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Wittenberg City Hall. (Martin Heusser)

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT: WELCOME BULGARIA!

The Board of EAAS was hosted on April 12-15 at the Leucorea Foundation in Lutherstadt-Wittenberg, at the invitation of our Treasurer, Professor Hans-Jürgen Grabbe. Admirably organized in very beautiful and comfortable surroundings, the meeting began seeing to, in particular, the organization of the May 2008 Oslo Conference which promises to be quite rich and memorably pleasant. On this occasion, also, the EAAS archives, meticulously sorted out and housed in the Leucorea Foundation, were presented to the delegates.

The intense, harmonious, consensual work of the Board culminated in a unanimous vote to elect the Bulgarian American Studies Association as our newest member. BASA thus became the latest national association to join the jolly farandole of acronyms that constitutes EAAS and I want officially and warmly to welcome our Bulgarian colleagues.

This vote was a new occasion to face the fact that, if there are undisputable pleasures in thus seeing EAAS grow and enrich itself, we must also anticipate potential growing pains and prepare for new modes of organization if the Board is not to become too unwieldy in its sheer size. Highlighting this issue, our Bulgarian colleagues, represented by Julia Stefanova, President of BASA, have already made contact with potential EAAS members from Kosovo, Serbia, Croatia and other countries. The Belarus Association hosts members from the Ukraine and some of the Baltic States. Such initiatives pave the way

for reflexion, which all associations should initiate, as the time may come when representation on the Board of EAAS will have to accommodate a larger number of delegates than work arrangements, financial means and material conditions fruitfully allow or make reasonable.

A call was therefore sent to all national and joint national associations to undertake discussions that could pave the way for a modicum of institutional reform. Could not, it was wondered, neighboring associations envisage representation to the Board on a rotating basis, thus also strengthening their regional collaboration by regrouping? The Board would then see to the elaboration of a revamped voting system that would take into account the number of associations represented by delegates. Could not EAAS envisage fostering regional gatherings based on the model already offered by the Nordic Association or BLASA? The Dutch and BLASA representatives have already declared themselves open to the discussion of such perspectives. Banking on already existing contacts, it might not be remiss to discuss the possibility of geographically induced collaborations between, say, South Eastern European Associations, or the development of institutional links between, say, Austria, Slovenia, Italy, or Portugal and Spain ...? The Czech and Slovak Association, let us remind ourselves, has had the good sense to remain as one. None of these suggestions has any kind of mandatory finality; they are offered here as mere examples for meditation; but the Board agreed it would be a good idea if the constituent associations engaged in conversation, within and between themselves, on this subject, one we might as well consider in advance before the problem of numbers becomes too acute.

In the same spirit, it was proposed that the associations that enjoy the larger memberships and more comfortable material means endeavor to manifest their solidarity with less fortunate or numerous associations, for example by providing financial help to members of the latter who might wish to attend national conferences and reunions outside of their own country, thus strengthening existing bonds and favoring the development of regional initiatives by younger scholars in a variety of disciplinary sectors. The ongoing post-graduate initiatives could provide the occasion for such support and solidarity, and the French association has already volunteered a substantial sum to allow non-French post-graduates to attend its own yearly programme of “doctoriales.”

This brief editorial note thus wishes to encourage the associations constituting EAAS to list these questions

among those their national boards and assemblies might discuss as soon as possible, as it appears essential to the growth, development and efficiency of our association to further boost collaboration at all levels. It is, in this regard, once more suggested, that national conferences make it a matter of principle and routine to invite members of other associations to participate in their scientific events.

EAAS, in spite of the efforts of its officers to secure external sources of funding, must essentially rely on internal collaborations. The birth of EJAS, the archives project, the post-graduate initiative, the help provided to younger scholars through our travel grants project and our support of regional activities, our healthy juridical and financial situation, the birth of European networks of scholars working in the same areas, all testify to the dynamism and solidity of our organization. But we must not rest easy but instead look into the future, envisage transformations, and new efforts to promote our growth and efficiency have to be continuously deployed. The Board members will relay the rich discussion we had in Wittenberg to their national associations. I sincerely hope that our next meeting in Oslo will testify to the progress made in the areas thus sketched out for reflexion.

The joy of energetic and trusting European collaboration in the field that is ours is something the Board had ample time to share and bask in, however heavy its workload. Professionally, intellectually and on an interpersonal level, EAAS contributes substantially to the promotion of collaborative networks our complex and difficulty-ridden continent needs more than ever. I thank all the national and joint-national delegates on the Board for their good will, good cheer and precious contributions, for their readiness, at all times, to think in terms of the general good. As I face the last year of my presidential mandate, I have every reason to believe the road ahead is full of promises. Spring is here and lilacs are everywhere. A hand-picked bunch of them goes out to Bulgaria, this special time: Welcome again!, as I close.

And on with the work; on with the work. I look forward to the pleasure of sailing the Oslo fjord with a large number of European Americanists. Until then, to one and all, my warmest greetings.

Marc Chénétier,
President, EAAS

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The EAAS Board in front of the Lutherhaus in Wittenberg. (Martin Heusser)

MINUTES OF THE EAAS BOARD MEETING 12 April 2007, Wittenberg, Germany

Item 1: Welcome

The President extended the Board's welcome to new members, Catherine Collomp (France), Niels Bjerre-Poulsen (NASA), Lehel Vadon (Hungary), Meldan Tanrisal (Turkey) and substitute representative Hans Bak filling in for Jaap Verheul (Netherlands) and Daniele Florentino (Italy) filling in for Tiziano Bonazzi.

Item 2: Minutes of the Nicosia Meeting

Minutes approved.

Item 3: Minutes of Paris Hand-Over Meeting

Minutes approved.

Item 4: Report of President

President Marc Chénétier (MC) thanked the Leucoirea foundation and GAAS for their help in arranging the Board meeting and for their welcome to the Board members, with special mention of Treasurer Hans-Jürgen Grabbe (HJG). MC requested that all Board members let officers know the length of their mandate on the Board according to the rules of their national association and whether they are standing in for others, as each association has its own rules. Board members should give this information to Secretary General Jenel Virden (JV) by email as soon as possible. MC noted that there were still problems, on occasion, with responsiveness of Board members with regard to email communication from officers. He noted that it would help the work of officers if Board members responded to, not only requests for information, but to all e-mails received, however briefly. MC thanked his fellow officers for their work over the last year: Martin Heusser (MH) for his work on the newsletter, JV for her work on the documents for this meeting, and HJG for organizing this meeting and his work on EAAS finances, web site, obtaining the EU URL, and legal aspects of the by-laws. MC reported his activities over the last year which included new attempts to find funding, unfortunately to no avail. His attendance at a European cluster meeting confirmed that little funding is out there for us, since most European funds are directed to (groups of) institutions rather than to associations such as EAAS. He has approached a number of foundations and suggested that perhaps the private sector needs approaching.

The President noted that the EJAS was proceeding well. Pawel Frelik will be attending the Board meeting at a later time to report on the current state of affairs

for the EJAS. MC noted that the editors have been very efficient and that the latest issue has been on line for a week. One of the EJAS editors has left and we need to elect a new one immediately. An ISSN number has been approved. MC also noted that the Editorial Committee has asked for a small amount of money for printed promotional material. The President also reported that he has continued with the list of publications by European scholars of America, on the web.

MC reported as well that the French government has approved a new institute of American Studies (Institut des Amériques). The officers agreed to fund a Polish initiative for an inaugural meeting of young scholars of 19th-century American literature. By using French funding, MC was able to invite young European scholars to his seminar. He reported that the post-grad initiative is up and running with BAAS post-graduate representative Josephine Metcalf coordinating efforts. The President informed the Board that 5,000 € have been pledged by the French association to invite young European post-graduates at its yearly "doctoriales", starting in 2008, and that the British Association is thinking along these lines as well. He noted that the previous YEA/EARL initiative could, at this stage, best be furthered by contributions of this type. MC's trip to Bulgaria was useful and the Bulgarian representative would be attending the Board meeting on Saturday. The President also attended the 20th anniversary of the Roosevelt Center as EAAS Representative and visited the Clinton Center at the University of Dublin. Finally, MC wondered whether it might not be a good idea to establish links on the EAAS website with MELUS and CAAR, and suggested that possibilities to include ads in the ASE Newsletter be looked into. He reminded the Board that a new auditor needed to be elected following the replacement of Michel Granger on the Board and that the Treasurer and President of EAAS would have to be replaced in Oslo.

Item 5: Report of Treasurer

HJG went over the membership list of each association. EAAS has 3,972 members at present. The total of dues received amounted to Euro 22,782.59. He commented on the chart of income and expenditures.

The Amsterdam Trust Fund is still stewarded by Hans Bak (HB), who reported on the ATF. It was decided in Nicosia to engage the fund in a more active form of management. HB drew up a risk profile, adopting a "defensive asset management" strategy. Some cash

was transferred into 'alternative investments'. The effect of these changes is to be assessed in due time. The total increase in capital is up approximately 6,000 € this year (to 217,000 €); this increase is not as good as in previous years but new investments will soon be felt. EAAS has not 'tapped into' the Fund due to the healthy finances of EAAS. The Fund's purpose remains to generate money for our activities, particularly the travel grants programme. The Board makes the relevant decisions, not the steward. MC asked when a new assessment of our policy should take place. HB suggested that we will see things more clearly next year. Alternative investments move according to the market, but we are involved in short-term investments that can be easily moved. MC asked for assurances that we do not invest in unethical funds. HB assures us this is not the case.

HJG went through income/expenditures and reports; there were few large expenses because of the sound management of the Cyprus Conference. He detailed the difficulties incurred trying to obtain the EU domain. The acronym EAAS is not mentioned as such in our by-laws, so that we don't own it. HJG had to negotiate the purchase of the "squatted" acronym from a Chinese company for 300 € HB noted the passage from printed to electronic newsletter represents savings of up to 16,000 € per year.

Item 6: EAAS Travel Grant

There was not much to report concerning the 2006 grants due to the clause which allows spending over the coming year. One grantee has not even travelled yet to the US, and we have not yet received all the reports, some grantees being slow in providing theirs. HJG is following this up. MH will have to do some editorial work on the reports for the Newsletter. The March 31 deadline was met by only 10 applications. Officers haven't looked at the reports yet but will do so soon. [This has been done since Wittenberg]. The general wish is to receive more applications and member associations had been asked to spread the word; they reported that they have done so, but applications are still too few. Even though this may be due to the relatively small sums available, it is nevertheless recommended that grants be kept at the same level, to allow for diversity. MC reminded the Board that originally the idea was to fund those students from less well-off associations but this fund is open to post-grads of all nations. This is an important programme, one that EAAS needs to continue to sustain. We would rather have more recipients than give more money to fewer. Fulbright will/needs to be approached again for matching funds. However, HJG notes that Fulbright

has slashed its funds recently, so hopes are not high; but he will make another approach once reports from recipients come in.

Item 7: Election of New Auditor

The Auditor will look at accounts to verify that HJG's accounting is accurate. MC asks for candidates. Yuri Stulov offers his services, is elected and replaces Michel Granger as second auditor, Tony Emmerson remaining the other.

Item 8: Report of Secretary General

Since the hand-over meeting in Paris in June 2006, most of the Secretary General's time has been taken up with collecting and processing the proposals for the Oslo conference. A few proposals trickled in prior to the deadline but the vast majority arrived on January 30/31st. There are currently 68 workshop proposals and 17 parallel lecture proposals. JV has also collected brief c.v.s from all of those who have submitted. This is an experiment and it is planned to allow decisions by the Board if, and only when, there is a question of too many workshops or to differentiate between proposers. The parallel lecture proposals have brief c.v.s attached. The rest of his time has been taken up with drafting the agenda and schedule. In addition, the Secretary General has been in frequent communication with the other officers on EAAS matters as and when those matters have arisen.

Item 9: Future EAAS Membership

In Paris it was decided to discuss this issue at this Board meeting. The issue is size, money and associations. The problem is that the EAAS Board could get too large to function. At 20 this is unwieldy in some senses. If it were to increase to 30, this would not only be expensive but also difficult to work properly as a functioning board.

MC visited Bulgaria. The Bulgarian Association was open to the idea of a regional grouping, perhaps with Rumania. The question is: how are such regroupings best achieved? Some associations are not as well off financially as others and we don't want to see them disadvantaged. But the balance of representation must also be fair in terms of membership.

It is required that JV be given details on the modalities of representation of national associations.

MC noted that historical memory and traditions have kept us from dealing with this matter but that this should no longer be the case as we face enlargement. Other associations have discussed it previously. During the Board's discussion several issues were raised such as the criteria that would be used to determine the

modalities of representation on the Board. MC pointed out that there is, as yet, no set criteria or plan, and that any moves in re-arranging representation on the Board would take place on a purely voluntary basis without any changes to the running or constitutions of individual national associations. A Board member suggested that perhaps new applicants to EAAS should come on the Board via a contact with another existing national association. It was noted that the problem for many smaller associations is the desire to keep national associations focused on the study of America at university level. Associations have a wide range of backgrounds with some countries having no association, others having relatively new ones or very small membership levels. Many Board members agreed that consolidation of associations made most sense on a regional level, like the Nordic Association. What emerged from the discussion was that the message about re-thinking EAAS Board membership needed to be clearly communicated to members of all of the national associations so that people can see the thinking behind this initiative and contribute to the collective reflexion. It is not about excluding members from EAAS but rather about representation on the Board. The size of the Board has reached its limits in terms of conducting business in an efficient manner. MC agreed to write a piece for the next newsletter that would suggest that national associations should look to 'find their way' to deal with the issue. Clearly, this will take some time to resolve and will involve continued discussion and debate. The President urged individual Board members to convey the essence of this discussion to their respective national associations.

Item 10: Proceedings from Nicosia – Progress Report

The current state of the edition was discussed as well as publications for Nicosia and future conferences. Dora Tsimpouki reported that Antonis Balasopoulos met with the other two editors. The latter have read and are concerned about the quality of some of the papers received. 30 were received while 18 will be included. The question is: why don't we get the best papers? First and second choice of workshop chairs worked well for giving more options about what to print and how to organize the volume. It is up to the editorial committee to decide what to retain, including parallel lectures. With only 18 texts and 7 by Germans there seems to be a high proportion of German contributions but the German contingent was indeed well represented at Nicosia. The only selection criterion was quality. Some papers previously published could not be included. We need to give up the idea of con-

ference proceedings: this is a volume of papers based on an EAAS conference. It needs to be as cohesive and coherent a volume as possible. It will have little value if it is just a collection of unrelated topics. In the past all parallel lectures have been included. MC suggests three principles: 1. This is not the proceedings, 2. Editors use quality and coherence as criteria and 3. Parallel lectures don't necessarily have priority. It is at the discretion of the editors to decide what to include. Future volumes could include an announcement to this effect. A possibility also exists to take advantage of the electronic version of the conference programme brochure that lists the links to the chair's and presenters' e-mail addresses. Contributions that do not fit the general thematic priorities of the volume could also be submitted for publication in EJAS. But it is important that conference participants know there is no guarantee their contribution will be published.

For future conference-based collections, HJG has negotiated a contract with Winter as a sub-series. The final copy of the Nicosia volume will be ready in December 2007. The publisher's style sheet is available for authors on the web (<http://www.amerikastudien.de/mono/index.html>).

Item 11: ASE Newsletter and EAAS Web site

Martin Heusser has little to report. At the beginning there were some glitches in the system because of software incompatibility. He is now using InDesign software that should be easily passed on to the next editor. MH called for good photographs of EAAS events and also for people to send in items, etc. to the editor. There is no need to format contributions. Please let MH know what is urgent, etc. or if it needs to be stressed/emphasized. The next newsletter is practically ready and set up and any complementary material needs to be sent to MH by the end of April. The CFP for Oslo workshops will be included (200-250 words each, to be sent to JV). The "EAAS internal networks" on the web site has changed. ASN and Postgraduate Forum are now listed under internal networks. A Women's Forum can be added when it is ready. Everything else is unchanged. Dora Tsimpouki asked about the book review section of the web site. She has been working on this for many years and has suggested that someone else might want to take it over. Also, in Cyprus it was discussed that book reviews may want to go to the EJAS as, for example, there are books in history that she has no reviewers for. The number of people reviewing books is limited and perhaps it needs to be opened up. There is a link already between EAAS and EJAS. The question as to whether EJAS should take over the reviews was discussed. However, it was seen

as adding unduly to the work load of the EJAS editors. Perhaps this can be discussed again in the future, once EJAS is sailing smoothly. For the moment, EJAS history editors could recommend history reviewers, as could member Associations, and the advisory board of EJAS.

Item 12: Archives and Records

HJG revealed that conferences since 1957 and officers since 1954 can now be found on the web page. Carsten Hummel gave a brief presentation of his work on a dissertation about the history of EAAS, the EAAS Records and Archives Project, Zentrum für USA-Studien (Center for United States Studies).

Item 13: Fund Raising and Sponsorship

MC has been pursuing this but the responses have not been encouraging. For so much hard work to be so unfruitful can be disheartening. Regional initiatives and perhaps younger scholars could put together proposals for specific funding. Foundations have not helped so far. A precise event needs to be proposed rather than just asking for money in general. MC is happy to liaise with anyone wishing to put together a proposal. Private sector funding has not yet been pursued. A lengthy discussion ensued with regard to applying for funds, the status of EAAS as an association, the cost in time and money to pursue funding, etc.

Item 14: Oslo, Selection of Workshops and Lectures

The Board met on several occasions over two days to select workshops and parallel lectures for the Oslo 2008 conference. Of the 68 workshop proposals 27 were selected. Of the 17 proposals for parallel lectures 9 were selected. The secretary general will now get in touch with chairs, co-chairs and lecturers to ask them to have a short CFP prepared within the next 3 weeks (by 5 May) so that it can be forwarded to the editor of the newsletter in time for the May publication deadline. Plenary lectures: Winfried Fluck will be the European speaker, Joan Richardson the American speaker; the national speaker will be chosen by the Oslo conveners.

Ole Moen joined the discussions about the Oslo conference on the afternoon of Saturday April 14 at 3:00 to discuss the progress of the organization of the Oslo conference. The Nordic Association is the formal host, the actual host is Norway with Ole's Dept. of Literature, Area Studies and Languages organizing the events. The committee of four historians is headed by David Mauk, assisted by a professional conference

organizer. Blindern Campus is the location. The hotels will be downtown. The Pentecostal weekend occurs before the tourist season. Hotels will cost between 50 and 100 €but this is still being negotiated. Budget airlines serve Oslo (see www.norwegian.no web site for flights, as well as Ryan Air). Transport shouldn't be too expensive. Oslo is an expensive city but the organizers are trying their best to keep costs down. OM outlined his fundraising efforts; he has been quite successful so far (having secured about 60,000 €) but has further hopes and expectations. Finances are in pretty good shape, including some business sponsors who will be providing some other support. OM also produced a tentative program. (Has contacted hotels, etc. for venues). Logistically the hotels, meeting rooms and evening events should be easily accessible. Events include a free reception by the Mayor at City Hall and a reception at the American Ambassador's Residence on Saturday night (perhaps garden party if the weather holds) and a two-hour tour on Sunday afternoon with a cruise/banquet on the Oslo Fjord immediately after. Requests for PowerPoint equipment should please be kept to a minimum.

Discussion of plenary speakers ensued; the final decision on the national speaker will be made at a later date. After discussion it was decided that the officers would be going to Oslo, perhaps in February, a final decision to be made later on the dates.

Item 15: Venue of Board 2008 and 2009 (Oslo and Zurich)

Dates for Oslo: arrive Wednesday the 7th in time for dinner, work on Thursday and Friday morning; conference starts Friday afternoon and ends Monday. Board meeting on the Monday afternoon. Zurich dates not yet determined.

Item 16: Conference Venues 2010 and 2012 (Dublin and Halle)

Dublin is confirmed for 2010; Clinton Center (using Trinity College and UC Dublin as joint venue). An extraordinary meeting in June in Ireland would address the issues of dates. (Easter is on April 4, 2010). Conference for 2012 had an offer to hold from HJG to Halle (Easter on 8 April, 2012) dates 13-16 April 2012.

Item 17: Establishing Nominating Committee

The terms of the present President and Treasurer will end in 2008 at Oslo. The nominating committee will put together recommendations and bring these to the Board at Oslo. Board members need to be the representative of their association at the time of the nomina-

tion. MC asked the Board members whether or not they would be available or willing to serve in order to get some indication of possible candidates. EAAS by-laws have a two-mandate limit for Board members from any member association. Volunteers were identified for the nominating committee which included Hans Bak, Yuri Stulov, Tatiana Venediktova and Jerzy Durczak.

Item 18: European Journal and Report of Editor (Pawel Frelik)

Pawel Frelik gave a short presentation on the state of EJAS and what has been happening over the last year. The first issue is on-line and has been for about 10 days. There are currently six articles (4 literature and culture, 2 in history/political science) with at least 3 more coming on-line within the next two weeks. It was decided to have officially 2 issues a year Jan-June, and July-Dec so whatever papers go through the process of clearance fit in with one of those issues. Peer reviewing and revisions are in place with editorial matters ensuing. The editorial committee was comprised last year of 7, (elected in Cyprus). However, only 5 of those have been active. The Working Advisory Board (WAB) has been discussed by the officers and PF addressed some concerns of gender and national representation on the WAB noting that the primary objective was to select people who would do the work associated with the EJAS. Occasionally these WAB members have worked as peer-reviewers hence a balance of disciplines is key as well. There are some matters that still need to be improved. Some things were slow because of editorial committee difficulties. Some delays have occurred as a result of the slowness of peer reviewers and there have been problems and issues as well. A themed issue turned out to be difficult. The first attempt at this resulted in a call for papers for 'reading/misreading America' that received only 1 or 2 articles directly related to the theme - the other articles were more general. It was suggested that themed issues should wait a while longer until several general issues have appeared and become visible. The editorial committee believes that it needs an infusion of funds (modest) so that they can generate some publicity in order to spread the word of the journal further. There are some countries from which there have been no submissions. They would like to advertise the journal at national conferences. They are still looking for peer readers, in film studies for example. The Board agreed to forward funds to EJAS for the purpose of putting together leaflets, mailings and other advertising items. Concerning the composition of the editorial committee, MC noted that the Italian association democratically elected a replacement person for the edito-

rial committee. They have proposed Andrea Carosso, University of Torino and the EAAS Board agreed. MC will approach another member of the editorial committee who is having difficulties balancing work and the job of editor of EJAS to see if he too may want to step aside, at which point another replacement would have to be found. These replacements help to deal with the issue of staggering the terms of the editorial committee in the future. The President noted that the EJAS has so far proven to be a very good and successful venture and the Board took this opportunity to thank PF. HJG raised the issue of the length of terms of the persons on the WAB. PF noted that the editorial committee had not addressed this issue directly. MC suggested that the WAB might be told that terms of office for membership on the WAB are for four years with one renewal possible: a total of 8 years. This would give the members of the WAB an opportunity to withdraw and/or renew their terms. This could be done in the future by staggering the terms of the 20 members of the WAB so that it did not result in wholesale replacement. Currently there are two positions available on the WAB. MC also suggested that there should be a yearly meeting of the editorial committee to discuss these issues so that the committee can function as a team in the best possible sense. Catherine Collomp reminded MC and PF that Dora Tsimpouki, as the person who looks after the book reviews for EAAS, had asked if the EJAS could help out with finding reviewers on the topic of history. This was discussed by the Board and it was agreed that for book reviews EJAS would work in conjunction with Dora.

Item 19: Application of Bulgaria for Membership (Julia Stefanova)

The President welcomed Julia Stefanova to the meeting for the discussion of the Bulgarian Association's application to join EAAS. JS gave a brief formal presentation about her national association. The BASA has increased in size to over 50 members which include representatives from almost all American Studies institutions including universities. The association has run several conferences and has published practically all of the proceedings from these conferences. They have also worked to launch two MA programs at Sofia University. They work closely with the Fulbright Commission, which is where JS works. They have a web site and also an on-line journal (first issue in 2006). Kosovo, Macedonia, Croatia have been in contact with BASA and are open to incorporation; such an association could be worked out with Romania as well. Links and connections to US and European universities exist for joint MA programs including LSU in

Baton Rouge and Padua. MC praised the Bulgarian association's willingness to collaborate with other countries and associations. The Board unanimously agreed to accept the application of the Bulgarian Association to join EAAS.

Item 20: Doc/Post-Doc

YEA/EARL wanted to be integrated into EAAS and had a forum in Nicosia, Cyprus, where new contacts were made. Unfortunately, although Thomas Claviez and others tried to organize a founding conference and HJG agreed that funds could be found, the momentum failed to materialize. There are still on-going talks and work but at the moment it is not too active. Meanwhile, the post-graduate forum is up and running and has a web presence on the EAAS web site. The French Association volunteered money to allow non-French post-grads to attend its conference. Networking has begun. Jo Metcalf is running an email list to pass on information.

Item 21: Agenda for Oslo Meeting

The following items are to be included on the agenda:
Discussion of terms of office of EAAS representatives of member associations.
Election of President and Treasurer.
Report by various associations on the idea of new representations of groups/clusters. EJAS report.

Item 22: Auditors' Report

Tony Emmerson and Yuri Stulov have looked at HJG's accounts – spot checks, verification of accounts and list of assets were all duly checked and approved.

Item 23: AOB

Expenses for the travel of the officers were discussed. Member associations should be advised that costs will rise as changes take place (e.g. MC was so far able to get funding from his research funds but come September 07 he will no longer be in a position to do this). Tiziano Bonazzi of Italy could not make it to this meeting and Daniele brought his best wishes. MC sent the Board's affectionate greetings to Tiziano. JV asked that Board members please keep her informed of how they are elected and the terms of their representation on the Board and also reminded everyone that they need to let the officers know when new officers are elected in their own associations. Catherine Colomp asked the Board to join her in thanking the officers for their work prior to and during the meetings.

JENEL VIRDEN, SECRETARY GENERAL



The Board in action at the Leucorea Foundation. (Martin Heusser)

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 historical data and possibly even more so 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), and the feeling of a wished-for common good counteract potential strife and the tensions of particular interests and particular groups, and 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.

WORKSHOP THEMES

Both workshop members and chairs should consult the *Guidelines for Workshops* (below). For further specifications of workshop themes, workshop contributors should contact the respective chairs.

Workshop 1

Nativism Revisited? Political Responses to Immigration in the United States

Stepanka Korytova-Magstadt, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

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Brian Gratton, Arizona State University, USA

E-mail: brian@asu.edu

In this workshop we will examine rising popular opposition in the United States to immigration – both legal and illegal – at the local, state and federal level. We invite papers that address local ordinances (such as in Hazleton, Pennsylvania), state regulations (such as Proposition 187 in California 1994 and 2006 propositions in Arizona), and proposed federal legislation for border control, guest worker programs, etc. Contributions should address questions such as these: How have political parties, lobbies, ethnic organizations, and spontaneous organizations (from the Minutemen to undocumented immigrants) attempted to guide the debate and its results? Whose interests does each group serve? Does the new politics of immigration signal the coming victory of a nativist movement?

Workshop 2

Staging the Nation: The Theatre of American Identities

Theresa Saxon, University of Central Lancashire, UK

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This workshop will evaluate the variety and complexity of American drama, redressing the hefty balance that has been placed on twentieth-century productions, taking a 'long view' of America's theatre history. Papers are welcome on any area of American theatre from pre-colonial Native American performance rituals, African-American performance traditions and the endeavours of early colonisers in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, to the twenty-first century. Papers should pay close attention to the role played by theatre as a space for acting out anxieties and concerns surrounding perceptions of American national identity and also investigate the types of performances that could be classified as theatrical. American theatre will be situated as a lively, dynamic and diverse arena, one in which concepts of E Pluribus Unum or E Pluribus Plura are staged as performative utterances that form and inform audience perspectives/understandings of American history, culture and the production of national identity/ies.

Workshop 3

The uses and abuses of diversity: Historical, political and philosophical analyses of an evolving concept and diverse practices of diversity

Pierre Guerlain, Université Paris X Nanterre, France
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Walter Benn Michaels, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA
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In the 70s and 80s, multiculturalism was the answer to racism in the U.S. and a way of fighting it. Diversity then was a strategy of visibility for marginalized, forgotten and exploited groups. The rhetoric of diversity has undeniably helped to change the dominant discourse about race and ethnicity. Yet, what does it mean when the Bush Administration uses the language of diversity and ethnic plurality alongside the language of freedom? How can a discourse of diversity be reconciled with the building of a wall of shame between the U.S. and Mexico? Why is every single community in the U.S. routinely described as a “vibrant, diverse community” even when there is no socio-economic diversity among the members of this community? The aim of this workshop is to interrogate the multiple, indeed diverse uses of the concept or near-concept of diversity in current American life.

Workshop 4

Primitivist Modernisms and Diasporic Americas

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R. J. Ellis, University of Birmingham, UK
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This panel addresses the interface of racial (re-)presentation, commodity culture and transatlantic modernism, both preceding and following the Armory Show and its popularization of European modernist art in the USA through the media of painting, photography, film and literature. The evolving interaction generated an energetic dialogue about varieties of cultural investment (high and low) within categories of race and ethnicity, challenging the USA’s established links between primitivism and high modernism, and inflected the progressive, pluralist redefinition of American national culture. How, for example, did the diasporic Americas react to: the ‘essentializing’ of race and racism – e.g. by fetishizing or exploring hybridity, difference, vitalism, magic thinking, and abstraction; the

risks and possibilities in ‘playing Indian’ (Deloria) or ‘talking black’ (Fisher Fishkin); or the self-reflexive performance of ethnicity and race? The session aims to consider the interface of racial (re-)presentation, commodity culture and transatlantic modernist art in the twentieth century and its nineteenth-century artistic and aesthetic precursors. Papers exploring any aspect of these issues’ representation in any medium are welcome.

Workshop 5

19th Century American Literature and Art – Between Nation Building and Individuation

Ina Bergmann, University of Würzburg, Germany
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Gregory Tomso, University of West Florida, USA
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Throughout the 19th century, Americans worked to establish a distinctive cultural identity for their new nation. Many felt a strong need to complete the political work of revolution, giving form to a general idea of “Americanness.” Yet within and against this theme of nation building, the literature and art of the 19th century evinces national diversity endemic to a century of unprecedented economic growth, violent civil war, mass immigration, racial and civil unrest, and military expansionism. While performing the “official” work of nation building, literature and art also accomplish the more subversive, cultural work of individuation and dissent. This workshop calls for contributions that examine the tensions between national unity and diversity and/or articulate the wavering between American nationhood and individualism in the cultural products of this pivotal era of the formation of the United States. Submissions should be sent to Ina Bergmann and Gregory Tomso.

Workshop 6

Cities and Diversity in the American Novel

Nathalie Cochoy, Toulouse-le-Mirail University, France

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Kristiaan Versluys, Ghent University, Belgium

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Cities are sites of deracination where, in the words of Paul Gilroy, “geography and genealogy [begin] to trouble each other.” This workshop wants to explore how in the American urban novel (1945 and after) this dynamic contributes to the articulation of diversified

American identities, over and against the undiversified “Unum” of American statehood. Questions that could be discussed include (but are not restricted to): How do urban novelists reconcile memory and mobility? How do they renew discourse and style in order to harmonize the constant transfiguration of their words to the unceasing metamorphosis of the city? Does the reflexive, rhythmical adjustment of language to the elusive yet tangible presence of the city suggest a new means of inhabiting it? To what extent does globalization contribute to a newly hybridized sense of identity and (possibly also) a new literary approach? How does discourse reflect the tension between the unity of place and the plurality of displacements that govern the city?

Workshop 7 **E Pluribus Unum? The Jewish Example**

Susanne Rohr, University of Hamburg, Germany
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Cheryl Alexander Malcolm, University of Gdansk, Poland
E-mail: angcm@univ.gda.pl

Why is it that Jews are often perceived as a single unified group in America? We invite papers which explore this question by discussing literary and cinematic representations of the Jewish community. Works to be considered could include those concerning the conflicts between immigrant and greenhorn Jews (the film *Hester Street* and Cahan’s works for example), immigrant parents and their American born children, European Jews (particularly Holocaust survivors) and American Jews (could include their children such as in second and third generation novels by Rosenbaum, Bukiet, and Foer), and religiously observant and secular Jews (even Jewish gay novels are addressing the rise in observance and newly observant Jews and its impact on the community). Papers may illuminate a history of division in the Jewish community since the great waves of immigration, the Holocaust, the establishment of Israel and the return to religious ritual, which reflect a wider history of division in America that is experiential as much as it is ideological and from which unity nonetheless finds a basis.

Workshop 8 **Ethnic Groups and U.S. Foreign Policy since World War One: The Multicultural Search for the National Interest**

Serge Ricard, Sorbonne Nouvelle, France

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Ole O. Moen, University of Oslo, Norway
E-mail: ole.moen@ilos.uio.no

The workshop will examine from a historical, cultural, and sociological perspective the militancy and foreign policy strategies of ethnic lobbies, or ethnic interest groups, in the United States and their impact on American diplomacy from World War One to the post-9/11 period. It will address such issues as dual allegiance, anti-Americanism, and disloyalty within the broad framework of patriotism and dissent, and conflicting definitions of the national interest and Americanness, notably in view of the growing acceptance of the legitimacy of such pressure groups and the possible erosion of the consensus over a singular “American identity” in today’s markedly multicultural U.S. society. Ethnicity should be understood to cover minorities characterized by distinctive racial and/or cultural traits: African-Americans, German-Americans, Irish-Americans, Cuban-Americans, Jewish-Americans, Arab-Americans, Greek-Americans, etc. Please send a one-page submission to the workshop chairs.

Workshop 9 **Many Wests: Contemporary Literary Approaches to the American West**

David Rio, University of the Basque Country, Spain
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Oyunn Hestetun, University of Bergen, Norway
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This workshop aims to explore the flowering of quality western writing since the 1960s, focusing on the multicultural broadening of the contemporary literature of the American West. It intends to examine different ways in which recent literary interpreters of this territory have portrayed western places and myths, often with an emphasis on the West as a regionally diverse entity. We invite papers that discuss the tensions between the West as an exceptional region and the West as an inherent part of American culture, as portrayed by contemporary writers. We also welcome proposals that address the use of the West as a fictional space to interrogate the past, examining not only mythic and popular dimensions of the West, but also neglected or suppressed stories about this region. Discussions of contemporary literary representations of space in the New West, focusing on its multicultural, hybridized, environmental, and postmodern dimensions are also welcome.

Workshop 10

South or Souths? The American South and the Shaping of Its Singular or Plural Identity/ies

Susanna Delfino, University of Genoa, Italy

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Jacques Pothier, University of Versailles Saint-Quentin en Yvelines, France

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Conventional wisdom long considered individualism a distinctive feature of southern identity. The vastness of the region identified as “the South,” its geographic diversity and fragmentation supported this view, and the model embraced by Southerners in 1861 seemed to confirm it, as the Confederate States of America claimed that their idea of the nation involved a continuing regard for the individual identity of its component states – branching away from *e pluribus unum* into *e pluribus plura*. Historical records and literary sources suggest that the individualism undoubtedly present in southern culture is combined with a strong sense of belonging to a larger community – be it sub-regional, or regional. Diversity within the South, in its various dimensions – geographic, economic, social, racial, cultural – constitutes today a firm point of departure for scholarly investigation. The complete text of this CFP may be consulted online at http://www.sudam.uvsq.fr/Oslo2008-WK10-SSF_CFP.htm.

Workshop 11

From “English only” to “English plus”? Linguistic Pluralism in Early and 19th-Century American Literature

Wayne Franklin, University of Connecticut, USA

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Ronald Jenn, Charles de Gaulle University, Lille, France

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This workshop invites considerations of the polyglot origins of American literature and seeks papers that would explore different aspects of linguistic pluralism and confrontation with languages other than English: Does Crèvecoeur’s writing in English and then translating himself in his “native” language indicate a broader pattern among an immigrant population? What was achieved by American authors writing in a foreign language? (Franklin’s *Bagatelles*, Cooper’s *Point de bateaux* or Longfellow’s *Noël*). Why were so many American authors also translators? (Freneau, Brown, Barlow, Caleb Bingham, Longfellow, Margaret Os-

solli-Fuller, Henry James.) What is the significance of Irving’s, Hawthorne’s and Twain’s purported translations? Contributions from book historians on the production and/or the circulation of foreign books on American soil would also be welcome.

Workshop 12

What Canonical Fiction?: Realism and Its Discontents

Donatella Izzo, Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”

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Greg Zacharias, Creighton University, USA

E-mail: gwzach@creighton.edu

Given Amy Kaplan’s definition of realism as a “strategy for imagining and managing the threats of social change” (itself a struggle of unum and plura), this workshop seeks to explore intersections, borrowings, overlaps, and the like between what has come to be regarded as the “mainstream” of canonical realistic fiction (the “Unum”) in the United States from the later nineteenth century and the manifold varieties of non-realistic and/or non-canonical writing (the “plura”). Working from the conference theme, which implies an investigation of the relation of the “one” to the “many,” this workshop itself offers a range of possible avenues of investigation that could include both the creation, reading practices, canonization processes, and gender and race implications of a U.S. realistic tradition and its cross-borrowings, overlappings, contestations, and exclusions. Please send 150-200 word paper proposals and a short (2 page) cv to Donatella Izzo (dizzo@iuo.it) and Greg Zacharias (gwzach@creighton.edu) by September 1, 2007. We seek a panel of eight for two workshop sessions with no more than two members of the panels from the same country.

Workshop 13

The Influence of Chinese and Japanese Poetry on American Imagism and Objectivism

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Sai Kin Lee, University of Burgos, Spain

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It is remarkable that in the last ten to twelve years several EAAS workshops have shown an interest in the relationship between Asia and the West, in particular between the United States on one side and India, China and Japan, on the other. Themes connected with

literature of migration have been dealt with on several occasions. Other Asian countries have also been considered. The present workshop will focus on the relationship between American poetry and the Asian poetical tradition. It was precisely the Japanese and Chinese influence that revolutionized the poetry of the twentieth century, inspiring movements such as Imagism and Objectivism and thoroughly influencing the whole way of writing poetry. This workshop will focus on the characteristics of the Pound-Fenollosa writings, Charles Olson's objectivism and what can be defined as the new imagism in the contemporary literary scenario of the U.S. and in Asian American poetry.

Workshop 14 **'E Pluribus Plura': Second Generation American Immigrants, Nationality and American Culture(s)**

Samuel Ludwig, UHA Mulhouse, France

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Rüdiger Heinze, University of Freiburg i. Br., Germany

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Second-generation immigrants have been a force of diversity as well as assimilation in the United States, and in recent years the progeny of the immigrants to the USA after the Hart-Celler Act of 1965 has drastically transformed the demographic composition of society as well as the descriptive and prescriptive ideas of a hegemonic American nationality and culture, and it will continue to do so. We invite papers that range from colonialism to the immediate present, dealing with historical, social, legal, literary and theoretical issues: what are some of the main differences between late-19th century assimilation and late-20th century assimilation? How has the globalized world of today changed the culture of immigration? How useful are concepts such as "sojourner mentality," "diaspora," "transnationalism," or "rooted cosmopolitanism" for describing the second generation now and then? What impact is the current second generation ultimately going to have on the "pluralistic" makeup of U.S. society?

Workshop 15 **"Indianness," Tribalism, and the Nation State**

Laura Castor, University of Tromsø, Norway

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Christian F. Feest, Museum für Völkerkunde Vienna, Austria

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From the time of first European contact, the heterogeneous indigenous population of North America became subject to a process of conceptual and increasingly legal assimilation to the European notion of "Indians," which has contributed to the emergence of an "Indian" ethnic identity and various inter-, trans-, and pan-tribal political and social movements. While national policies relating to American Indians have constantly wavered between acknowledging the special rights derived from their aboriginal sovereignty and the desire to integrate them on the basis of equal rights, the indigenous peoples themselves not only have had to manoeuvre between maintaining tribal identities and pan-Indian political goals, but have themselves been transformed into pluralistic societies in a pluralistic nation state. This workshop invites papers from all fields reflecting these often conflicting assertions of unity and diversity within tribes, American Indians at large, and their relationship to the nation state.

Workshop 16 **Expounding the Constitution: Fulfilling the Founding Fathers' Ideal: "E Pluribus Unum"?**

Elisabeth Boulot, University of Marne-la-Vallée, France

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William G. Merkel, Washburn University School of Law, USA

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The Supreme Court has set itself the task of interpreting the Constitution, under the national motto. The purpose of this workshop is to examine the part played by the Court in the shaping of American identity and legal culture. It seeks contributions on the following topics: has the Court played an essential role in creating American norms only by seeking to forge a consensus about a neutral "Unum" or has it revisited its precedents in order to accommodate a societal and cultural "Plura"? During periods of dissension in the Court concerning the two versions of the formula, did Court divisions mirror those existing within larger American society? If so, can one say that the people's trust in the ability of the law to find common ground and take differences into account was undermined as a result of the divisiveness on the Court?

Workshop 17

Nationhood and the Deployment of Sexuality: The Social Divisiveness of Sexual Diversity

Carol Smith, University of Winchester, Winchester, UK

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Bart Eeckhout, University of Antwerp, Belgium

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This workshop will examine the complexity of the phrase “E pluribus unum” as it relates to the relationship between the reality of sexual diversity and the unitary heterosexual imaginary employed in sustaining the American Nation. The era of sexual emancipation and liberation, with its utopian optimism and celebration of diversity, has segued into a time full of sexual contention and dissension. Dershowitz, Berlant et al. have argued that the domestic political agenda has been driven by a cold war model of seeking to silence or eradicate difference or deviation from the perceived norm of heterosexual marriage. The construction of citizenship, the decision to run for office and active participation in nation building all seem to be predicated on a singular construction of sexuality in stark contrast to the welcomed plurality of ethnic identity and identification. In the realm of cultural production, a similar strategic deployment of ‘normative’ versus ‘deviant’ forms of sexuality can be understood as a conservative backlash against diversity and/or a defence against such. We invite participants to address these issues from any discipline.

Workshop 18

(B)ordering Unity: The Border as a Paradigm of Diversity

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Santiago Vaquera, Pennsylvania State University, USA

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History can be described as an unrelenting sequence of walls, from the Great Wall of China to the always re-enforced fences between Mexico and the U.S., between Morocco and Spain. Yet the question is how do walls and boundaries vertebrate an illusion of defensive unity against an always threatening “Other.” Built into the fantasy of the stoppage, of the visual verticality attending walls and fences, is its very opposite, for boundaries function as a third element mediating

between *unum* and *plura*. This workshop welcomes papers dealing with the various faces of the border in American Literature and Culture. Papers can address issues such as: How does the border challenge and add to a definition of national identity? Can the border be seen as a paradigm of unity/plurality? How well does the border situation between Mexico and the United States travel to other geographical locations especially in Europe?

Workshop 19

Arab and Muslim Citizens in the U.S. Not Quite Americans?

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Since September 11, 2001 and the so-called “war on terror”, the U.S. media and popular culture have treated Arabs and Muslims as fanatics, terrorists, and suspects. Their rights have been curtailed and their activities have been monitored. The Bush administration has not only questioned their loyalty to the nation but also identified them as a potential threat to its unity. What does it mean to them to be an American? Do they have to define themselves as Muslims or Arab Americans, hyphenated-Americans or just as Americans who happen to be Muslims and/or Arabs? Some have become aware that, as one woman put it, although “I feel American, I bleed American, my country denies me that identity because I am a Muslim.” Today Arab and Muslim Americans are in complete disarray. An increasing number of them try to redefine their place as citizens of the United States. This workshop welcomes papers that explore the following issues: Similarities and differences between the situation of German and/or Japanese Americans during the First and Second World Wars and Arab/Muslim Americans since 9/11. In the era of multiculturalism and cultural pluralism, could we say that “Arab” and/or “Muslim” has become the only unacceptable hyphen in the U.S.? Arab/Muslim Americans and the political process: do Arab and Muslim Americans enjoy the same legitimacy as other hyphenated Americans? How are Arab/Muslim Americans portrayed in the media and popular culture? To what extent could we say that the legislative and administrative measures adopted by the U.S. Government since 9/11 to fight terrorism constitute a form of institutional exclusion of the Arab/Muslim community?

Workshop 20

Popular Pluralisms: Negotiating American Identity in Recent Popular Culture

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Popular culture has been an important site of American national identity formation – and, indeed, interrogation whether America can be thought of as one or, rather, many different cultures – roughly since the 1960s. This workshop proposes to take a close look at concrete instances of such negotiations as they have played out in popular media such as literature, television, popular music, and Hollywood movies. All these media have become sites for constructing and thereby performing a unified national experience, either from an affirmative or a critical perspective. We are inviting papers that engage one or two media in discussing concrete ways in which American national identity has been constructed and/or contested. Please send an abstract of 150-200 words and a short cv to Astrid Böger or Nicole Schröder by September 1, 2007, and don't forget to indicate any technical equipment you will need.

Workshop 21

E Pluribus Unum in Wartime

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Jaap Kooijman, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

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This panel focuses on the relationship between internal tensions of unity/diversity, and the ideological construction of the USA as fighting for democracy. 1917-18 and 2003-8, among other periods, witness the invocation of *e pluribus unum* as a means of twinning the exercise of U.S. national power with the notion of globalizing democracy, in spite of its apparent contradiction by the wartime introduction of state apparatuses predicated on suppressing ethnic, political, and other *plura* in the name of the *unum* (respectively the Espionage and Sedition; and Patriot Acts.) The panel aims to trace many of the cultural forms of these political formations. Of particular interest then are the

intertwining of democratic and imperial discourses, the juxtaposition of 'internal' and 'global' struggles, political debates that connect U.S. foreign policy with its internal politics of difference, and other aspects of American democratic universalism in wartime. The panel as a whole is envisaged as providing the resources to historicize the contemporary moment, connecting debates and texts from different realms, ranging from "official" political discourse to Hollywood cinema, from scholarly debate to pop-cultural texts, from anti-war satire to George W Bush's invocation of Wilsonian (inter)nationalism.

Workshop 22

Pluribus unum or pluribus plura? Europeans Represent the United States on Screen

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This workshop evaluates the contribution made to the *pluribus unum/pluribus plura* debate by European filmmakers dealing with American themes. Since the very beginnings of cinema, Europeans have been involved in interpreting and commenting on 'America' on screen both to American and foreign audiences. Many European directors have made films with American subjects. Equally, many directors of European origin were assimilated into 'Hollywood'. Possible themes include: As outsiders, were European filmmakers drawn to subjects and themes that emphasize the unity or diversity of America in gendered, political, religious, economic, social or cultural terms? Have particular filmmakers focused on the unity of American society in terms of its consensus over values and traditions or its diversity? To what extent did the nationality and/or ethnicity of European filmmakers influence their portrayal of American society? (Frank Capra's Italian background?) Is it possible to identify a distinctively 'European' aesthetic style in how America has been treated on screen? Most stars of European origin were compelled to change their names. Was this standardization effective? (Rudolph Valentino) To what extent have European revisions of American genres ('westerns' by Sergio Leone, for example) emphasized the unity or hybridity of the genre concerned?

Workshop 23

The Myth of Americanization or the Divided Heart: Views from Inside and Out

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Throughout the last century of United States history, a dominant theme and concern of citizens has been the role of assimilation, “the melting pot,” and “dual consciousness” in creating a society comprised of immigrants, “The Great Experiment.” Fluctuation of American popularity notwithstanding, immigrants persist in arriving to the shores of the United States in greater numbers than at any time in history – as shown by the U.S. Census Bureau data and current information from the New Immigrant Survey [NIS]. The events of recent history have again brought to the foreground in the U.S. the dual question of “E Pluribus Unum” and/or “E Pluribus Plura,” in terms of both self-definition and demographic concerns, and the ways in which it affects more traditional perceptions of the country as a land of social opportunity and political democracy. This workshop invites participants to discuss the various instances of “plura,” double or “unum,” albeit at times polarized, as well as answers to Crèvecoeur’s question “what is an American?,” as materialized in the inside or foreign responses to the United States, both in popular and high-brow literature, festivals, and other means of cultural expression.

Workshop 24

U.S. Icons

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U.S. cultural icons (from the flag to Michael Jackson) form an essential part of the discourses in U.S. culture. They may be seen as normalizing agents in attempting to foster a “Pluribus Unum” against tendencies of pluralism and atomism. In this perspective, they are an attempt to focus and anchor the sliding of signification. Fostering social cohesion by placing consensus over conflict, they can be seen as agents of hegemony, as central elements in the manufacturing of consent by freezing historical situations and relationships into mass-mediated (and often mass-marketable) forms. However, icons are deeply rooted in popular culture and in their making or their historical existence are of-

ten contested or converted by socially active groups. Moreover, since the public is a body of strangers, public discourses do need symbols of central values and issues. One could therefore argue that icons are not so much hegemonic tools as democratic elements in the media age, symbolizing popular interests and epistemological shifts. The workshop will trace the role and function of U.S. icons, understanding them as a contested popular area. Contributions are invited which draw on typical examples of U.S. icons in order to theorize their cultural functioning.

Workshop 25

Nature Representation and the Geo-Environmental Development of the USA

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In a relatively modest period of time Americans have managed an impressive diversity of responses to their physical environs, though arguably these have been characterized by inconsistency and contradiction. Writing in 1918, Van Wyck Brooks describes a “half-built” landscape, alternating between unmediated poles of dynamism and destruction, “life and death.” At the same time, Americans sought to derive a sense of collective identity from their relation to nature. Nature was understood as: open space defining a democratic culture (Turner), a metaphor for social struggle and competition, a new architecture mediating creativity and ingenuity and applied to industrial-scale buildings (Louis Sullivan), a neo-pastoral landscape (Olmsted), a wilderness sublime broadly suggestive of an ideal order. Do these various responses to nature, considered collectively or individually, provide a useful critical standpoint in which to view the geographical and environmental development of the USA? Do they cohere in a “middle ground”, a “mainstream”, a “tradition” of some kind? Are they capable of contributing to an effective environmental politics? Have Americans produced too limited a set of responses to nature? Or are these responses so diverse that they lack a salutary cohesion? We invite a range of papers incorporating the perspectives of literature, history or the social sciences. Proposals of 250 words may be sent to either chair.

Workshop Number 26

Multicultural Autobiography: Cultural “Plura” in American Self-Writing

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Klara Kolinska, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

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Voices in the genre of multicultural autobiography represent diverse selves and experiences, and foreground the lately acknowledged fact that American self-writing has always had a multicultural quality, even when it records eventually successful stories of assimilation to the unique American identity. By giving voice to selves from diverse cultural backgrounds, multicultural autobiographies convey identities constructed outside of mainstream America. Highlighting plurality behind the apparent unity, those voices have the potential to expand American experience and to build bridges of understanding between specific “communities” and “outsiders.” In the polyvocality of multicultural autobiographies, the immigrant heritage of America comes alive, subverting the ideal of the single American national identity and contributing to the growing diversity of American life. This panel invites papers to explore the ways multicultural autobiographies contribute to the creation of new American traditions by emphasizing the multiplicity of selves and of cultures emergent from the history of the American continent.

Workshop 27

Passing Blackness-es

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Michaela Mudure, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania

American racial categorization depends on a polarity between white and non-white. To the latter group, more often than not, the term “Black” is applied whether its members are from the Caribbeans, Indians from the Asian subcontinent, Mexican-Americans or Southern European immigrants, to give just a few examples from a much more complex array of intersections between race, diaspora, identity studies, postcolonial studies, and geopolitical interrogations. The most intriguing response to this reductive duality, “passing” stands at the center of American racial politics. This panel invites papers that will explore the meanings of passing in American culture and literature either as a strategy that results in assimilation, melting, and merging, or as resistance and challenge against the whiteness-based identity politics in America. Discussions in this workshop will involve a variety of texts from across different historical periods and several disciplinary and methodological perspectives engaging in interrogations of democracy, citizenship, expatriation, migration and immigration in the USA. Last but certainly not least, this workshop will examine the cultural, political, and economic uniqueness of the U.S. and will reflect upon the way in which Blacknesses are represented in the curricula of American Studies in Europe and/or in the USA.

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 2:00 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 below), who will consult with local organizers.
13. Please address all correspondence concerning workshop matters to the EAAS Secretary General in the first instance (address below). 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.

Important Deadlines:

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

September 15, 2007: Workshop Chairs send tentative list of speakers and paper titles to the EAAS Secretary General for inclusion in the October issue of the ASE Newsletter and posting on the EAAS Website (www.eaas.eu).

December 1, 2007: Send FINAL titles of papers and names and addresses of speakers to the EAAS Secretary General.

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

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EAAS ARCHIVES IN WITTENBERG

For students who want to explore the history of EAAS or conduct research on American Studies in Europe in general, the EAAS Archives in Wittenberg (Germany) provide new opportunities. Located in one of Wittenberg's historic university buildings, the archives are administered by the Center for United States Studies of Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (ZUSAS).

The collection of materials was founded in 2006 as part of the EAAS Archives and History Project in order to professionally preserve, collect, organize and make available the records, papers and memorabilia of the European Association for American Studies. The origin of the collection goes back to the initiative of the late Hans Bungert (EAAS President 1988-92), who first undertook the task of preserving the files of former EAAS officers. The holdings now include EAAS-related papers of A.N.J. den Hollander, Harry Allen, Maurice Gonnaud, Sergio Perosa, Hans Bungert, Heinz Ickstadt, Orm Øverland, and Chris Bigsby. Their invaluable contributions have been complemented with materials like newsletters or conference programs generously donated to the Wittenberg

archives by several EAAS members. During an on-site visit in April 2007, the EAAS Board took the opportunity to have a close look at the current state of the collections. Though still far from complete, the correspondences, records of meetings and conferences, Treasurer's reports, and publications (including a complete set of the EAAS Newsletter) make it possible to trace the association's development over fifty years. ZUSAS research associate Carsten Hummel is currently preparing a dissertation on the history of EAAS based on these materials.

More information is available at <http://www.eaas.eu/history.htm>.

Address:
EAAS Archives
c/o Zentrum für USA-Studien der Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg
Collegienstrasse 62
06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg
Germany



EAAS President Marc Chénétier and Treasurer Hans-Jürgen Grabbe inspecting the records of the 1982 EAAS Biennial Conference in Paris, which Marc Chénétier organized. (Achim Kuhn, MZ)

EAAS TRAVEL GRANT REPORTS 2006/07

JUSTYNA WIERZCHOWSKA

Warsaw University, Poland

Progress Report: EAAS Trans-Atlantic Travel Grant 2006/07

I am in the final year of a doctoral program offered by the Institute of English Studies of Warsaw University, Poland. In my PhD dissertation entitled "*A Path to the Absolute*" or "*Weapon of the Cold-War?*" *Constructing the Meaning of Abstract Expressionism* I analyze the various takes on Abstract Expressionism presented by authors from the United States and Europe from the 1950s on. I have distinguished three main types of discourse on Abstract Expressionism – socio-political, aesthetic and philosophical – and structured my thesis accordingly. In the socio-political chapter, I analyze the influence of the Cold War on the way abstract painting was interpreted under the specific political circumstances. In the chapter devoted to philosophical inspiration of the painters, I trace the intellectual roots of Abstract Expressionism, which, to various degrees, were influenced by Greek mythology, Freudian and Jungian depth-psychology, the Frankfurt School, French Existentialism, the tradition of European modernism, Marxism and Trotskyism. In the final chapter on visual qualities of Abstract Expressionism I demonstrate, among other things, the influence of European avant-garde movements, especially of Cubism, Surrealism and the abstract art of Miro, Kandinsky and Malevich.

Thanks to the Trans-Atlantic Travel Grant obtained from the EAAS I was able to spend the whole of August 2006 conducting research at Columbia University Libraries. The main result of my stay in the U.S. is that I am going to submit my PhD thesis during the summer semester 2007, as the work completed at Columbia together with the sources I copied and brought back to Poland and those I bought second-hand in New York bookstores allow me to cover all the areas I am discussing in my dissertation. Therefore, it needs to be stated, that obtaining the Trans-Atlantic Grant has had a defining impact on my project, allowing me not only to submit the work on time, but also to include in the bibliography a variety of materials that are not available in my home country.

During my stay in the USA I managed to consult virtually all the sources that had been sitting on my waiting list for two years before I was awarded the EAAS Grant. Moreover, as before leaving for New York I knew exactly what I wanted to achieve during my stay, I did not have to browse through the holdings

of Columbia's Libraries and could right away focus on the sources necessary for my project. In August 2006 I consulted sources held at four Columbia University Libraries: Butler Library, Milstein Library, Avery Fine Arts Library and Barnard College Library. I also visited the Museum of Modern Art, where I saw, among others, Jackson Pollock's *Shimmering Substance* of 1946 and *Full Fathom Five* of 1947, and some works of Mark Rothko, Barnett Newman, Arshile Gorky, Lee Krasner, Helen Frankenthaler, and Robert Motherwell; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which exhibits other paintings by J. Pollock, A. Gorky, R. Motherwell, and by Willem de Kooning, Clyfford Still, Joan Mitchell, and Kenneth Noland. Moreover, I made an appointment with Professor Bruce Robbins from the Department of English and Comparative Literature with whom I had been exchanging e-mails earlier on. He is willing to read and comment on my work and I am welcome to send him fragments of my dissertation.

Conducting research at Columbia University gave me access not only to books but also to archival materials, such as articles that appeared in magazines and dailies of the 1950s and 1960s. In the Rare Materials Room of Butler Library I photographed the only published issue of *Possibilities*, an art magazine released in winter 1947/48 and edited by M. Rothko and A. Gottlieb.

Additionally, I either photocopied or obtained electronic copies of articles from the following art journals and newspapers: *American Studies International*, *Possibilities*, *Art International*, *The New York Times*, *Artforum*, and *ArtNews*. Among them was the symbolic Abstract Expressionist manifesto published in the *New York Times* in 1943.

Among others, I either copied or read a number of books that I consider fundamental for my project, e.g. D. Bell's *End of Ideology*, E. Schrecker's *Many Are the Crimes: McCarthyism in America*, A. Gibson's *Abstract Expressionism: Other Politics*, M. Leffler's *A Preponderance of Power: National Security, the Truman Administration and the Cold War*, L. May's *Recasting America: Culture and Politics in the Age of Cold War*, and R. Pells's *The Liberal Mind in a Conservative Age: American Intellectuals in the 1940s and 1950s*. Some of the more specific analyses of Abstract Expressionism I got hold of at Columbia include: A. Cox's *Art-as-Politics: The Abstract Expressionist Avant-Garde and Society*, D. Craven's *Abstract Expressionism as Cultural Critique: Dissent during the McCarthy Period*; and the following texts

and interview anthologies, respectively edited by: Rene D'Hannoncourt, *The New American Painting as Shown in Eight European Countries 1958-1959*, John P. O'Neill, *Barnett Newman: Selected Writings and Interviews*, David Sylvester, *Interviews with American Artists*, David Thistlewood, *American Abstract Painting*.

The above mentioned sources enable me to complete all the chapters of my dissertation without having to search for any additional material. They have also furnished me with a much broader understanding of American intellectual developments of the 20th century than I used to have, which will have a tremendous impact on the introductory part of my work and the conclusion, both of which will gain a considerable level of awareness of the interrelations between politics and the production of visual art.

Since coming back to Warsaw I have been close-reading the sources I brought from the U.S. and incorporating them into my PhD thesis. So far I have gone through a quarter of what I have at my disposal. I estimate that during the three-week winter break I will rapidly advance in my project and will be able to fully complete it within the next three or four months. However, I have to emphasize the fact that without the opportunity I had thanks to EAAS's Grant, the completion of my project would have been postponed indefinitely and it would have been devoid of some of the most interesting claims I have found during my library research at Columbia.

TARA STUBBS

St. John's College, Oxford University, UK

Report on EAAS Transatlantic Grant 2006

I was very fortunate to be awarded a Transatlantic Grant to carry out research on the American modernist poet Marianne Moore (1887-1972) at the Moore Archive in the Rosenbach Museum and Library, Philadelphia, USA. I spent the month of September 2006 at the Rosenbach, and the generous grant covered both my flights to the USA and accommodation in a house in West Philadelphia.

My thesis, entitled "'Irish by Descent': Marianne Moore, Irish Writers and the American-Irish In-

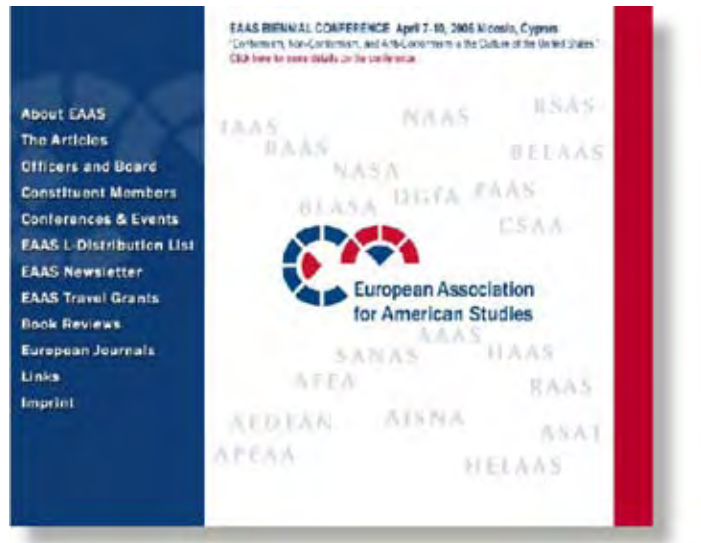
heritance", investigates how Moore, who claimed in a letter to Ezra Pound in 1919 that she was "Irish by descent," manipulated her understanding of "Irish" to shape her personal and poetic identity. Despite maintaining what her biographer Charles Molesworth terms a "special attachment" to Ireland throughout her life and career, Moore's family links with Ireland were in fact relatively weak. My research demonstrates how an appreciation of the complexities of Moore's "Irish" descent might lead to re-evaluations of her life and work, and argues that Moore's decision to shape an Irish inheritance for herself was linked intrinsically with her desire to be taken seriously as an American modernist writer.

I hoped that my findings at the Rosenbach might enhance the research I had already carried out in the UK, and provide me with material for my final two chapters and introduction. In reality, the sheer volume of relevant material I discovered far exceeded my expectations, and took my research into new and exciting areas. The librarians at the Rosenbach, Elizabeth Fuller and Greg Giuliano, were not only very welcoming but were also instrumental in finding relevant and exciting manuscripts and papers, some of which were not even catalogued and had been seen by very few researchers. The curator of the Rosenbach and 'Keeper' of the Archive, Mike Barsanti, was also very hospitable, and gave me excellent advice on useful resources and publishing opportunities. Thanks to their cumulative efforts, I left Philadelphia with sufficient material to write an article (in addition to my PhD) based on some of my findings. The article uses little-known manuscript evidence to offer new readings of Moore's 'Irish' poems 'Sojourn in the Whale' (1917) and 'Spenser's Ireland' (1941).

My month spent in Philadelphia was one of the best experiences of my life, and reaffirmed both my love of research and passion for my subject. The generous sum granted by the EAAS meant I could spend a whole month at the Archive, which in turn allowed me to think extensively about the direction of my thesis and to enhance its depth and scope. I am truly grateful to the EAAS for granting me the means to make this unforgettable trip possible.

EAAS ON THE WEB

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

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

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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 facility. 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 AMERICAN- STUDIES NETWORK MEMBERS

Austria

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

Belgium

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

Denmark

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

Center for the Study of the Americas, Copenhagen
http://uk.cbs.dk/layout/set/print/forskning_viden/institutter_centre/institutter/csa

France

Centre Interdisciplinaire de Recherches Nord-Américaines, Paris
<http://www.sigu7.jussieu.fr/recherche/pagelabos.php?num=101D>

Germany

John F. Kennedy Institute, Berlin
<http://www.jfki.fu-berlin.de/>

Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Heidelberg
<http://www.hca.uni-hd.de/en/>

Center for United States Studies, Halle-Wittenberg
http://www.zusas.uni-halle.de/en_index.html

Center for North American Studies, Frankfurt am Main
<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

Rothermere American Institute, Oxford
<http://www.rai.ox.ac.uk/index.html>

Italy

Centro di Studi Americani ed Euro-Americani "Piero Bairati", Turin
<http://incipit.sisbib.unito.it/~simone/bairati/e-index.htm>

Centro Studi Americani, Rome
<http://www.centrostudiamericani.org>

Centro Studi Euro-Atlantici, Genoa
http://www.dismec.unige.it/laboratori_centri/CSEA

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>

THE AMERICAN STUDIES NETWORK BOOK PRIZE

At the EAAS Conference in Oslo in 2008, the ASN will again award its biennial prize for a remarkable book (monograph) published in English in the field of American Studies.

The criteria are as follows:

The monograph (not an edited volume) should have been published in 2006 or 2007; the author must be a European scholar who through membership of her/his national American Studies organization is a member

of EAAS; three review copies of the book should be submitted before 1 November 2007 to:

Prof. Christa Buschendorf
ZENAF (Center for North American Studies)
Universität Frankfurt
Postfach 111 932
60054 Frankfurt am Main
GERMANY

CONSTITUENT ASSOCIATIONS OF EAAS

AAAS • Austrian Association for American Studies

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

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- **IAAS • Icelandic Association for American Studies**
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Wörlitz Park – St. Petri Church. Wörlitz Park became UNESCO World Heritage in the year 2000.
(Martin Heusser)

CONSTITUENT ASSOCIATIONS: NEWS

BAAS NEWS

The British Association hosted its annual conference at the University of Leicester in April 2007. Around three hundred participants registered for the conference, which was organised with skill and flair by Dr George Lewis and Professor Martin Halliwell. The four day programme featured over eighty panels, workshops, roundtables, and plenary lectures. The research presented and discussed covered all aspects of American Studies: poetry, politics, music, history, media, movies and more. Director of Research at the Arts and Humanities Research Council, Tony McEnery, discussed the place of Americas research in the Council's priorities, and CEO of the British Library, Lynne Brindley, spoke of the changing role of library and information services. The University of Leicester sponsored Stephen Whitfield (Brandeis) to deliver its annual American Studies lecture at the conference, and the *Journal of American Studies* lecture was delivered by Linda Kerber (Iowa). The Eccles Centre annual lecture was delivered by Richard King (Nottingham), and was combined with the conference banquet, and the BAAS awards ceremony into a marvellous evening held at the city of Leicester's art deco style Athena centre, and attended by the city's Lord Mayor.

The recent development of the range of BAAS awards was evident again this year. Most of these awards are supported in partnership with sponsors, bolstered by contributions from BAAS members, and

the Association is very grateful for the co-operation of these many supporters of American Studies. Special 'Ambassador's' essay awards were presented to the winning school, undergraduate, and postgraduate students, as well as the annual BAAS postgraduate award. Postgraduate travel awards, including four specially named awards, were presented to nine winners, and the 'Founder's' travel awards went to a further five colleagues. Two schoolteachers won awards to visit institutions in the USA. The Arthur Miller Prize for a major article in American Studies was presented to Mick Gidley (Leeds), and the BAAS book prize went to Simon Middleton (East Anglia). For the first time BAAS was able to present a full Teaching Assistantship in American Studies to be held at the University of Wyoming. Another first was the presentation of a series of new awards sponsored by the Eccles Centre to support researchers using the American collections at the British Library. Lane Crothers (Illinois State) becomes the first Eccles Visiting Professor, in addition to which four Visiting Fellows and five Eccles postgraduate awards were presented. For more complete information about the awards please see the BAAS webpage at www.baas.ac.uk.

Next year's conference (27-30 March, 2008) will take place at the University of Edinburgh. The call for papers is elsewhere in this newsletter. Edinburgh is an excellent conference location, accessible by rail, road and air. We hope that you will join us.

THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF JAMESIAN STUDIES

Our mission will be to contribute to the promotion of Jamesian studies in European countries by offering further opportunities for Jamesian scholars and other interested persons who cannot regularly participate in the events organized by the transatlantic "Henry James Society."

We mean to confront and refine methodologies and practices by developing intertextual approaches and focussing on:

- the theoretical dimension of the "house of fiction" James built and the interrelations between theory and text.
- the genesis of his work and the writers that influenced him
- the multiple and multiform reverberations of his own work in modern and contemporary fiction and

literary criticism.

As a consequence, the Society will be open to the study of other fiction writers and to all nineteenth- and twentieth-century specialists willing to envisage James's texts, paratexts and critical essays from a comparatist and receptionist angle.

Because Henry James was also a cultural historian, who aspired at "a vast intellectual fusion and synthesis of the national tendencies of the world" the Society will privilege "the international theme," encouraging the exchange between new currents and older traditions of Humanities research on both sides of the Atlantic. And because Europe had such an impact on James's life and work, one of the Society's particular missions will be to examine the many ways in which the American writer can be considered as part

of a European heritage, interconnecting the culturally distinct European identities.

The Society means to contribute to the development of scientific cooperation on an international scale by promoting publication and doctoral research. A first conference (and assembly) will be held in

2008/2009 in Aix-en-Provence.

For all information please contact:

Annick Duperray, project coordinator, Université de Provence: annick.Duperray@free.fr

EUROPEAN WHITMAN ASSOCIATION: NEWS

The European Whitman Association held its first meeting in Paris on February 23-24. The EWS aims to bring Whitman scholars from around the world to cooperate on various aspects – the European reception of Whitman’s work, the latter’s influence on European literatures and cultures, its translations into European languages and the position held by the author of

Leaves of Grass in universities around the Old Continent (research, teaching, etc.). It will also seek to make it easier for young scholars to have access to Whitman archives in Europe and the US. For further information, please contact Éric Athenot (Université François-Rabelais, Tours): eric.athenot@wanadoo.fr

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

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 question such 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.

For more information, visit our website at www.es.unizh.ch/legacies.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

March 27-30, 2008

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

British Association for American Studies Annual Conference 2008

The fifty-third BAAS Annual Conference will take place at the University of Edinburgh between 27 and 30 March 2008.

There is no overarching theme for the conference, which is a forum for research papers on any subject relating to the United States of America. Paper and panel proposals on any topic within American Studies, broadly defined, are welcome. The conference will feature papers across a wide range of disciplines, including history, literary studies, political science, cultural studies, film and media studies, and visual culture and art history, among others.

Proposals for 20-minute papers should be a maximum of 250 words and should include a provisional title. These will be arranged into panel groups. We also invite proposals for panels and roundtable discussions, involving two or more people and sharing a common theme. The conference will include papers from people across the spectrum of the research community, from postgraduates to senior scholars.

Proposals for BAAS 2008 at the University of Edinburgh should be submitted by 15 October 2007 at the latest, preferably by e-mail attachment to: baas2008@ed.ac.uk

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Any questions, comments or suggestions are welcome.

www.baas.ac.uk/administration/baasconf.asp

January 3-5, 2008

Institute for the Study of the Americas,

University of London

U.K. American Politics Group

2008 Annual Conference

The UK American Politics Group (APG) invites proposals for papers to be given at its 2008 annual conference, held at the University of London's Institute for the Study of the Americas on January 3 to 5, 2008.

The APG conference is the United Kingdom's major annual meeting of professional scholars of U.S. politics. The keynote address for the 2008 conference will be delivered by Professor Andrew Rudalevige of Dickinson College, author of *Managing the President's Program* (Winner of the American Political Science Association's Richard Neustadt Prize for the Best Book on the Presidency in 2003) and *The New Imperial Presidency*.

Papers for this conference are invited on any topic relating to U.S. politics. Proposals are especially welcomed on subjects pertaining to political institutions, national parties and electoral politics, state and local politics, public policy, foreign policy, political and socio-political issues, and political history.

Papers are welcomed from graduate students as well as academic staff and on works in progress.

Please send a synopsis of your proposal (maximum one side of A4) and brief CV. (maximum two sides) to Professor Iwan Morgan, conference convenor, at iwan.morgan@sas.ac.uk. by September 15, 2007.

November 7-9, 2007

Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey

American Studies Association of Turkey

32nd Annual American Studies Conference:

Perceptions of Space and the American Experience

According to Michel Foucault, "space itself has a history in Western experience . . . Our epoch is one in which space takes for us the form of relations among sites." However, "despite the whole network of knowledge that enables us to delimit or formalize it, contemporary space is still not entirely desanctified . . . [it is] still nurtured by the hidden presence of the sacred." Foucault's argument suggests the intractable aspect of the concept of "space," which is constantly eluding our grasp, and reverting back into the realm of na-

ture and the “natural.” This conference seeks to fill the scholarly vacuum that continues to exist with respect to space by *removing* it from the domain of the sacred, questioning its conceptualization, and exposing its manifestations within American Studies. We hope such a focus will advance the interaction between scholars who have conflicting historical and spatial epistemologies regarding the American experience.

Space is difficult to quantify because it eludes quantification: it comprises the celestial and the terrestrial, the infinite and the infinitesimal, and being and nothingness, all at once. Despite its indefinable framework, it has been a perpetual theme within the American context. For example, in *Call Me Ishmael*, Charles Olson takes “SPACE to be the central fact to man born in America, from Folsom cave to now,” and he “spell[s] it large because it comes large here. Large and without mercy.” On the other hand, it can also be large enough “for all modes of love and fortitude,” as Ralph Waldo Emerson posits. Above all, it has a multitude of meanings, encompassing unlimited progress and its discontents; the visual and the invisible; the present and the absent; and as Foucault maintains, the sacred and the desanctified.

The American Studies Association of Turkey invites proposals that consider space, broadly conceived. We particularly encourage proposals which incorporate transdisciplinary explorations of space, and welcome proposals from any field of study.

Possible themes include, but are not limited to:

- Spatial Boundaries/Spatial Relations
- Outer Space/Inner Space/Interspace/Interstitial Space
- Walking Space/Living Space/*Lebensraum*
- Psychological/Mental/Physical/Space
- Private/Public/(Inter)Personal Space
- Environmental/Ecological Space
- Marginal Space and Agency
- Landscapes/Terrains/Regional Space
- Technoscapes/Cyberspace/MySpace.com
- Real/Virtual Spaces
- Urban Space/Cityscapes/Walking Space
- Commercial(ized) Space/(Over)used Space
- Heartland/Hinterland
- Theatrical/Dramatic/Performance/Performative Space

- Space, Time and Memory
- Travel Narratives/Space-phobias
- Sites/Countersites/Utopias/Heterotopias
- Subversive/Resistive Space
- (Non)violent Space
- Active/Activist Space
- Chaotic/Ordered Space
- Liminal Space/Zones/Boundaries
- Poetics of Space/Textual/Linguistic Space
- Space and the Body/Gendered Space
- Racial/Ethnic/Political Space
- Imaginary/Imagined Spaces/Geographies
- Museums/Ethnographic/Indigenous Space
- Classroom/Educational Space
- Modern/Postmodern Spaces
- Mythic/Sacred/Symbolic/Religious Spaces
- (Anti)Social Space
- (Sub)Cultural/Traditional/Spiritual Space
- Artistic/Musical Space
- Pioneering/Exploration Space
- Expansionism/Manifest Destiny/Imperialism

The time allowance for all presentations is 20 minutes. An additional 10 minutes will be provided for discussion.

We also invite submissions for an undergraduate student panel.

Proposals for papers, panels, performances, exhibits, and other modes of creative expression should be sent to Tanfer Emin Tunc (asat2007@gmail.com) and Bilge Mutluay Cetintas (mutluay@hacettepe.edu.tr) and should consist of a 250-300 word abstract in English, as well as a 1-2 paragraph c.v./biographical description for each participant.

- Deadline for submission of proposals: **July 15, 2007.**
- Notification for acceptance of proposals: **September 1, 2007.**

Further information (e.g., on accommodation and registration) will be posted on our conference website in the near future:

<http://www.ake.hacettepe.edu.tr/ASAT2007>

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of the United States of America

June 19-20, 2008

The American University of Paris, Musée des années trente (Museum of the Nineteen Thirties), Boulogne-Billancourt, France

Richard Wright: The Centenary Celebration

This Conference will encourage broad international and interdisciplinary explorations of Wright's life and writing, with a special emphasis on the Paris he inhabited (1947-1960), both what it was and what it is today as a result of the marks he left behind, and on his experiences in Africa. Stressing the importance of Richard Wright, the conference hopes to be an international point of intersection for all those interested in Wright's work from literary and cultural critics, to political activists, poets, musicians, publishers and historians. We seek the widest range of academic and public intellectual discussion around Wright's work which has influenced so many and so much.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Wright in the Black Atlantic: Transnationalism and Transatlanticism
- Wright and expatriate Paris
- Wright as exile and travel writer
- The reception of Wright's work in various non-U.S. settings

- Wright and African American Satire, Irony, and Comedy
- Wright and the African American Literary Canon
- Wright, Whiteness, and Black Masculinity
- Wright and African American Confinement Literature
- Wright, Gender, and the Political Use of Modernism
- Wright's Cultural Criticism
- Wright and Literary Friendships and Influences
- Wright and Films
- Wright and Teaching Pluriculturalism
- Wright's Influence on the World Today

Paper/presentation proposals should include:

1. A brief (250-300 word) abstract.
2. A brief (1-2pp.) vita.

The deadline is **January 15, 2008**. Submit abstracts to:

Alice Craven at
Alice.Craven@aup.fr

OR
William.Dow at
William.Dow@wanadoo.fr

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

September 2-5, 2007

Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic

14th Olomouc Colloquium of American

Studies:

The American South: Home and Abroad

The objective of this seminar in American studies is to offer a complex, interdisciplinary view of the various aspects of the American South in the past and in the present: its literature, history, film, popular culture, society, and politics.

The various aspects of the South will be explored from the insider's (Southern) perspective as well as from the comparative perspective, the Southern culture abroad.

Location

It will be held in a highly attractive, historical town with a well-preserved Renaissance and Baroque centre, second in size only to Prague, in the Czech Republic. Palacký University is situated in the centre of the old town. It is easily accessible by express trains from Prague (ca. 3 hours).

Organizers

The colloquium is organized by the Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies and by the Department of English and American Studies at Palacký University in Olomouc in cooperation with the Embassy of the USA in Prague.

The Format

The format of the Colloquium gives space to two longer plenary lectures in the morning (60 minutes) and shorter presentations in the afternoon (30-45 minutes), followed by discussion sessions. The audience will consist of university teachers of American Studies, American Literature, or English language, and post-graduate and selected graduate students. The evening program consists of film screenings, poetry readings, city tours, and other activities. The lectures are from Monday to Wednesday. The welcome reception is on Sunday evening.

Registration Fee

- 25 Euro for early registration (before May 31)
- 30 Euro for late registration

The fee is payable on arrival at Olomouc. It is advisable to ask for aid from the American embassy in your country. Registration forms are available at <http://colloquium.upol.cz/coll07/07registr.htm>

Accommodation

Nice student hostels, near the centre of the town, where the university is located.

Prices:

- single – 9 Euro/1 night
- double – 12 Euro/1 night

We also offer

- the company of 10 interesting speakers
- small but very motivated audience of some 30 university teachers, postgraduates and graduate students from Central, Western and Eastern Europe.
- longer papers (30-45 minutes)
- enough time for discussion
- a rich cultural program, excellent opportunities for socializing
- a volume of papers from previous colloquia

For further information please consult the Colloquium website: <http://colloquium.upol.cz/coll07/07intro.htm> or contact the program coordinator Lukáš Merz: colloquium@centrum.cz

This Year's List of Speakers

The Keynote Speaker: M. Thomas Inge, Blackwell Professor of Humanities, Randolph-Macon College, Virginia, USA:

“Southern Writers and the Art of the Paperback Novel: Faulkner, Caldwell, Styron, and James S. Avati.”

Marcel Arbeit, Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic:

“Southern Film-Makers: David Gordon Green and Others.”

Fred Arthur Bailey, Abilene Christian University, Texas, USA:

“The Cultural Consequences of Southern History: E. Merton Coulter, John Hope Franklin and the Civil Rights Crusade.”

Jan Nordby Gretlund, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark:

“What Happened to Southern Humor after Mark Twain?”

Constante González Groba, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain:

“Race, Sexuality and the Culture of Segregation in the Writing of Carson McCullers and Lillian Smith.”

Jim Grove, Mount Mercy College, Iowa, USA:
“Teaching Southern Literature at a Southern University.”

Bernd Herzogenrath, University of Cologne, Germany:
“Tod Browning and the South: Heimisch and Uncanny.”

Josef Jařab, Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic:
“Uncle Tom’s Children Misbehaving”

Eva Kalivodová, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic:
“What Did Uncle Tom Strive for among Czechs in Mid-19th Century?”

Jaroslav Kuřnřr, The University of Prešov, Slovakia:
“Post-Apocalyptic American South in Cormack McCarthy’s *The Road* (2006).”

řtěpánka Magstadt, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic:
“The Making of a Race is Our Mission: American Baptist Home Missions Educational Efforts in the South during the Post-Civil War Period.”

Biljana Oklopćić, University of Osijek, Croatia:
“Tennessee Williams’ South.”

Kateřina Prajznerová, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic:
“Learning to Live-in-Place: A Literary History of Hill and Valley Farming in Southern Appalachia.”

Julia Sattler, University of Dortmund, Germany:
“Family Secrets: Memory, Roots and the South’s Bi-Racial Heritage in Contemporary American Literature.”

Roman Truřnřk, Tomáš Bařa University, Zlřn, Czech Republic:
“Child Abuse in Jim Grimsley’s Novels.”

Kevern Verney, Edge Hill University, England:
“To Hope Till Hope Creates: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Alabama, 1913-1945.”

Brigitte Zaugg, Université Paul Verlaine, Metz, France:
“Invisible Woman, or from Belle to Matron: a Case Study of Two Characters in Ellen Glasgow’s Fiction.”

Beata Zawadka, University of Szczecin, Poland:
“The Contemporary Southern White Elite Matronhood as Presented by Peter Taylor”



Francke Foundation Library, Halle. This is the oldest library building in Germany, erected 1726-28. (Martin Heusser)

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 is the 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.

Fax: +30 1 72 48 979

E-mail: tsimpouki@enl.uoa.gr

Editorial Notes

Deadlines:

August 15, 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.

September 7, 2007 Deadline for submission of relevant information for the October 2007 ASE Newsletter to the Editor-in-chief. Make sure to add "ASE-EAAS" (without quotes) to the subject line of your e-mail(s).

Martin Heusser
Editor-in-chief

Simone Heller-Andrist
Assistant Editor