (PhD), € 2000: “The Participation of Hungarian Political Emigrants in the American Civil War”

Justyna Wierzchowska, PAAS (PhD), €2000: “Abstract Expressionism in Reference to European Art History in the Context of the Cold War”

We congratulate the successful applicants and wish them the best of success for their scholarly endeavours.

REPORT ON MESEA 2006

May 17-21, 2006

University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain

Ethnic Life Writing and Histories

The 5th biennial MESEA conference was held from May 17-21, 2006 at the University of Navarra, Spain. Organized in collaboration with the research group on “Autobiography and History,” the topic of this year’s event was “Ethnic Life Writing and Histories.” The plenary speakers were Shirley Geok-lim Lim, of the University of California-Santa Barbara, who spoke on embodiment as evidenced in her own autobiographical exercise; Jeremy Popkin, of the University of Kentucky, who discussed his archival work on first-person narratives of the Haitian Revolution; Judith Cohen, of York University, who presented a lecture/concert on the ballads of Sephardic women; and Joan-Pau Rubiés, of The London School of Economics, who spoke on travel writing in early modern Europe. This MESEA was the largest and most diverse in the society’s history, with over 270 participants from 32 countries, including the United States, Canada, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Croatia, Romania, Poland, Russia, Nigeria, South Africa, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, the United Arab Emirates, among others.

The panel sessions engaged a variety of topics that highlighted the conference’s interdisciplinary focus: the use of life writing in its many forms (prose auto/biography, poetry, songs, blogs and tombstones, among others) as it intersects with the purposes of history. For example, the panel entitled “Approaches to Writing

Family Memoirs” centered on creative negotiations with personal family history by professors who had themselves written life stories; “Academic Autobiography and Intellectual History” focused on autobiographies by professors such as Edward Said, Ihab Hassan, Hannah Arendt and Richard Rodriguez to show how these texts may be used to reinterpret the development of cultural ideas in the 20th century; “Post-Race Life Stories in U.S. Political Pop Culture” was one of several panels that discussed forms of pop culture as a reflection of historical and cultural change; “Religion and Life Writing” demonstrated the intersection of religious texts and narrative theology; “Autobiography and the History of Legal Identities” reflected an increasing concern with the use of life writing in the context of indigenous rights or discussions on nationhood; and the panel entitled “Ethical Challenges of Working with Women’s Narratives” engaged questions of the ethics of remembering and research.

One of the highlights of the conference was the awarding of the first MESEA Young Scholars’ Awards, which went to Philip Bracher of the University of Heidelberg for his paper on Oscar Zeta Acosta and to Carmen Pearson, of Mount Royal College for her paper entitled “My Name is Carmen but this Story is not Mine.” Other memorable moments included the conference opening dinner, at the Café Iruña and the banquet, where the participants were serenaded by the “Tuna,” a group of university students who continue a centuries-old tradition of troubadour singing.

Rocio Davis

ESG 19TH-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE

The European Study Group for Nineteenth-Century American Literature Inaugural meeting, Poznań, 7-8 October 2006

The inaugural meeting of the European Study Group for Nineteenth-Century American Literature took place at Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland, on the weekend of October 7-8, 2006. It was attended by twenty scholars, ranging from graduate students to a full professor, who came from England, France, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Spain, and Turkey to discuss Fanny Fern's novel *Ruth Hall* (1855), talk about their research, and present their works in progress. The event was generously supported by the EAAS, which awarded ten grants of €200 each to help younger scholars cover the expenses of travel to Poland. The meeting was guest-moderated by Marianne Noble of the American University in Washington, DC, author of *The Masochistic Pleasures of Sentimental Literature* (2000), whose presence was made possible by a grant from the US Embassy in Poland.

We convened on Saturday afternoon, and after a round of introductions commenced the discussion of *Ruth Hall*, a best-selling novel by one of the most successful mid-nineteenth-century writers and journalists. The questions we addressed included the following: Is *Ruth Hall* a subversive or revolutionary book? In what ways does *Ruth Hall* exemplify American ideas? Is this work sentimental? Where do Fanny Fern's strengths and weaknesses as an author lie? The questions, prepared by Marianne Noble, were circulated prior to the meeting, and served as a helpful starting point for the lively conversation that ensued. We found it very useful and rewarding to be able to focus on just one work and explore it from many perspectives. At the end of the day we went to dinner together, and over plates of Polish food and glasses of local beer we continued to make friends, talk about our research and teaching, and explore opportunities for further collaboration.

On Sunday morning we started with a research circle, in which everyone talked about their recent and current work. It was an opportunity to learn more about each other's interests, seek and provide advice, and exchange information about upcoming conferences and other projects. The last part of the meeting was

devoted to presenting works in progress. Several scholars chose to either read fragments of their current writing or discuss their research projects in greater detail. The speakers received helpful feedback, and I personally benefited a lot from the other scholars' insightful questions and comments about my work.

The interactive format of the meeting worked very well indeed. We exchanged ideas, learned from one another, and made many plans for the future. We feel that we have begun to create a mutually supportive and inspiring community of European scholars specializing in nineteenth-century American literature, the kind of community many of us had missed. One of the most valuable aspects of the meeting, which everyone was commenting on, was its truly egalitarian spirit and the friendly atmosphere which encouraged us all to speak out and participate.

Inspired by our success, we decided to meet annually, always on the second weekend in October, and agreed on Poznań as the venue for the next four meetings. The upcoming meeting, scheduled for October 13-14, 2007, will be devoted to Charlotte Perkins Gilman's novel *Benigna Machiavelli* (1915), which is out of print but can be purchased from online used bookstores. Our plans for possible future reading include Herman Melville's *Pierre*, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps's *The Gates Ajar*, Julia Ward Howe's *The Hermaphrodite*, and Elizabeth Stoddard's *The Morgesons*. We want to concentrate on less well-known and less often taught authors and/or works, but in the future we may extend the focus of our discussions from individual books to themes represented by a number of works.

The group is already growing: while twenty scholars were able to attend the inaugural meeting, a dozen others from all over Europe expressed interest in coming to our future gatherings. If you would like to join us, please contact Magdalena Zapedowska at magzap@ifam.amu.edu.pl to receive information about the group's work and its members' projects.



THE AMERICAN STUDIES NETWORK

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/as/Dbruce/ASN%20resource%20page.html>

President

Dr. Axel R. Schäfer
The David Bruce Centre for
American Studies
Keele University, ST5 5BG, UK
E-mail: a.schaefer@ams.keele.ac.uk

Vice-President

Prof. Valeria Gennaro Lerda
Centro Studi Euro-Atlantici
Via Balbi 6
16126 Genova, Italy
E-mail: csea@lettere.unige.it

Treasurer

Prof. Cornelis A. van Minnen
Roosevelt Study Center
P.O. Box 6001
4330 LA Middelburg,
The Netherlands
Email: ca.v.minnen@zeeland.nl

The American Studies Network (ASN) is a group of European centers involved in American Studies. The idea of a network of centers arose during the European Association for American Studies (EAAS) meeting in London in April, 1990. The ASN was founded in November, 1990 in Berlin at a meeting of interested directors of American Studies centers. The initial group of eight members has expanded to include almost 20 members from all over Europe.

All members take an interdisciplinary approach to American Studies; are independent organizations with some of their own sources of funding, not exclusively linked to a university; have some research facilities; and are committed to a role of public service to the community at large. ASN works in close association with the EAAS. Its goals are those of promoting the study of the United States by close cooperation of the different institutions interested in this area of study. The ASN exists to provide mutual support for all the centers involved, help channel the flow of information on resources among the members and the community, establish joint projects that will increase cooperation and productivity and thus integrate the European studies of America. The ASN is willing to act as an advisory group to encourage the development of American Studies, particularly in Eastern and Central Europe.

One of the key activities of the ASN is the networking of resources and information such as the availability of visiting scholars for lecturing at the different institutions. Through different means of communication, the

ASN hopes to make available to members the library resources of each center and establish an interlibrary loan. Another goal is that of promoting the exchange of scholars and students of the different centers. One of the specific ASN projects is the establishment of the American Studies Network Book Prize, a prize of €1,000 for a remarkable book published in English by a European scholar on any aspect of American Studies. The jury for that biennial prize, presented at the EAAS conferences, is comprised of representatives from the EAAS and the ASN. The deadline for submitting books for this prize is announced in the EAAS newsletter in the year preceding the EAAS conference.

The Directors of the ASN member centers meet every year to discuss the joint projects and accept new members. The presidency of the ASN rotates among the current directors. In order to become a member, an institution should write and apply to the current president. The prospective institution should include a dossier with information on itself. Any institution that wishes to become a member should comply with the following four criteria:

1. Be an independent organization with some kind of external funding, although it may be linked to another institution such as a university or library.
2. Be of an interdisciplinary nature
3. Have research facilities and carry out research
4. Be of public service to the community by, for example, providing a public library or research archive.

THE 2006 ASN BOOK PRIZE

The 2006 ASN book prize was awarded to **Michael O'Brien**, Professor of American Intellectual History (Jesus College, Cambridge) for his *Conjectures of Order: Intellectual Life and the American South, 1810-1860*.

According to the Committee, "This two-volume work represents a definitive step forward in the affirmation of a new interpretation of the Old South. During the past twenty years, revisionist scholarship has challenged in many ways the long-lasting view of the antebellum South as a backward and conservative society, a sort of ballast which was only holding back the course of the United States to progress and modernity. By showing the depth and articulation of a distinctively southern thought in relation to the major political and economic issues that marked the national debate during the first half of the nineteenth century, O'Brien's work introduces the reader to the climates, states of mind, and feelings pervading a region intent on solving its perennial dilemma: how to attain prosperity and economic independence without loosening the bonds of Union. In so doing, he effectively dispels the traditional interpretation and successfully presents the region as a dynamic one, in which the issue of modernization was not simply rhetoric, but a real problem with which southern intellectuals, aware of the contradictions immanent to their society, seriously confronted themselves. O'Brien's original book constitutes a solid basis upon which future research on the antebellum South should build up."

A Personal Note from the Recipient

There has been a sustained tradition of European scholars being interested in the history of the American South, from as far back as A.J.N. den Hollander's work on "poor whites" in the 1930s, to Raimondo Luraghi's innovative studies of the slave South and the Civil War in the 1970s, to the remarkable body of work on the Civil Rights movement produced in recent years by British historians like Adam Fairclough, Tony Badger, and others. Parallel to this has been a sustained European interest in Southern literature, in authors like William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, and Walker Percy, with a more intermittent engagement with nineteenth-century Southern literature. Since I was educated mostly in Britain, partly in the United States, and have worked in universities on both sides of the Atlantic, I am acutely conscious of being an heir of both these contexts, the European and the American, and I do not doubt that they deeply and reciprocally influenced how *Conjectures of Order: Intellectual Life and the American South, 1810-1860* was written, because it is a book that, in surveying the social context of and offering a close reading of Southern intellectual culture in the antebellum years, is anxious to stress, not how the South was isolated, but how deeply its thought was enmeshed in the Atlantic world. In the political world created after 2001, this position of equidistance between the United States and Europe is not as comfortable as it used to be, and it may, in time, prove untenable. Still, for the moment, it has given me satisfaction that my book has received prizes on both sides of the water — I was for decades devoid of prizes, so the experience has been agreeably disorientating and unexpected — and I was especially pleased to be awarded the ASN Book Prize, since I take very seriously the critical judgment of European scholarship and always presumed that I wrote as a European, not just as a British scholar who once picked up an extra passport in the United States

Michael O'Brien.

THE AMERICAN-STUDIES NETWORK MEMBERS

Austria

Salzburg Seminar American Studies Center, Salzburg
www.salzburgseminar.org

Belgium

Center for American Studies, Brussels
www.kbr.be/cas/

American Studies Center, Mons-Hainaut
www.umh.ac.be/ASC/

Denmark

Center for American Studies, Odense
www.sdu.dk/Hum/amstud/index.html

France

C.I.R.N.A. (Centre interdisciplinaire de recherches nord-américaines), Paris, http://www.ufr-anglais.univ-paris7.fr/CENTRES_RECHERCHES/cirna/cirna.html

Germany

John F. Kennedy Institute, Berlin
www.fu-berlin.de/jfki/index_e.html

ZUSAS (Center for United States Studies), Halle
www.zusas.uni-halle.de/en_index.html

Amerika-Institut, Munich
<http://conman.verwaltung.uni-muenchen.de/conman/index.cfm?path=658&mode=>

ZENAF (Center for North American Studies), Frankfurt a.M. <http://web.uni-frankfurt.de/zenaf/>

Great Britain

The David Bruce Centre for American Studies, Keele
www.keele.ac.uk/depts/as/Dbruce/bruce.htm

Eccles Centre for American Studies, London
www.bl.uk/ecclescentre

Arthur Miller Centre for American Studies, Norwich
www.uea.ac.uk/eas/centres/miller/miller.intro.shtml

Italy

Centro Studi Euro-Atlantici, Genoa
<http://www.dismec.unige.it/ceuro.htm>

Centro Studi Americani, Rome
www.centrostudiamericani.org

Netherlands

Roosevelt Study Center, Middelburg
<http://www.roosevelt.nl>

Poland

American Studies Center, Warsaw
<http://www.asc.uw.edu.pl/>

Spain

Institute for North American Studies, Alcalá
<http://www.iuien-uah.net/>

Sweden

The Swedish Institute for North American Studies, Uppsala, <http://www.engelska.uu.se/sinas.html>

CONSTITUENT ASSOCIATIONS OF EAAS

AAAS • Austrian Association for American Studies

Website: <http://www.univie.ac.at/Anglistik/aaas/>

President: *Waldemar Zacharasiewicz*, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Universität Wien, Univ.-Campus AAKH/Hof 8, Spitalgasse 2, 1090 Wien, Austria

Phone: +43 1 4277 42411 Fax: +43 1 4277 42424

E-mail: waldemar.zacharasiewicz@univie.ac.at

Vice President: *Dorothea Steiner*, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Universität Salzburg, Akademiestrasse 24, 5020 Salzburg, Austria

Phone: +43 662 8044 4423 Fax: +43 512 507 2879

E-mail: dorothea.steiner@sbg.ac.at

Secretary: *Michael Draxlbauer*, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Universität Wien, Univ.-Campus AAKH/Hof 8, Spitalgasse 2, 1090 Wien, Austria

Phone: +43 1 4277 42413 Fax: +43 1 4277 42497

E-mail: michael.draxlbauer@univie.ac.at

Treasurer: *Eugen Banauch*, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Universität Wien, Univ.-Campus AAKH/Hof 8, Spitalgasse 2, 1090 Wien, Austria

Phone: +43 1 4277 42414 Fax: +43 1 4277 42497

E-mail: eugen.banauch@univie.ac.at

BELAAS • Belarusian Association for American Studies

Chair: *Yuri V. Stulov*, World Literature Department, Minsk State Linguistic University, 21 Zakharova St., Minsk 220034, Belarus

Phone: +375 17 288 2563

E-mail: stulov@yahoo.com

Vice-Chairs: *Tatiana Komarovskaya*, Russian and World Literature Department, Belarusian State University.

Phone: +375 17 284 8610

Natalia Simourova, Dept. of English, Belarus State Economics University, 26, Partizanski Ave., Minsk, Belarus 220000

Phone: +375 247 8117

Secretary: *Irina Ivleva*, Lexicology Department, Minsk State Linguistic University, 21 Zakharova St., Minsk 220034, Belarus

Phone: +375 17 288 2563

Treasurer: Svetlana Kernozhitskaya, (free lance),
Phone: +375 17 288 25 63

BLASA • Belgian Luxembourg American Studies Association

Website: <http://blasa.studentenweb.org>

President: *William L. Chew III*, Vesalius College, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2629 2686 Fax: +32 2629 3637

E-mail: wchew@vub.ac.be

Vice-President for Belgium: *Bart Kerremans*, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Van Evenstraat 2B, B-3000 Leuven

Phone: +32 16/ Fax: +32 2428 9348

E-mail: bart.kerremans@soc.kuleuven.ac.be

Vice-President for Luxembourg: *Jean-Jacques Italia*, Centre University, Avenue de la Faïencerie 162A, 1511 Luxembourg

Phone: +352 4666 44216 Fax: +352 4666 44217

E-mail: jean-jacques.weber@ci.educ.lu

Treasurer: *Patricia Costa*, Vesalius College, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 629 3946 Fax: +32 2 629 3637

E-mail: pcosta@vub.ac.be

Secretary: *Maggie Nicholson*, Commission for Educational Exchange, Boulevard de l'Empereur 4, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 519 5770 Fax: +32 2 519 5773

E-mail: fulbright@kbr.be

CSAA • Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies

President: *Marcel Arbeit*, Department of English and American Studies, Palacky University, Krížkovského 10, 771 47 Olomouc, Czech Republic

Phone: +420 68 563 3104 Fax: +420 68 563 3111

E-mail: arbeit@aix.upol.cz

Vice-President: *Alena Smiešková*, Department of English and American Studies, University of Constantin the Philosopher, Štefánikova 67, 949 01 Nitra, Slovakia

Phone: +421 87 775 4242 Fax: +420 68 563 3111

E-mail: asmieskova@ukf.sk

Secretary: Michal Peprník, Palacký University, Křížkovského 10, 771 47 Olomouc, Czech Republic
Phone: +420 68 563 3113 Fax: +420 68 563 3111
E-mail: peprni@ffnw.upol.cz

Treasurer: Roman Trusnik, Department of English and American Studies, Tomáš Baťa Business Academy and VOŠE, nám. TGM 3669, 761 57 Zlín, Czech Republic
Phone: +420 57 721 0897.
E-mail: trusnik@aix.upol.cz

AFEA • French Association for American Studies
Website: <http://etudes.americaines.free.fr/>

President: Jacques Pothier (Université Versailles-Saint Quentin) 63 rue des Marais, 92190 Meudon, France
Phone: +33 1 46 26 70 72 Fax: +33 1 46 26 70 72
E-mail: Jacques.Pothier@sudam.uvsq.fr

Vice-Presidents: Christine Raguet, Université Paris 3, 5 rue de l'École de Médecine, 75006 Paris, France
Phone: +33 1 43 26 45 96 Fax: +33 1 43 54 25 13
E-mail: c.raguetbouvard@free.fr

Secretary: Guillaume Marche (Université Paris 12) 15 rue Parrot, 75012 Paris, France
Phone: +33 1 43 46 94 81
E-mail: gmarche@univ-paris12.fr

Treasurer: Hélène Aji (Université du Mans) Passage Reilhac, 39 bd de Strasbourg, 75010 Paris, France
Phone: +33 1 44 79 03 62
E-mail: Helene.Aji@univ-lemans.fr

Listserv Administrator: Nathalie Caron, Université Paris 10, 98 rue de Romainville, 93260 Les Lilas, France
Phone: +33 1 43 63 29 13
E-mail: nathalie.caron@wanadoo.fr

DGfA • German Association for American Studies
Website: <http://www.dgfa.de>

President: Rüdiger Kunow, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Universität Potsdam, Postfach 601553, 14415 Potsdam, Germany
Phone: +49 331 977 2500 Fax: +49 331 977 2061
E-mail: kunow@dgfa.de

Vice-President: Gesa Mackenthun, Institut für An-

glistik und Amerikanistik, Universität Rostock, August-Bebel-Str. 28, 18051 Rostock, Germany
Phone: +49 381 498 2586 Fax: +49 381 498 2594
E-mail: mackenthun@dgfa.de

Executive Director: Holger Kersten, IFPH – Anglistik/Amerikanistik, Otto von Guericke-Universität Magdeburg, Zschokkestr. 32, 39104 Magdeburg, Germany
Phone: +49 391 67 16110 Fax: +49 391 67 16668
E-mail: executive_director@dgfa.de

BAAS • British Association for American Studies
Website: <http://www.baas.ac.uk/>

Chair: Simon Newman, Department of History, Glasgow University, 2 University Gardens, Glasgow G12 8QC, Scotland, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 141 330 3585 Fax: +44 141 330 5000
E-mail: S.Newman@modhist.arts.gla.ac.uk

Secretary: Heidi Macpherson, Department of Cultural Studies, University of Central Lancashire, Preston PR1 2HE, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 1772 893022/893020
Fax: +44 1772 892924
E-mail: hrrsmacpherson@uclan.ac.uk

Treasurer: Graham Thompson, School of American and Canadian Studies, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, UK
Phone: +44 115 951 4269 Fax: +44 115 951 4270
E-mail: graham.thompson@nottingham.ac.uk

HELAAS • Hellenic Association for American Studies
Website: <http://www.enl.auth.gr/helaas>

President: Theodora Tsimpouki, University of Athens, Department of English Studies, University Campus Zografou, 15784 Athens, Greece
Fax: +30 17 24 89 79
E-mail: tsimpouki@enl.uoa.gr

Vice President: Smaragda Ymenetzi-Malathouni, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department of American Literature and Culture, 54124 Thessaloniki, Greece
Phone: +30 2310 99 74 74
E-mail: yemene@enl.auth.gr

Secretary: Eleftheria Arapoglou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department of American Literature

and Culture, 54124 Thessaloniki, Greece
Phone: +30 2310 99 74 28
E-mail: elefarapoglou@yahoo.com

Treasurer: *Tatiani Rapatzikou*, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department of American Studies, 54124 Thessaloniki, Greece
Fax: +30 2310 94 74 32
E-mail: trapatz@enl.auth.gr

HAAS • Hungarian Association for American Studies

Website: <http://primus.arts.u-szeged.hu/american/haas/>

Co-Chairpersons: *Éva Federmayer*, School of English and American Studies, Eötvös Loránd University, Ajtósi Dürer sor 19-21, 1146 Budapest, Hungary
E-mail: efederma@freemail.hu

Sarolta Marinovich-Resch, Institute of English and American Studies, University of Szeged, Egyetem u. 2, 6722 Szeged, Hungary
E-mail: resch@lit.u-szeged.hu

Secretary General: *Zoltán Vajda*, Institute of English and American Studies, University of Szeged, Egyetem u. 2, 6722 Szeged, Hungary
E-mail: vajda@lit.u-szeged.hu

IAAS • Irish Association for American Studies

Website: <http://www.ucd.ie/ire-amer/committee.htm>

Chair: *Ron Callan*, Dept of English, University College, Belfield, Dublin 4, Republic of Ireland
Phone: +353 1 706 8323 Fax: +353 1 706 1174
E-mail: ron.callan@ucd.ie

Vice Chair: *Lee Jenkins*, University College Cork, Cork, Republic of Ireland
Phone: +353 21 490 2050
E-mail: l.jenkins@ucc.ie

Secretary: *Tony Emmerson*, School of History, Philosophy and Politics, University of Ulster, Shore Road, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim, Northern Ireland, BT37 0QB, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 28 7032 4644 Fax +44 7032 4925
E-mail: wa.emmerson@ulst.ac.uk

Treasurer: *Susan Norton*, Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin, Republic of Ireland
Phone: +353 1 402 4712
E-mail: susan.norton@dit.ie

AISNA • Italian Association for North American Studies

Website: <http://www.aisna.org/>

President: *Donatella Izzo*, Università degli Studi di Napoli, "L'Orientale," Dipartimento di Studi Comparati, via Duomo 219 – 80138 Napoli
Phone: +39 081 6909852 Fax: +39 081 204639
E-mail: dizzo@iuo.it or izzo.bontempelli@iol.it

Vice-Presidents: *Giordano De Biasio*, Università di Trieste, Dipartimento di Letterature Straniere Androna Campo Marzio, 10 – 34123 Trieste
E-mail: debiasio@univ.trieste.it

Elisabetta Vezzosi, Dipartimento di Storia e Storia dell'Arte, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia Università di Trieste, Trieste
E-mail: vezzosi@univ.trieste.it

Secretary: *Giorgio Mariani*, Università di Roma 1, "La Sapienza," Dipartimento di Anglistica Via Carlo Fea 2-00146 Roma
Phone: +39 06 4991 7265 Fax: +39 06 4424 92168
E-mail: giorgio.mariani@uniroma1.it

Treasurer: *Giuseppe Lombardo*, Dipartimento di Studi Internazionali e Comunitari, Inglese e Angloamericani, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia, Università di Messina, Località Annunziata – 98100 Messina
E-mail: ahab@i2000net.it

NASA • Netherlands American Studies Association

Website: <http://www.let.uu.nl/nasa/>

President: *Wil Verhoeven*, English Department, University of Groningen, P.O.Box 716, 9700 AS Groningen, The Netherlands
Phone: + 31 50 363 5838 Fax: + 31 50 363 5821
E-mail: W.M.Verhoeven@let.rug.nl

Secretary: *Marja Roholl*, History Department, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, P.O.Box 1738, 3000 DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands
E-mail: Roholl@mit.edu and Roholl@fhk.eur.nl

Treasurer: *Kees van Minnen*, Roosevelt Study Center, P.O.Box 6001, 4330 LA Middelburg, The Netherlands
Phone: + 31 118 631590 Fax: + 31 118 631593
E-mail: rsc@zeeland.nl

PAAS • Polish Association for American Studies

Website: <http://klio.umcs.lublin.pl/~ptsazlka/>

President: Marek Wilczynski, Department of American Literature, Adam Mickiewicz University, Al. Niepodległości 4, 61-874 Poznań, Poland
Phone: +48 61 852 8820 Fax: +48 61 535 103
E-mail: marek@main.amu.edu.pl

Vice-President: Jadwiga Maszewska, Department of American Literature and Culture, University of Łódź, Al. Kosciuszki 65-514 Łódź, Poland
E-mail: jagamasz@krysia.uni.lodz.pl

Secretary: Agnieszka Graff, American Studies Center, University of Warsaw, Al. Niepodległości 22, 02-653 Warszawa, Poland
E-mail: agraff@poczta.onet.pl

Treasurer: Marek Paryż, Institute of English Studies, University of Warsaw, Nowy Świat 4, 00-497 Warszawa, Poland
E-mail: m.a.paryz@uw.edu.pl

APEAA • Portuguese Association for Anglo-American Studies
Website: <http://www.malhatlantica.pt/apeaa/>

President: Isabel Caldeira
Phone: +351 239 859982 Fax: +351 239 836733
E-mail: mic@ci.uc.pt

Secretary: Manuel Portela
Phone: +351 239 859982 Fax: +351 239836733
E-mail: mportela@ci.uc.pt

Treasurer: José Manuel Mota
Phone: +351 239 716287
E-mail: zmmota@netcabo.pt

Please address all correspondence to: Instituto de Estudos Norte-Americanos Faculdade de Letras – Universidade de Coimbra, 3000-447 Coimbra, Portugal
E-mail: mic@ci.uc.pt

RAAS • Romanian Association for American Studies
Website: <http://www.american-studies.ro/raas.html>

President: Rodica Mihaila, Director, Center for American Studies, University of Bucharest, 7-13 Pitar Mos Street, 70151 Bucharest, Romania
E-mail: rodica-mihaila@b.astral.ro

Vice President: Ecaterina Popa, Faculty of Letters, Department of English, Babes-Bolyai University, 31 Horia Street, 3400 Cluj-Napoca, Romania
E-mail: kittypopa@lett.ubbcluj.ro

Secretary: Irina Grigorescu Pana, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Department of English, University of Bucharest, 7-13 Pitar Mos Street, 70151 Bucharest, Romania
E-mail: irinapana@fx.ro

Treasurer: Ioana Luca, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Department of English, University of Bucharest, 7-13 Pitar Mos Street, 70151 Bucharest, Romania
E-mail: dinuluca@hades.ro

RSAS • Russian Society for American Studies

President: Yassen Zassoursky, Dept. of Journalism, Moscow University, Mokhovaya ul. 20, Moscow, Russia
E-mail: dean@journ.msu.ru

Vice Presidents: Tatiana Venediktova, Moscow University, Dept. of Philology, 1st Humanities Building, rm. 970, 119 899 Moscow Vorobiovy Hills, Moscow, Russia
E-mail: vtatiana@mtu-net.ru or vened@philol.msu.ru
Eugene Yazkov, Moscow University, Dept. of History, 1st Humanities building, rm.690, 119 899 Moscow Vorobiovy Hills, Moscow, Russia
E-mail: amstud@hist.msu.ru

Secretary: Larissa Mikhailova, Moscow State University, Journalism Dept., 22, Olimpiisky prosp., apt. 43, 129110, Moscow, Russia
E-mail: larisa@journ.msu.ru

NAAS • Nordic Association for American Studies

- **DAAS • Danish Association for American Studies**
- **FASA • Finnish American Studies Association**
- Website: www.helsinki.fi/hum/renvall/pam/fasa/
- **IAAS • Icelandic Association for American Studies**
- **ASANOR • American Studies Association of Norway**
- Website: www.asanor.com
- **SAAS • Swedish Association for American Studies**
- Website: www.engelska.uu.se/saas.html

President: Niels-Bjerre-Poulsen, Center for the Study of the Americas/Department of English, Copenhagen Business School, Dalgas Have 15, DK – 2000, Frederiksberg, Denmark
Phone: +45 38 15 31 70 Fax: +45 38 15 38 45
E-mail: nbp.eng@cbs.dk

Member of Board from Norway: *Per Winther*, Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages, University of Oslo, P.O.Box 1003 Blindern, NO-0315 Oslo, Norway
Phone: +47 22 85 69 73 Fax: +47 22 85 68 04
E-mail: per.winther@ilos.uio.no

Member of Board from Sweden: *Anders Olsson*, Mittuniversitetet, Härnösand Campus, S-871 88 Härnösand, Sweden
Phone: +46 0611 86162 Fax: +46 0611 86170
E-mail: Anders.Olsson@miun.se

Member of Board from Denmark: *Jørn Brøndal*, Center for American Studies, University of Southern Denmark, Campusvej 55, 5230 Odense M, Denmark
Phone: +45 65 50 21 90
E-mail: brondal@language.sdu.dk

Member of Board from Finland: *Jopi Nyman*, Department of Foreign Languages, University of Joensuu, P.O. Box 111, 80101 Joensuu, Finland
Phone: +358 13 251 4331 Fax: +358 251 4211
E-mail: jopi.nyman@joensuu.fi

Member of Board from Iceland: *Julian Meldon d'Arcy*, Department of English, University of Iceland, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland
Fax: +354 525 4410
E-mail: jaydarcy@hi.is

AEDEAN • Spanish Association for English and American Studies
Website: <http://www.aedean.org>

President: *Maria Socorro Suárez*, Departamento de Filología Anglogermánica y Francesa, Campus de Humanidades, Universidad de Oviedo, 33011 Oviedo, Spain
Phone: +34 985 10 4574 Fax: +34 985 10 4574
E-mail: lafuente@uniovi.es

Secretary: *Ignacio Palacios*, Departamento de Filología Inglesa, Avenida Alfonso Castela, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, 15782 Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Phone: +34 981 56 3100 ext. 11890 Fax: +34 981 57 4646
E-mail: iafeans@usc.es

Treasurer: *Alberto Lázaro*, Departamento de Filología Moderna, C/ Trinidad 3-5, Universidad de Alcalá, 48001 Alcalá de Henares, Spain

Phone: +34 91 885 4474 Fax: +34 91 885 4441
E-mail: alberto.lazaro@uah.es

SANAS • Swiss Association for North-American Studies
Website: <http://www.sagw.ch/dt/mitglieder/outer.asp?id=16>

President: *Deborah Madsen*, English Department, Faculté des Lettres, University of Geneva, 1211 Genève 4, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 379 7884
E-mail: Deborah.Madsen@lettres.unige.ch

Secretary: *Samuel Ludwig*, Dept. of English, Unitobler, Länggass-Str. 49, 3000 Bern 9, Switzerland
Phone: +41 31 631 375 Fax: +41 31 631 36 36
E-mail: samuel.ludwig@ens.unibe.ch

Treasurer: *Christina Ljungberg Stücklin*, Bergstrasse 29c, 6045 Meggen, Switzerland
Phone: +41 377 2717 Fax: +041 377 2735
E-mail: cljung@es.unizh.ch

ASAT • American Studies Association of Turkey
Website: <http://www.asattaed.org>

President: *Gülriç Büken*, Department of History, Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences, Bilkent University, 06800 Bilkent, Ankara, Turkey
Phone: +90 312 290 2341 Fax: +90 312 266 2820
E-Mail: buken@bilkent.edu.tr

Vice President: *Selhan Savcıgil-Endres*, American Culture and Literature Department, Faculty of Sciences and Humanities, Kadir Has University, 34230 Cibali, Istanbul, Turkey
Phone: +90 212 274 4858 Fax: +90 212 534 0741
E-Mail: sendres@khas.edu.tr

Secretary: *Tuba Geyikler-Terci*, American Culture and Literature Department, Faculty of Letters, Ankara University, 06100, Sıhhiye, Ankara, Turkey
Phone: +90 312 310 3280 / 1312
Fax: +90 312 310 5713
E-Mail: geyikler@humanity.ankara.edu.tr

Treasurer: *C. Akça Ataç*, Department of History, Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences, Bilkent University, 06800 Bilkent, Ankara, Turkey
Phone: +90 312 290 3259 Fax: +90 312 266 2820
E-mail: cakca@bilkent.edu.tr

CONSTITUENT ASSOCIATIONS: NEWS

BAAS NEWS

The annual conference took place at the University of Kent in April 2006. It was well attended and the plenaries and papers were wide-ranging and interesting. At the annual banquet BAAS was able to give a large number of grants and awards, thanks to the generosity of BAAS donors and the American Embassy in London. Now in their second year, the Ambassador Awards included recognition of winners in various categories including: school essay, undergraduate essay and post-graduate essay. The Embassy also sponsored a Benjamin Franklin fellowship. BAAS gave post-graduate short term travel awards to 11 students and Founders' Awards to 5 established scholars. BAAS has also been able to co-ordinate two Teaching Assistantships with American universities – University of New Hampshire and University of Virginia. The annual BAAS book prize went to Richard Follett (University of Sussex) for *The Sugar Masters: Planters and Slaves in Louisiana's Cane World, 1820-1860*. The total amount of awards given out this year exceeded that of any previous year and reaffirmed BAAS's commitment to supporting scholarship in American Studies from school to university level. For more complete information about the awards please see the BAAS web page at www.baas.ac.uk.

Next year's conference (April 19-22, 2007) will take place at the University of Leicester with the 2008 conference scheduled for Edinburgh and 2009 in Nottingham.

The BAAS website has a US Newspaper Database that indicates where a large number of US newspapers are held in a variety of UK and Irish libraries. If you are looking for research information it may be helpful to locate these holdings in the UK.

This year has seen the post-graduate initiative launched within the EAAS spearheaded by the BAAS post-graduate representative to the Executive Committee, Josephine Metcalf. Among many other events, the postgraduate rep in BAAS helps to promote the annual post-graduate conference in the UK. If anyone knows of postgraduates within their organizations who would like to find out more please have them contact their national post-graduate rep or Jo Metcalf on josephinemetcalf@yahoo.co.uk.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

April 19-22, 2007

BAAS Annual Conference, University of Leicester

Call for papers deadline is October 31, 2006. For updated information please cf. section 'Call for Papers' or contact Dr. George Lewis, BAAS Conference Secretary, Centre for American Studies, School of Historical Studies, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH, United Kingdom Email: gdgl1@le.ac.uk

May 24-26, 2007

FAAS (AFEA), Annual Conference, Bibliothèque Nationale de France in Paris, France

France in America

The conference is organized in conjunction with an exhibition at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France and the Library of Congress (<http://gallica.bnf.fr/FranceAmerique/page.asp?fr/T1-1-intro.htm>), and will explore French presence in North America from a wide variety of perspectives – literary, artistic, linguistic, historical, philosophical, political.

Please contact Noëlle Batt for information at noelle.batt@wanadoo.fr and/or Denis Lacorne at lacorne@ceri-sciences-po.org

CALLS FOR PAPERS

April 19-22, 2007

University of Leicester, Leicester, UK

British Association for American Studies Annual Conference 2007

The BAAS Annual Conference for the year 2007 will be hosted by the Centre for American Studies at the University of Leicester, from 19-22 April.

2007 marks the tenth birthday of the Centre for American Studies at the University of Leicester so we are particularly pleased to host the conference this year. It also promises to be a very interesting year for reflecting on American history and culture given that it will be 400 years after the founding of Jamestown, Virginia and 50 years since Little Rock and Sputnik.

There is **no overarching theme** for the conference and we would encourage papers across as wide a range of disciplines as possible, on any American Studies topic broadly defined. At the 2007 conference we would like to showcase Leicester as one of the most diverse and multicultural of cities in the United Kingdom by inviting papers that deal with ethnicity and/or cultural diversity. We would, though, encourage panel proposals on any theme, roundtable discussions, and innovative ideas for sessions which we might incorporate into the schedule.

Proposals for 20-minute papers should be a maximum of 250 words with a provisional title. These will be arranged into panel groups. Panel proposals and roundtable discussions by two or more people, sharing a common theme, are also invited. We would like to include papers across the spectrum of higher education: from postgraduates to senior scholars.

Proposals for BAAS 2007 at the University of Leicester should be submitted by 31 October 2006, preferably by email attachment, to:

Dr George Lewis
BAAS Conference Secretary
Centre for American Studies
School of Historical Studies
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester. LE1 7RH. U.K.
Email: gdgl1@le.ac.uk

Any other comments or suggestions about BAAS 2007 are also welcome to:

Leicester Conference Secretary
Dr George Lewis
Tel: +44 116 2525370
Fax: +44 116 2523986
E-mail: gdgl1@le.ac.uk

Director of American Studies
Professor Martin Halliwell
Tel: +44 116 2522645
Fax: +44 116 2522065
Email: mrh17@le.ac.uk

April 25-27, 2007

Roosevelt Study Center, Middleburg, Netherlands
Democracy and Political Repression in U.S. History

On 25-27 April 2007 the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, The Netherlands, will host for the eighth time the biennial conference of European historians of the United States. The theme of this "Middelburg 8" conference is: **"Democracy and Political Repression in U.S. History."**

The conference aims to address issues connected with the question of how to explain manifestations of political repression in a constitutionally democratic society. A strong commitment to the freedom of expression and worship, as well as the right to a speedy and public trial, belong to the core of the Bill of Rights, adopted in 1791 as the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution. That commitment remains strong, but different forms of persecution of political dissenters, and discrimination against the 'otherwise minded' on a variety of subjects, have developed within the American body politic at different times throughout U.S. history. For this conference we invite paper proposals that, for example, probe specific repressive legislation, ranging from the Alien and Sedition Acts in the late eighteenth century to the recent Patriot Act, or examine the political dynamics of witch hunts or other types of political repression in U.S. history from colonial times to the present.

Historians interested in presenting a paper at this conference are invited to send a one-page proposal **before 15 November 2006** to the organizers Cornelis A. van Minnen and Sylvia L. Hilton, Roosevelt Study Center,

P.O. Box 6001, 4330 LA Middelburg, The Netherlands,
e-mail: rsc@zeeland.nl.

The organizers will make every effort to maintain the plenary character of all sessions and to schedule sufficient time in the program for discussion. To this end, individual oral presentations should not exceed 20 minutes.

Selections of papers originally presented at preceding "Middelburg conferences" have been published in conference volumes and, although a guarantee cannot be given, the organizers again envision a publication (in book form or electronically on the web). To be acceptable for publication revised conference papers should be between twenty and thirty pages double-spaced, written according to the guidelines of *The Chicago Manual of Style* and submitted as a Word for Windows document.

Scholars interested in participating in the conference without presenting a paper are requested to contact the Roosevelt Study Center for a registration form by 1 February 2007. Hotel expenses of the speakers at the conference will be covered, though they are expected to cover their own travel expenses.

Conference volumes of the preceding seven Middelburg historians' conferences:

1. David K. Adams and Cornelis A. van Minnen, eds., *Reflections on American Exceptionalism* (Keele: Keele University Press, 1994).
2. David K. Adams and Cornelis A. van Minnen, eds., *Aspects of War in American History* (Keele: Keele University Press, 1997).
3. David K. Adams and Cornelis A. van Minnen, eds., *Religious and Secular Reform in America: Ideas, Beliefs and Social Change* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press and New York: New York University Press, 1999).
4. Cornelis A. van Minnen and Sylvia L. Hilton, eds., *Federalism, Citizenship and Collective Identities in U.S. History* (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2000).
5. Cornelis A. van Minnen and Sylvia L. Hilton, eds., *Nation on the Move: Mobility in U.S. History* (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2002).
6. Cornelis A. van Minnen and Sylvia L. Hilton, eds., *Frontiers and Boundaries in U.S. History* (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2004).
7. Cornelis A. van Minnen and Sylvia L. Hilton, eds., *Teaching and Studying U.S. History in Europe: Past, Present and Future* (forthcoming).

September 28, 2007

University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
(English Department, Junior Researchers)

Legacies

Currently we are witnessing a multiplicity of attempts to secure legacies of various kinds. Museums enjoy unprecedented popularity, suggesting at once a contemporary fear of cultural amnesia and an incitement to remember; political anxieties circle around the inheritance of cultural values; and today's media present us with an abundance of new canons – selections of the hundred definitive books, songs, and films which must be known and/or collected. The past materializes in papers of state or parish registers, in family trees, and in the transfers of property such documents motivate and justify; the past resonates, too, in less tangible forms such as genre memory (Bakhtin), pathos formulae (Warburg), social energies (Greenblatt) and interstitial passages (Bhabha). In literature, the impulse to historicize – and particularly the urge to establish authoritative canons – has given rise to conflicting attitudes towards tradition as artists and critics alike fluctuate between emulation and repudiation.

This conference proposes to trace the role of legacies in literary and other cultural texts, as well as to examine why remnants and revenants of the past can represent both a disturbing burden and a source of inspiration. At the same time, it hopes to explore the power relations between differing legacies, for instance between those of dominant and marginal cultures. In particular, this conference aims to investigate whether (and in what ways) literary texts can be read as critical responses to power as they (re-)negotiate legacies and traditions, and to answer such question as: How do generations assimilate or denounce the heritage of their foremothers and -fathers? When and under what conditions do certain legacies develop renewed significance?

Interested in a wide range of theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches, we invite contributions on cultural, religious, aesthetic, psychic, historical and political legacies in different periods and genres. Conference papers may address topics such as:

- Genealogy, inheritance, property
- Collections, archives, monuments
- Ruins, fragments, waste
- Cultural afterlife, memory, forgetting
- Transmission, transference, translation
- Repetition, assimilation, adaptation
- Imitation, parody, pastiche
- Selection, rejection, repression

- Hauntings, ghosts, secrets
- Authority, tradition, canons

With this one-day conference, a group of junior researchers in the English Department at the University of Zurich intends to create a Swiss forum for academic exchange among primarily doctoral and postdoctoral researchers. The conference, which

will be held in English, thus also aims to reflect on the legacies young scholars must engage with in Switzerland's rapidly changing academic landscape.

Please send abstracts (including a brief CV) by **March 15, 2007** to legacies@es.unizh.ch. For more information, visit our website at www.es.unizh.ch/legacies.

CALLS FOR CONTRIBUTORS

EJAS Special Issue

Reading/Misreading "America"

As part of its goal to broaden American Studies and to foster a transEuropean 'academic space' for discussing the United States, EJAS would like to devote an issue to investigating the many representations of 'America,' and how and why they are used in particular contexts.

Narratives and images of the United States and what is 'American' have so multiplied and become globalised that they have become detached from the country itself. It is no longer a question of what 'America' is, but of what people do with the many available 'Americas.' Narratives of America are used and abused for specific political, cultural, and social purposes, each one related in some way to a piece of reality that is the United States but each one also possessing a life and a power of its own. Readings (both literary and visual) have been created and claimed even by those who have had little or no contact with the USA. They have differed wildly between historical periods, generations, nations, and political perspectives, and have been as much empowering (freedom, individualism) as denigrating (inequality, violence) in their intent. Such narratives are inseparable from power relations and social hierarchies, but these relations play out in different ways and can be equally enabling and debilitating.

EJAS invites articles from all disciplines and approaches to examine the causes and consequences of these readings/interpretations of America:

- How have narratives and images of the USA been used in Europe in support of particular (politi-

cal/cultural/social) causes – including US foreign policy itself?

- How have Americans mis-read their own country and themselves?
- Why are certain readings of 'America' particularly attractive in particular European countries, and what are the consequences?
- Is it possible to 'misread' America when its identities are so fluid and multifaceted?
- Translating America: How have cultural preferences in Europe affected the adoption/translation of particular US literary canons and specific authors?

Alongside Special Issues, EJAS runs regular accretive issues and welcomes submissions on all subjects related to its interests. The Journal will post articles online in the regular issue as soon as they are accepted and cleared for publication. The accretive issues will be closed each June and December.

EJAS does not accept abstracts and proposals – only finished articles in compliance with the Submission guidelines posted on the EJAS website will be considered for publication.

Deadline for submission: November 15, 2006

The call for papers (with deadline) to be included in the next special issue of the European Journal of American Studies (EJAS) can now be found on the site of EJAS: <http://ejas.revues.org>

All presentation details are available in the section "submitting articles."

EAAS Book Reviews

If you are a member of one of the EAAS national associations and would like to have your recent book reviewed, please follow these guidelines:

1. Book publications must be in English and must have been published during the current or the previous year.
2. We only review scholarly works in American Studies.
3. Bibliographical information (author, title, publisher, publishing date and place, number of pages) and a two-sentence summary of the contents should be sent to HELAAS. Reviewers will receive their review copy from the authors.
4. Reviews sent to HELAAS will be published on the EAAS site.
5. Members should contact Theodora Tsimpouki who has been appointed editor of the Book Reviews section.

Address: HELAAS, University of Athens, Faculty of English Studies, School of Philosophy, University Campus Zografou GR-157 84 Athens, Greece.

Editorial Notes

Deadlines:

January 1, 2007 Deadline for the submission of updated member lists and Board members of National Associations with e-mail addresses to the Secretary General of EAAS. Please note, however, that new Board members should be reported right after their election since the website is updated continuously and the officers must know who is representing whom.

February 1, 2007 Deadline for submission of relevant information for the May 2007 ASE Newsletter to the Editor-in-chief

Martin Heusser
Editor-in-chief

Simone Heller-Andrist
Assistant Editor
