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Editor: R A Burchell

Correspondence to:
The Eccles Centre
The British Library
96 Euston Road
London NW1 2DB

Telephone: 0171 412 7551 and 0171 412 7757
Facsimile: 0171 412 7792

E-mail: Eccles-centre@bl.uk or Bob.Burchell@bl.uk

Presidential Report and the Graz Conference

With well over 500 registered participants, last year's conference in Lisbon was the largest in EAAS history. The officers and members of the board again thank all those who contributed to its success. Lisbon also saw changes in the composition of the Board: Francois Pitavy (France), Cristina Giorcelli (Italy) and Ekaterini Georgoudaki (Greece) ended their terms as representatives of their organizations. We thank them for the good work they did during the several years of their membership and welcome their successors on the Board,

Marc Chénétier (France), Rosella Zorzi (Italy), and Savas Patsalidis (Greece). Cristina Giorcelli, our Vice-President, and Walter Hoelbling, our Secretary, were both re-elected to the offices they had held so effectively during the previous years.

At its off-year meeting in Olomouc, the Board worked out the program for next year's conference in Graz, Austria ("Nature's Nation' Revisited: American Concepts of Nature from Wonder to Ecological Crisis," April 14-17, 2000). Thank you for responding so massively to our "Call for Papers." In this issue of the ASE Newsletter you find the full list of workshop themes, plus the names and addresses of workshop organizers. (The Secretary's "Guidelines for EAAS Workshop Chairs," printed elsewhere in this issue, will give you all the necessary information about deadlines, length of papers and similar matters.) The format of the Graz conference will be similar to that of those preceding it: we have again decided to accept thirty workshops in order to allow as many participants as possible to actively engage themselves in the conference and, of course, also to facilitate their quest for funding. There will be three plenary lectures, eleven parallel lectures, and one quasi-plenary dialogue session. The full program will be published in the fall issue of the ASE Newsletter together with all the information you will need to arrange for your lodging and for registration. To be sure, last year's conference thrived on the well-known aura of Lisbon. But Graz is also a city of great, if different, charms. I very much hope to see you there.

The changes of the concept and the structure of Europe will clearly affect not only the structure of EAAS but, possibly, also the concept and practice of American Studies in Europe. In any case, the integration of our Eastern and Central European colleagues into a network of scholarly exchange (still comparatively recent and tenuous) will be a formidable task that will keep us all on our toes for years to come. The Board encourages the formation of new national and, wherever possible, bi- or tri-national organizations of American Studies. (However, we are aware that in some cases the creation of such organizations will prove particularly difficult and may still take many years. In this case, the creation of individual and institutional contacts will be especially relevant and important.) The Board decided to visibly encourage such networking, first, by accepting the Belarusian organization (BELAAS) as its 19th member; and, second, by creating, in cooperation with USIA, a grant program for younger scholars in Eastern and Central European countries to do short-term research in the United States and/or Western Europe. The program addresses individual projects but is also meant to initiate, at universities in Eastern and Central Europe (possibly in cooperation with Western European colleagues), longer term projects in American Studies which could provide a focus for MA-theses, dissertations, or other forms of coordinated research. (It could, of course, also provide the basis for additional funding by other sources.) The details of this EAAS/USIA program (conditions, deadlines, application form) will be published in the next issue of the ASE Newsletter as well as in the Internet. Its financial resources are, of course, limited. They amount to \$ 16.000 yearly, the EAAS-part of this matching-funds arrangement coming from the re-channeling of money hitherto used to support the publication of workshop papers. Nevertheless it will be more than only a symbolic gesture; and the Board (as much as USIA) hopes that it will help initiate or support individual and cooperative American Studies research and thus also strengthen the network of inner-EAAS relations. We hope for and encourage many applications.

Heinz Ickstadt, President

WORKSHOP THEMES AND CHAIRS

1. Nature Might Be Harmful to Your Health

Chair: Marcel Arbeit, Palacký University, Center for Comparative Cultural Studies, Department of English and American Studies, Kláškovského 10, CZ-77147 Olomouc, Czech Republic. Tel: 420 68 563 3104. Fax: 420 68 563 3111. E-mail: arbeit@risc.upol.cz.

For many urban people, nature is a threat, the place of many unknown dangers, the land where lions dwell. Sun is here just to bring us skin cancer, and protagonists of contemporary American novels must wear sunglasses when they happen to leave their favorite bars too late in the morning. Crossing the boundary makes sub(urban) people helpless. In the woods, Darwin is still alive and kicking, although some think that in the cities it is even more so. I expect papers on literature and film, but visual arts and photography shall not be excluded. As the reasons for the fear of nature were changing in the course of centuries, you can deal with 18th century travel books as well as with the culture of the New Lost Generation and Generation X. There is a place for utopias and dystopias and the challenges of virtual reality. Why do people prefer living in a synthetic world?

2. Liminal Space: The Coast as Marginal Discourse

Chairs: William D. Atwill, English Department, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Department of English, Morton Hall 129, Wilmington, N. C. 28403, USA. Tel. 1 910 962 3320. E-mail: atwillw@uncwil.edu, and Daniele Fiorentino, American Studies Center, Via Michel-angelo Caetani, 32, I-00186 Roma, Italy. Tel: 39 6 6880 1613: Fax: 39 6683 07256.

Coastal communities in American literary narratives offer a setting that contrasts itself with the communities of ordered society that exist inland at the same time. I want to argue in a sense that communities on the margin, derived from "marge", an old term meaning coast or shore, are fluid places that resist, by their very location, the rigidity of thought, behavior, and organization that is normative away from the shore. It starts early in American life, so early that it might be argued that despite the New England Puritan's best efforts to prevent it, beach culture came over on the Mayflower.

The coastal narrative is related to the nautical literature in the way that both involve depictions of life ashore but always under the rhythm of the ocean. In the sea story, the seaport will serve as some representative anecdote of what must be cast off in order to head off in the those deeper waters where the hull dimensions of the vessel establish the parameters of a crew's humanity, defining the community and its limits beyond the sight of land and quite literally putting the characters out of their depth.

3. Between Sublimity and Waste, Continuity and Rupture: The Role and Function of "Nature" in Contemporary American Literature

Chairs: Carlos Azevedo, Instituto de Estudos Norte-Americanos, University of Porto, Via Panorâmica, Apartado 55038, P-4150-564 Porto, Portugal. Tel. : 351 2 607 7183. Fax: 351 2 607 7153, and Maria Moss, John F. Kennedy Institut f. Nordamerikastudien, Free University of Berlin, Lansstrasse 5-9, D-14195 Berlin, Germany. Tel: 49 30 838 4015. Fax: 49 30 838 2641. E-mail: mmoss@zedat.fu-berlin.de

This workshop wants to explore the cultural imagination at the onset of the new millenium by focusing on the place "nature" occupies in contemporary literature. The discourse of the sublime, the beautiful, and the picturesque as well as recent waste discourses

provide ways of locating the place of "nature" in contemporary cultural expression. Other issues to be considered are: is there a resurgence of Emersonian idealism in contemporary American fiction? Do contemporary novelists espouse visions of life and views of art which adhere to forms of philosophical idealism? Is there a "back-to-nature" tendency in contemporary fiction? And if, does it represent a search for continuity of or rupture with the literary tradition?

4. The Nuclear Era and the Threat of Ecocide

Chairs: Günter Bischof, University of New Orleans, Department of History, New Orleans, LA 70148, USA. Tel: 1 504 280 6882. Fax: 1 504 280 6883. E-mail: camc@uno.edu, and Siegfried Beer, Karl-Franzens-University Graz, Department of History, Heinrichstrasse 26, A-8010 Graz, Austria: Tel: 43 316 380 2364. Fax: 43 316 380 9730. E-mail: siegfried.beer@kfunigraz.ac.at

Since their advent in 1945, nuclear weapons have dominated the international arena. Superpower mutual threat perceptions led to the accumulation of enormous nuclear arsenals. Civilian use of nuclear power mushroomed. After Hiroshima, peace activists and environmentalists have opposed nuclear weapons. Three Mile Island, Chernobyl (Zwentendorf in Austria) highlighted anxieties over nuclear power. The environmental movement, green parties, the nuclear freeze movement have made nuclear weapons/energy and ecocide a defining political issue of our era. From John Hersey's *Hiroshima* to *Dr. Stangelove* and *The Day After* and many other cultural discourses have expressed the anxiety in the nuclear age. Nuclear proliferation in the hands of "rogue states" remain a defining issue of the post-Cold War world's papers, illuminating the nexus between nuclear weapons/power and their ecological consequences in the international arena are welcomed.

5. Going into the Territory: The Land as Cultural Capital

Chairs: Bill Boelhower, University of Padova. Mailing address: via Bragadin 5/A, Lido, I- 30126 Venice, Italy. E-mail: berboelh@helios.unive.it

This workshop will look at the text/territory relationship in terms of specific sites. Thus, changes in the land are also reflected in the creation, selection, and re-use of cultural topoi and genres. Indeed, such site-specific topoi and genres often represent cultural vortices in which various kinds of textual commentary have accumulated. It is this stratified construct, this archive, that best exhibits an exemplary investment of cultural capital. Such archival sites can be perceived as heuristic opportunities for evaluating this investment as a whole. Sites like the lost colony of Roanoke, Powhatan's Werowocomoco, and Cooperstown offer not only exemplary scenes of origin but also stories of foundation, and they lead us to view American culture topologically, as a cartography of sites. Thus, the farm novel responds to a particular historical moment and region (the '20s and '30s, the Midwest, Frederick J. Turner, modernization and industrialization). Originally a patriarchal topos, this text-type (Rolvaag, Cather, Wescott) has recently undergone a topreversal (Jane Smiley, Jane Hamilton, Diane Simmons, but also Wendell Berry, Douglas Unger). By imploding sites, this workshop intends to foreground the critical process by which an archive of various kinds of texts creates a site-specific cultural vortex rooted in the territory.

6. Locating a Natural Environment in the Age of Simulacra

Chairs: Werner Brönnimann, University of St. Gallen and Basel, Department of

English, Nadelberg 6, CH-4051 Basel, Switzerland. E-mail: broennimann@ubaclu.unibas.ch, and Yonka Krasteva, University of Veliko Turnovo, E-mail: ionka@bilkent.edu.tr (until June 30, 1999, then: archer@mbox.digsys.bg)

Cheat grass, denounced by Aldo Leopold, visually represents the notion of simulation within a landscape that looks natural at first sight only. Where indeed is the natural to be located and how can it be defined? If the desert appears to be our most authentically untouched landscape, must the process of desertification therefore be defined as an inescapably natural one? This workshop intends to challenge our intuitive foreknowledge of what constitutes a "natural" environment (given the constructed character of most of our environments and the historical variability of our purportedly most pristine territories) and therefore invites papers that investigate (self-conscious or naive) quests for the natural American environment or explicitly (or subliminally) prescriptive simulations of what the natural ought to be. We particularly encourage papers that emphasize the political nature of simulations of the natural, and in this context we see a rich source of material in analyses of the leisure time industry.

7. Ecology and the American Philosophical Tradition--Is there a "Usable Past"?

Chairs: Thomas Claviez, John F. Kennedy-Institute, Free University of Berlin, Lanssstrasse 5-9, D-14195 Berlin, Germany. Tel: 49 30 838 3492. Fax: 49 30 838 2850. E-mail: claviezt@zedat.fu-berlin.de, and Russell B. Goodman, University of New Mexico, Department of Philosophy, Albuquerque, NM 87131, USA. Tel: 1 505 2772405, Fax: 1 505 277 6362. E-mail: rgoodman@unm.edu

Lawrence Buell's *The Environmental Imagination* offers a genealogy of American ecological thinking in a literary tradition of the pastoral that has been a key concept within American studies for years. For the domain of American philosophy, however, a comparable overview is long overdue. Which approaches in the history of American philosophy allow new formulations of the relation between civilization and nature--or to put it in philosophical terms, between self and world? Transcendentalism and pragmatism would seem to be promising starting points, given their circumventions of classical philosophical problematics. We invite contributions from a range of approaches--from Native American mythology to Neopragmatism--that will renew our understanding of (wo)man's relation to nature.

8. Thomas Jefferson And Jeffersonian Themes In Twentieth-Century American Writing And Politics

Chairs: John Dumbrell, Keele University, Department of American Studies, Keele ST5 5BG, UK. Tel: 44 1782 621111. Fax: 44 1782 583460. E-mail: asa09@cc.keele.ac.uk, and Stephen Wilson, University of Coimbra, Instituto de Estudos Norte Americanos, P- 3049 Coimbra Codex, Portugal. Tel: 351 39 859982. Fax: 351 39 836733. E-mail: ip200619@ip.pt

The intention of this workshop is to provide an interdisciplinary forum for discussion of Jefferson's twentieth-century legacy in all its diversity. We are interested in how various writers and political actors have interpreted, represented and revised Jefferson; and in how twentieth-century notions of "nature" and "the natural" use and reveal Jeffersonian themes. We are particularly interested in papers on historiography and biography as well as more conventionally literary approaches. In respect of twentieth-century political movements, we welcome contributions on agrarian and perfectionist themes, as well as on isolationism in

foreign policy. Papers on how Jefferson has figured in the construction of American Studies as an academic discipline are also welcome.

9. Nature as Text in Western and Southwestern Literature

Chairs: David Dunaway, Department of English, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131, USA. Tel: 1 505 345 0185. Fax: 1 505 345 0185. E-mail: dunaway@unm.edu, and Alain Suberchicot, Blaise-Pascal University, Clermont-Ferrand, France. E-mail: Alain.Suberchicot@wanadoo.fr

The workshop will discuss the topic of constructing nature via literature and how the concept of nature writing occurs and develops across periods, genders and literary genres. The emphasis will be on the following questions: How is nature read and received as a text in historic Western and Southwestern literature? How have traditional Native American religions been interpreted in contemporary literature? What is the difference between concepts of "nature" and "ecology" in Western and Southwestern literary texts, including Native, Hispanic, and Anglo authors? What core themes and trends can be found in imagery and iconography of nature and wilderness in the American West and Southwest?

10. The River And The American Experience

Chair: Jerzy Durczak, Department of American Literature and Culture, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Pl. M. Curie-Skłodowskiej 4, PL-20-031 Lublin, Poland. Tel. 48 81 5375 389. Fax. 48 81 5375 279. E-mail: DURCZAK@klio.umcs.lublin.pl

This workshop is concerned with the place and significance of the river in American experience and imagination. The subject can be explored from a variety of perspectives: historical, anthropological, socio-political, cultural, and literary. Possible topics include: historical role of rivers in the exploration, settlement, and exploitation of the continent; contemporary issues related to river politics; the river and the growth of American conservation and environmental movements; the river's impact upon various aspects of material and spiritual cultures of Native American, other ethnic and white societies in America (lifestyles, mythology, religion, ritual, art); the river and tourism in the US, the "river theme" in American art, including literature (the river as character, metaphor, and symbol), the popular culture (film, music, popular iconography), painting, and architecture (canal and bridge architecture; the river in the cityscape; river landscaping).

11. Nature, Environment And Ecological Criticism In U. S. Latinos

Chairs: Astrid M. Fellner, Institut f. Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Universität Wien, Spitalg. 2-4, Universitätscampus AAKH, Hof VIII, A-1090 Vienna, Austria. Tel: 43 1 4277 424 14. Fax: 43 1 4277 424 97. E-mail: astrid.fellner@univie.ac.at, and Carmen Flys, Dept. de Filología Moderna, C.M. San Jose de Caracciolos, Universidad de Alcalá, C/ Trinidad, 28801 Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, Spain. Tel: 34 91 885 5289, or 5041, or 5252 Fax: 34 91 885 5248. E-mail: cenflys@cenuah.alcala.es

The purpose of this workshop is to explore the varying perspectives and perceptions of nature and the environment of Latino artists in the United States. There is a growing and highly articulate ecological trend in Chicana feminist fiction and criticism. Much Latino writing and art explores relationships with nature as well as taking a critical ecological stand. The object is to work from different angles, some of which could be nature as a mythic construct; nature and the exploitation of the worker; nature and contamination factors; nature

and spirituality; harmony with nature or dominance over nature; ecological critical theory, etc. We are interested in both theoretical and applied criticism as well as comparative papers: male vs female, latino vs anglo, Chicano vs Nuyorican, etc. Interdisciplinary approaches or papers based on arts other than literature are also welcome.

12. Ecocriticism: Compoststructuralism, or, the Critics' Return to Nature

Chairs: Christine Gerhardt, University of Dortmund, Institut f. Anglistik & Amerikanistik, FB15, Universität Dortmund, D-44145 Dortmund, Germany. E-mail: gerhardt@mail.fb15.uni-dortmund.de, and Heinz Tschachler, University of Klagenfurt, Department of English and American Studies, Universitätsstraße 65-67, A-9022 Klagenfurt, Austria. Fax: 0463 2700-333. E-mail: heinz.tschachler@uni-klu.ac.at

In the 1990s, ecocriticism has emerged as a powerful new theoretical movement inside and outside of American Studies. The "Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment" (ASLE) is one of the fastest-growing associations in the humanities. With American Studies, ecocriticism shares its interdisciplinary outlook, with feminist criticism its emancipatory claims. Ecocritical approaches are strongly divided over the issue of textuality. Is "nature" socially and thus textually constructed or is it a fundamental, irreducible category to which literary critics must return? Does the notion of the social construction of nature represent another form of hegemony? Can "nature writing" reconnect the humanities with the natural environment? Does the development of a canon of nature writing and its definition as a genre inhibit the radical potential of the ongoing "green revolution" in the humanities? To what degree does ecocriticism challenge traditional canons? What are the consequences of setting up "place" as a new fundamental category of inquiry, in addition to race, class, gender, and sexuality? This workshop invites contributions on ecocriticism as a cultural phenomenon, the development of a canon of "nature writing," discussions of the theoretical issues involved, and comparative evaluations of these phenomena internationally.

13. Nature and its Discontents from Virgin Land to Disney World: Reinterpretations of Freud's Civilization Thesis in the Americas of Yesterday and Today

Chairs: Bernd Herzogenrath, University of Aachen, Drimbornstr. 1, D-52066 Aachen, Germany. Fax: 49 24 888 8278. E-mail: Bernd.Herzogenrath@post.rwth-aachen.de and Tracey Jean Boisseau, University of Illinois, E-mail: kahoppe1@uic.edu (after July 1999: boisseau@uakron.edu)

The 1930 publication of Freud's "Civilization and its Discontents" with its thesis that instinct (and, ultimately, nature) must be continuously (re-)subordinated for civilization to thrive, echoed Turner's frontier thesis that American democracy and civilization was born out of a continual struggle with nature on the frontier. In the ongoing discussion of the meaning and function of the "wild" and its relation to the status of American civilization and a unique American national culture, the approaching Millennium has appeared as a marker for an age in which "Nature" is both close to radical extinction and becoming less reliable as a paradigm for representation and debate if the conceptual difficulty of any simple opposition between nature and culture is not acknowledged. This panel invites presenters to apply major critical approaches, psychoanalytical concepts, and postmodern theorizing to examinations of popular and official expressions of the role of nature in the construction of American national identity.

14. The Land in Southern History and Cultures: Myths, Metaphors and Reality

Chairs: Valeria Gennaro Lerda, University of Genova, Department of Modern and Contemporary History, Via Balbi 6, I-6126 Genova, Italy. Fax: 39 010 2099 826 E-mail: gennaro@linux.lettere.unige.it, and Danièle Pitavy-Souques, University of Bourgogne, Faculty of Languages and Communication, 2 Boulevard Gabriel, F-21000 Dijon, France. Fax: 33 3 80 39 56 19. Tel: 33 3 80 39 56 93. E-mail: daniele.pitavy@u-bourgogne.fr

Papers should address the interaction between nature and the many cultures which have given the South its specificity, from the early apprehension of the landscape and the mastering of land to contemporary environmental concerns. The issues should be discussed from different methodological and disciplinary viewpoints, including ideology and representation. Thus, papers based on history and geography, literature and the visual arts could use treaties, government reports and other documents, public addresses and private memoirs, travel writing and diaries, commercial pamphlets, fiction and poetry, and visual documents from paintings, sketches and cartoons to photographs and posters, so as to better understand the American concept of nature.

15. Cultivated Nature: Gardens, Parks, And Playgrounds

Chairs: Robert Lewis, University of Birmingham, American Studies, Birmingham B15 2TT, U.K. Fax: 44 121 414 6866. E-mail: r.m.lewis@bham.ac.uk, and Bernard Mergen, The George Washington University, American Studies Program, Washington DC 20052, USA. Fax: 1 202 994 8651. E-mail: mergen@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu

The workshop explores the ways in which the landscape has been re-shaped and re-invented. It might consider both conserving "wilderness" (state and national parks, or white-water rafting runs) and re-creating it (artificial rock-climbing walls). Did the large urban landscape parks which were made in nineteenth-century cities reflect European ideas of a domesticated garden and promenade? Were the small city playgrounds which were introduced a generation later uniquely American in their design and the use of gymnastic apparatus and athletic equipment? Papers might consider the influence of commercial concessions (food and souvenir stands, or access for automobiles), the intervention of cultural institutions (bandstands, museums, zoos), fantasy versions (theme-park "Frontierland"), facilities for active sport (basketball hoops, ball-parks, skate-boarding hills, ski-runs, golf courses), gender ideals ("masculine" physicality and "feminine" contemplation), as well as planning to control deviancy (eradicating crime and poverty).

16. Heavenly Bodies: Nature and the Erotic

Chair: Cheryl Malcolm, University of Gdansk, ul. Kolberga 14b28, PL-81-881 Sopot, Poland. E-mail: angcm@monika.univ.gda.pl

Papers are invited which investigate erotic literary responses to the concept of the body as a "natural" landscape figuring personal identities. These identities may be sexual, racial, ethnic, pertaining to beauty, virility, or national belonging. With a view to the fundamental function of eroticism (to arouse or delight), literary responses to both the wonder and/or crisis of the traditional body/identity connection will be considered. Open to papers concerning any literary genre or period.

17. 'No Compromise In Defense Of Mother Earth!': Eco-Protest In America, From America, Against America

Chair: George McKay, University of Central Lancashire, Department of Cultural Studies, Preston PR1 2HE, U.K. Tel: 44 1772 893020. Fax: 44 1772 892924. E-mail: g.mckay@uclan.ac.uk

The environment has become a central issue - or a significantly marginalized one, in terms of official policy - in contemporary society. This workshop offers the space to explore issues of radical environmentalism in its widest sense, both within the United States and in the global context. Material on protest groups from the 1980s like Earth First!, or animal rights groups such as PETA or Animal Liberation Front, could be included. Literary representations such as Edward Abbey's *The Monkey Wrench Gang* are significant. What are the origins of recent protest in the counterculture and Back-to-the-Lands movements of the 1960s (and earlier)? In what ways do ethnic groups in the USA contribute to environmental protest? How far, if at all, have tactics of direct action jeopardized the ideological righteousness many groups aim to put across? These are all relevant questions being asked in Cultural Studies, American Studies, Geography, Sociology, Women's Studies, etc. Globally, how have American models of protest been developed or modified elsewhere? The differing ideologies of Earth First! from its origins in the USA in 1980 to its reinvention in the UK in a decade later are worth considering. There are a number of strands of anti-American sentiment of varying degrees running through the field, from the founding of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in England in the 1950s (against America's development of the hydrogen bomb) to the founding of Greenpeace in Canada in the late 1960s (against American nuclear testing at Amchitka Island), for instance. I believe that there is a sufficient range of campaigns as well as cross-disciplinary approaches to make a workshop such as this interesting to a variety of participants.

18. Reconsidering The Nature Of Nations: Themes In Early African American Fiction

Chairs: Christopher Mulvey, English and American Studies, King Alfred's College, Winchester, SO22 4NR, U.K. Tel: 44 1962 827 294. Fax: 44 1962 827 458, and Geoffrey Pitcher, University of Poitiers, France. Workshop E-mail: C.Mulvey@wkac.ac.uk

Re-conceptualization of traditional ideas about our relation to the natural environment is automatically generated by consideration of a rich body of writing which only in the last decade of the twentieth century is being addressed in a purposive way by scholarship. That body of writing is early African American fiction. It begins with Williams Wells Brown's *Clotel* (1853) and develops through a significant line of writers--Frank Webb, Harriet Wilson, Frances Harper, Clarissa Allen, Amelia Johnson, Emma Kelley--even before we encounter writers whose reputations are more widely known--Charles Chesnutt, Paul Dunbar, and W. E. B. DuBois (the writer of several novels though he is not always so noted). "Early" may be taken to mean from 1853 to 1925 up to which date all the texts will be in the public domain in 2000. The designated period defines an epoch in which African American novelists and short-story writers created a literature powerfully descriptive of American nature presented from a perspective at once aware of and at a considerable remove from that of the New England transcendentalist and the Southern apologist. Early African American novelists celebrated the natural beauty of the land, but they did so with an ironic evaluation of the economic ugliness of white land values. During this period major themes of African American fiction were established: the African in America; river, swamp and forest as refuge and as barrier; the (re)-making of the black self in the white-owned landscape; the brutal actualities of Jeffersonian ideals and agrarian myths; the creation of an African American

culture within the bounds of Southern space; the plantation as the American anti-dream; passing and displaying in a politicized landscape; sexuality and self-expression within and without Nature. Workshop participants will not be restricted to dealing with these themes, but papers will be expected to engage with issues of the African American nation's reconsideration of American Nature.

19. Agriculture And Nature In The United States : Alternatives To Exploitative Farming (From Colonial Times To World War II)

Chair: Lucienne Neraud, University of Montpellier, Département d'Etudes Anglophones, Université Paul Valéry, Route de Mende, F-34199 Montpellier Cedex 5, France. Fax: 33 4 67 72 28 37. E-mail: lneraud@bred.univ-montp3.fr

Highly industrialized agriculture is being increasingly challenged by alternative agriculture groups who advocate an environmentally sustainable and economically viable system of farming. But what about earlier attempts to promote alternative forms of agricultural production? The workshop will address the following questions regarding such endeavors: exactly what types of farming practices were criticized and what was suggested instead? Who came to be preoccupied with the impact of exploitive agriculture on the environment? Where were such views expressed (travelers' accounts, official reports, farm magazines, philosophical essays, fiction...)? What about the beliefs and values underlying such approaches to agriculture? Did such concerns translate into actual experiments on the farm?

20. Views Of Nature In Literature And Painting Of The Romantic Age

Chair: Arne Neset, School of Humanities, Stavanger College, P.O. Box 2557 Ullandhaug, N-4004 Stavanger, Norway. Tel.: 47 51 83 15 24. Fax: 47 51 83 13 50. E-mail: arne.neset@hum.his.no

This workshop invites papers on either Romantic literature or painting in America, or on the relationship between the two. Papers may deal with general trends in the period or with particular works by individual authors/painters. Central issues and questions are for instance: In what way or to what extent is the Romantic depiction of nature/landscape a result of socio-cultural and/or artistic conventions - i.e. artistically and culturally constructed? In what way or to what extent does nature/the landscape itself guide/determine the literary/artistic portrayal? May we speak of a tension or conflict between European landscape conventions and the American experience? Is anthropomorphism a central element of the American Romantic expression/view of nature - for instance with regard to its use of imagery, symbols or icons? The workshop also invites papers employing a comparative perspective, for instance comparing and contrasting the view(s) of nature in American and European Romanticisms (the latter including that of a particular European country).

21. Gendering Nature/Naturalizing Gender

Chairs: Vera Norwood, American Studies, Ortega Hall 305, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131, USA. Tel. 1 505 277 6358. Fax: 1 505 277 1208. E-mail: vnorwood@unm.edu, and Christa Grewe-Volpp, Universität Mannheim, Lehrstuhl Anglistik III (Amerikanistik), Schloss, D-68131 Mannheim, Germany. Tel: 49 621 2921458. Fax: 49 621 292 5663. E-mail: chgrewe@aol.com

This workshop addresses how American ideas of nature have been gendered, how

concepts of nature have in turn been employed in the social construction of human gender roles, and how those roles have influenced men's and women's interactions with nature through literature, art, the landscape, and environmental activism. Of further interest are the intersections of race, class and gender, since ideas of the "natural differences" among races/classes have complicated ideas about men's and women's "proper" roles in nature/society. We plan two sessions: The first, from 1800-1962, culminates in the publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*; the second considers the late 20th century and the millennium.

22. Animal Culture

Chairs: Jopi Nyman, Department of English, University of Joensuu, P.O. Box 111, SF- 80101 Joensuu, Finland. Fax. 358 13 251 4211. E-mail: jopi.nyman@joensuu.fi, and Carol Smith, School of Cultural Studies, King Alfred's University College, Sparkford Road, Winchester, SO22 4NR, UK. Fax. 44 1962 827 458. E-mail: Carol.Smith@wkac.ac.uk

His interdisciplinary workshop aims at exploring the role of animals in the modern American imagination (19th-20th centuries). It can be argued that the representation of animals is a way of exploring the problematic issues of gender, class, race, and nation in both 'mainstream' (literature, film) and 'popular' (cartoons, jokes and the oral story forms) culture. The organizers hope that the workshop participants examine the construction of animals in all forms of American culture from these perspectives and urge potential contributors to re-think the representation of animals in American cultural products in their cultural and historical contexts. Potential topics may include literary animals; animals and ideology; American national animals; cartoons; animals and the wilderness; animals and alternative ethics; speciesism; Native animals; pigs and other creatures.

23. Nature and Narration: The Landscapes of Asian American Literature

Chairs: Eulalia Pinero, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Filosofia y Letras, Dept. de Filologia Inglesa, Cantoblanco, E-28049 Madrid, Spain. Tel: 34 91 530 1137. Fax: 34 91 397 4428. E-mail: eulalia.pinero@uam.es, and Seiwoong Oh, English Department, Rider University, 2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-3099, USA. Fax: 1 609 896 8029. E-mail: oh@enigma.rider.edu

From the myth of the Gold Mountain to the imaginary reconstruction of their ancestral landscape, Asian American writers have explored the relationship between the natural and human worlds. This workshop invites papers and abstracts that deal with the theme of nature in Asian American literature, including, but not limited to, the following questions: in what ways are Asian American writers re-interpret, re-construct, or de-construct the landscapes of America? How do they imagine and create the natural landscapes of their ancestral lands? How do early narratives compare with contemporary narratives? How does Asian American writers describe their relationship with the wild? How do they deal with environmental issues?

24. Celebration Of The Living World And Ecological Concern In American Indian And New World Literature

Chairs: Gaetano Prampolini, University of Florence, Dept. of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Piazza Brunelleschi 4, I-50121 Florence, Italy. Tel: 39 55 28 05 51. Fax: 39 55 23 46 019. E-mail: pramp@cesit1.unifi.it, and Alav Velie, Department of English, Oklahoma University, Gittinger Hall, Room 113, Norman, OK 73019-0240. Tel: 1 405 325

The very general topic of the Conference seems to have been conceived so as to accommodate a workshop on this topic. American, American Indian, and Chicano Studies apply a perspective which ignores the boundaries Europeans have drawn in the Americas in studying the cultures of the peoples who were here when the Europeans arrived. *New World Studies* focuses on hybridity of cultures, that is the mestizo (or meti or mixed-blood) experience, and the questions of identity that arise from the blending of indigenous and European gene pools and cultures. Indigenous cultures had very different concepts of Nature from the Europeans, and the papers of this panel will explore those concepts. For example, "Wonder" at the goodness and beauty of the natural world and/or concern about "ecological crisis" are essential aspects in the writings of (almost) all American Indian and other New World authors since the 1930s. The "healing" theme so characteristic of and important in most American Indian novels is founded on the capability or possibility for the protagonist to (re-)establish a sense of communion with the land and all forms of life it contains. Both singing one's wonder and delight at being alive in a world of beauty and mourning the environmental wounds produced by "progress" are prominent traits in American Indian poetry, as e. g. illustrated by the fact that celebration of nature and ecological concerns are the motives of that little masterpiece in non-fiction prose which is Linda Hogan's *Dwellings* (1995). Papers are encouraged to discuss these and related issues from different perspectives.

25. Nature Exhausted or Resurrected: Ecological Awareness in Post-World War II Science Fiction and Utopian Writing

Chairs: Jones Miller Jones, University of Eichstätt, Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaftliche Fakultät, Lehrstuhl f. Amerikanistik, Universitätsallee 1, D-85071 Eichstätt, Germany. Tel: 49 8421 930. Fax: 49 8421 93 1797. E-mail: jmiller.jones@ku-eichstaett.de, and Umberto Rossi, Via Petrarca, 12, I-00040 Pomezia (RM, Italy. Tel: 39 06 911 1616. Fax: 39 06 8621 1367 E-mail: urossi@programatic.it

Paralleling the myth of the advancing frontier, the idea of an endlessly productive (and exploitable) nature dominates American literary production, although Jeffersonian agrarianism and the Thoreauvian rapture with nature provide a partially balancing counterweight. In the light of post-World War II geopolitical, economic, and scientific developments, American science fiction and utopian writing have increasingly highlighted the fragility of the ecology. Papers in this workshop should deal with the idea of nature in these literary traditions (or in film or in the other arts). Discussion will center on ecological catastrophes, the role of technology, and the interdependence of nature's idealization with its simultaneous destruction.

26. American Indian Ethnicity And Environmentalism

Chairs: Lee Schweningen, Department of English, University of North Carolina-Wilmington, Wilmington, NC 28403, U.S.A. Tel: 1 910 962 3539. Fax: 1 910 962 7186. E-mail: schweningenL@uncwil.edu, and Simone Pellerin, Departement d'Anglo-Américain, U.F.R.2, Université Paul Valéry-Montpellier III, Route de Mende, F-34000 Montpellier, France. E-mail: pellerin@smrl.univ-montp3.fr

Literary, historical, artistic, anthropological, and other cultural representations of American Indians as environmentalists have become an integral part of contemporary, mainstream U.S. environmental culture. This perspective results in large measure, however,

from representations imposed on American Indian cultures by non-Natives, and they prevail despite the fact that scholars of American Indian literature, history, culture, continue a critical debate about whether, or to what degree, American Indians were and are environmentalists. This workshop welcomes papers reassessing, reconfirming, or challenging the grounds for these attitudes or the attitudes themselves. Abstracts or papers to schweningerL@uncwil.edu

27. From The New Eden To Eco-Apocolypse: Nature And Culture In American Non-Fiction Prose

Chairs: James R. Thompson, Department of English, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701, USA, Tel: 1 740 593 2838. Fax: 1 740 5932818, E-mail: thompsj2@oak.cats.ohiou.edu, and Roberta Maierhofer, Karl-Franzens-University Graz, Department of American Studies, Attemsgasse 25, A-8010 Graz, Austria. Tel: 43 316 380 2469. Fax: 43 316 380 9768. E-mail: Athens, Ohio 45701, USA, Tel: 1 740 593 2838, Fax: 1 740 593 2818, E-mail: roberta.maierhofer@kfunigraz.ac.at

This workshop will examine themes, rhetorical strategies and poetic visions in such writings as found in the following general categories: 1) classic nature writers, like Barry Lopez, Annie Dillard, and Peter Matthiessen; 2) "metaphysical" writers, such as Emerson, Niles Eldredge, and Bill McKibben; 3) writers from a feminist perspective, such as Lorraine Anderson; 4) travel literature which transcends both ordinary travel interests and conventional ecological attitudes, such as that of Mark Hertsgaard; 5) radical environmentalists, such as Edward Abbey; 6) "personal nature," as exemplified by Terry Tempest Williams; and 7) new approaches in education, such as found in "Beyond Ecophobia, Reclaiming the Heart of Nature Education." Please send proposals to both chairs.!

28. Gothic Nature

Chair: Marek Wilczynski, School of English, Adam Mickiewicz University, Al. Niepodleglosci 4, P-61-874 Poznan, Poland. Fax: 48 61 852 3103. E-mail: marek@main.amu.edu.pl

Suggested paper topics: (1) relations between European literary gothicism and its New World "naturalized" versions, (2) the relevance of the natural sublime in gothic fiction and landscape painting, (3) the gothic images of nature in American romanticism and after, (4) "gothicized" representations of Native Americans and African Americans, (5) nature in the works of the late nineteenth-century female gothicists, such as, e. g. Mary E. Wilkins Freeman and Charlotte Perkins Gilman, (6) natural-gothic stereotypes in contemporary popular fiction and film, (7) the uses of psychoanalysis in interpreting natural-gothic phantasms, (8) horror in/of nature as a possible object of interest of "ecocriticism." I prefer to receive all correspondence related to the workshop to my e-mail address.

29. Wilderness Preservation And Its Legacy In The United States

Chair: Gelareh Yvard-Djahansouz, Université d'Angers, IUT, 4, bd Lavoisier, B.P. 2018, F-49016 Angers Cedex, France. Tel: 33 2 41 73 52 57. Fax: 33 2 41 73 53 30. E-mail: gelareh.djahansouz@iut.univ-angers.fr

Wilderness preservation in the US can be traced back to the Conservation and Preservation movements of the late nineteenth century. The literary contributions and political activism of the prescient nature writers, philosophers, foresters, and politicians who contributed to these movements promoted the national park idea and led to the establishment

of the early national parks and forest reserves. Some suggested topics could be the long-term influences of the Preservation movement, which brought spiritual and ethical issues to the fore in the debate over the environment today. The influence of rhetorical writings of the nineteenth century nature writers in enhancing political activism could also be discussed. We could consider how the notions of holism and ecocentrism, endorsed by the Preservationists, have influenced environmental policy and ethics. Wilderness preservation as a sacred religious mission and as a philosophy are possible topics. Finally we could attempt to study the legacies of some prominent figures in the Conservation and Preservation movements.

30. Visions of Nature in Contemporary American Literature, 1970 to the Present

Chairs: Olivier Delbard, Dept. LCI, E. S. C. P., 79, Avenue de la République, F-75543 Paris Cedex 11, France. Tel: 33 1 49 23 22 64. Fax: 33 1 49 23 22 32. E-mail: delbard@escp.fr, and Robert Shulman, Department of English, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-4330, USA. Fax. 1 206 685 2673. E-mail: rshulman@u.washington.edu

Contemporary American writers (as diverse as Don DeLillo, Walker Percy, Gary Snyder, David Mamet, Wendell Berry, Raymond Carver, Annie Dillard, Barry Lopez etc.) explicitly and implicitly engage and criticize what not all of them would be happy to call American Nature. Whereas some writers often use the resources of irony, indirection, and postmodern skepticism, some others more explicitly integrate scientific research and environmental philosophy into their works; but one way or another, these writers illuminate the connections between American consumerism and environmental devastation, the power of native lore, of Buddhist and other religious perspectives to counter prevailing values and practices. This workshop welcomes papers on individual writers or synthesizing papers that speak to the issues of a broadly defined nature, from "nature writing" to less "naturalistic" approaches.

Proposals for workshop papers should be sent directly to the chairs and must reach them by September 15, 1999. When preparing your contributions, please comply with the instructions of the *Guidelines for Workshop Chairs* reprinted below:

GUIDELINES FOR WORKSHOP CHAIRS

1. A workshop may be chaired either by one person, or by two persons from different countries. No one may (co-)chair a workshop at two consecutive EAAS conferences.
2. Workshop sessions are approximately two hours.
3. Speakers are selected from those colleagues responding to the *Call for Papers* published in the *American Studies in Europe*, May 1997. 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 the U.S.A. or Canada 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 speakers.
5. The maximum presentation time for papers is 20 minutes (can be less...); chairs are encouraged to be “ruthless” in keeping their speakers within that time frame. The overall structure of the workshop is the responsibility of chairs; as general rule, though, it is very important to allow sufficient time for discussion and to make sure that the workshop does NOT turn into a series of mini-lectures.
6. Proposals for workshop papers, together with abstracts (150-200 words) must reach the workshop chair/s BY SEPTEMBER 15, 1999. Chairs are expected to send out acknowledgments of receipt for proposals and to inform proponents as early as possible whether their papers have been accepted.
7. Chairs are encouraged to send out photocopies of abstracts/papers to all speakers in their workshop prior to the conference.
8. Workshop chairs should shortly 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 should also be encouraged to be present at all sessions of their workshop.
10. Chairs are responsible for selecting and editing ONE of their workshop presentations and recommending it 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 an unanimous decision of the EAAS Board at the 1998 Lisbon conference, EAAS subsidies for such volumes are no longer be available.

12. 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 about 200-250 words should give readers of the *Newsletter* an idea of the major arguments of papers and of conclusions reached in the workshop.

13. If special technical equipment (projectors, screens, audio-visual devices, computers) is needed in a workshop, please inform the EAAS Secretary at your earliest convenience.

14. Please address all correspondence concerning workshop matters to the EAAS Secretary (address below), who will consult with other Board members and/or the local organizers if necessary.

15. Workshop chairs should make copies of these *Guidelines* available to their speakers.

16. A meeting of workshop chairs with the EAAS Secretary will be scheduled on the first afternoon of the conference to discuss last-minute arrangements.

17. FUNDING: Workshop chairs will receive/split *per diems* (appr. \$75-90) in acknowledgment of their efforts; the exact amount will be known in the fall of this year. EAAS cannot fund travel/accommodation costs, nor can we contribute to the expenses of workshop speakers.

18. IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

SEPTEMBER 15, 1999: Deadline for submitting proposals and abstracts to workshop chairs. Please send a tentative list of speakers & titles to the EAAS Secretary as early as possible, for inclusion in the October *EAAS Newsletter*.

OCTOBER 31, 1999: Deadline for reports of workshop chairs to EAAS Secretary, with DEFINITE titles of papers and names and addresses of all workshop speakers.

JANUARY 10, 2000: Deadline for information to be included in the Graz conference program.

The following "Shoptalk Sessions" will again be held at the Graz Conference:

Historians' Shoptalk
Literary Historians' Shoptalk

American Studies Shoptalk: Suggested focus for Graz is a debate among the editors of European journals of American Studies.

IN MEMORIAM

Harry Allen, who was President of EAAS from 1976 to 1980, died last June in Philadelphia, which he had made his home for the final part of his life after the death of his wife in 1992. The following lines have their origin in the correspondence which was exchanged, on receipt of the sad news, between some of us who had been privileged to work with him and had become his friends.

“Harry”, as he came to be known almost universally, had a long successful career at his back, both as a scholar and as an administrator (among other prestigious positions he held the Commonwealth Chair of American History at University College, London, and directed the Institute of United States Studies, also in London), when the predicament of the European Association, which had been going for some time through a troubled period of growth and adjustment, claimed his attention and got him crucially involved in its future. The year was 1976. A new president had to be elected, following the sudden death of Professor Den Hollander, and the decision confronting the Board brought the impending crisis to a head. With immense tact, Harry Allen let it be known that he was willing to submit his candidacy, outlined his platform in some detail, but carefully refrained from any comments which might be construed as invidiously personal. His concern, he made it abundantly clear to the other members of the Board, was with finding new ways for the Association to develop efficiently and harmoniously. In the wake of his election, he summoned a memorable Board meeting in Oxford, which hammered out a new constitution for EAAS as a formal federation of national American Studies associations. Unquestionably, there was vision in the enterprise, as well as a shrewd, very British awareness of the importance of legal technicalities to smooth over lingering tensions.

Harry’s tenure of office was marked throughout by the same combination of diplomatic skill and strong, if deliberately unaccented, determination. His conduct of Board meetings was a model of gentle leadership, he listened to everyone with unfeigned attention, then steered the debate towards concrete, substantial conclusions, which scrupulously respected the points of view expressed earlier on.

What few of us realized then was the enormous amount of time and energy that he put in for the sake of the Association. He got very little clerical assistance from his University for the discharge of his multiple, and fast growing, presidential duties. I still remember the thick files of hand-written notes which he prepared for the ambitious workshop system inaugurated on the occasion of the Amsterdam conference in 1980. Not only did he take care of all individual letters to contributors, but he saw to it that the lists of participants - each person duly identified in each workshop - should not exceed in length the size of a manageable

group. But for his tireless efforts in promoting new types of transnational cooperation and scholarly exchange, the patterns that we have come down the years to take more or less for granted might very well never have emerged. He also saw how EAAS should and could support the emerging American Studies communities in eastern and central Europe and helped set in motion the processes that took the Association to Budapest for the ground-breaking conference of 1986.

A recital of his professional achievements, however varied and conspicuous, would nevertheless leave out what above all endeared Harry to his many friends. Very imperfectly concealed behind a veil of humor or an unfailing show of courtesy was a human warmth, which in a very real sense made EAAS an extension of his own family. His connection with the Association did not end with the end of his term. He continued to attend its biennial conferences, enjoying his hard-won freedom, deriving an almost physical pleasure from conversations with old friends, showing himself ready to hold out a helping hand whenever somebody was in trouble. Only the deterioration brought about by an implacable disease was able to break off this emotional involvement.

I believe that even those who never knew him stand in his debt to this day. In the memory of those who did, Harry lives on not only as a perfect gentleman, but as the absolutely right president at the right time in the history of EAAS.

Maurice Gonnaud

It is with great regret that we report the death of Viscount Eccles, a major supporter of the Eccles Centre for American Studies, the British Library, and through that of the European Association for American Studies. Having succeeded in both business and politics, including two appointments as Minister of Education, his professional life in later years became more interwoven with that of the British Library, whose separation from the British Museum owed a great deal to his energy and foresight. It is an open secret that his political capital helped fund the new British Library building and that his enthusiasm for increasing the understanding of the United States in Europe helped persuade his wife, Mary, Viscountess Eccles, to make the donation which established the Eccles Centre. His energy and commitment will be sorely missed.

R A Burchell

EAAS Officers

President: Heinz Ickstadt, John F. Kennedy Institut, Freie Universität Berlin, Lansstrasse 5-9, D-14195 Berlin, Germany. Tel: 49 30 838 4015. Fax: 49 30 838 2641. E-mail: ickstadt@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Vice President: Cristina Giorcelli, Dipartimento Studi Americani,

Terza Università di Roma, Piazza della Repubblica 10, I-00185 Roma, Italy. Tel: 39 6 486 640 or 488 3329. Fax: 39 6 481 7369. E-mail: c.giorcelli@uniroma3.it

Treasurer: Stephen Matterson, School of English, University of Dublin, Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel: 353 1 772941-1111. Fax: 353 1 671 7114. E-mail: smttrson@tcd.ie

Secretary: Walter Hölbling, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, Institut für Amerikanistik, Attemsgasse 25, A-8010 Graz, Austria. Tel: 43 316 380 2467. Fax: 43 316 380-9768. E-mail: walter.hoelbling@kfunigraz.ac.at

EAAS BOARD MEMBERS, March 1999:

Maria Teresa G. Ferreira de Almeida Alves, Universidade de Lisboa, Faculdade de Letras, Estudos Anglo-Americanos, Cidade Universitaria, P-1699 LISBOA CODEX, Portugal. Tel: 351 1 796 51 62. Fax: 351 1 796 0063. E-mail: tfaalves@fc.ul.pt

Hans Bak, Vakgroep Engels-Amerikaans, Katholieke Universiteit Nijmegen, Erasmusplein 1, NL-6525 HT NIJMEGEN, Netherlands. Tel: 31 24 361 2845. Fax: 31 24 361 5939. E-mail: h.bak@let.kun.nl

Gülriiz Büken, Department of History, Bilkent University, TR-06533 BILKENT, Ankara, Turkey. Fax: 90 312 266 4960. E-mail: buken@bilkent.edu.tr

Robert A. Burchell, Editor of *American Studies in Europe*, The Eccles Centre for American Studies, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB, UK. Tel: 44 171 412 7551. Fax: 44 171 412 7792. e-mail: Eccles-centre@bl.uk or Bob.Burchell@bl.uk

Johan Callens, Free University of Brussels (VUB), English Department, Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: 32 2 629 3657. Fax: 32 2 629 3684. E-mail: jcallens@vub.ac.be

Marc Chenétier, University Paris 7, Institut Charles V, 10 Rue Charles V, F-75004 Paris, France. Tel: 33 1 44 78 34 14. Fax: 33 1 44 78 34 73. E-mail: marche@paris7.jussieu.fr

Tibor Frank, Director, School of English & American Studies, Ajtósi Dürer sor 19-21, H-1146 Budapest, Hungary. Tel: 36 1 343 6041, -8760. Fax: 36 1 343 6801. E-mail: frank@isis.elte.hu

Fernando Galván, Dept. de Filología Moderna, Fac. d. Filosofía y Letras, Universidad de Alcalá de Henares, C/Colegios, 2, E-28801 Alcalá de Henares,

Madrid, Spain. Tel: 34 1 885 4473. Fax: 34 1 885 4445. E-mail:
fernando.galvan@cytrus.alcala.es

Mick Gidley, University of Leeds, School of English, Leeds LS2 9JT,
England. Tel: 44 113 233 4727. Fax: 44 113 233 4774. E-mail:
g.m.gidley@leeds.ac.uk

Martin Heusser, Englisches Seminar, Universität Zürich, Plattenstrasse 47,
CH-8032 Zürich, Switzerland. Tel: 41 1 257 3551. Fax: 41 1 262 1204. E-mail:
heusser@es.unizh.ch

Josef Jarab, Palacky University, Dept. of English & American Studies,
Krizkovskeho 8, CS-772 00 Olomouc, Czech Republic. Tel: 42 68 563 1381. Fax:
42 68 52 22731. E-mail: jarab@risc.upol.cz or jarabj@ceu.hu

Clara Juncker, American Studies Center, USD, Odense University,
Campusvej 55, DK-5230 Odense M, Denmark. Tel: 45 65 50 1000, ext. 3405 or
3101. Fax: 45-659 30490. E-mail: juncker@litcul.ou.dk

Savas Patsalidis, Department of English, School of Philosophy, Aristotle
University, GR-54006 Thessaloniki. Tel: 30 31 997461. Fax: 30 31 997432. E-mail:
spats@enl.auth.gr

Jerzy Kutnik, English Department, Maria Curie-Sklodowska, University Pl.
M. Curie Sklodowskiej 4, PL-20031 Lublin, Poland. Tel. 48 81 5375 389. Fax: 48
81 5375 279. E-mail: kutnikjr@klio.umcs.lublin.pl

Rosella Mamoli Zorzi, University of Venice, International Relations Office,
Dorsoduro 3859, I-30123 Venice, Italy. Tel: 39 41 257 8221. Fax: 39 41 521 0112.
E-mail: mamoli@unive.it

"Over There": Doing American Studies in London, England

Despite the recent renaissance of the UK movie industry and the continual existence of afternoon teas and gentlemen's clubs, British media constantly complains about American cultural imperialism and the on-going Americanization of British culture. Kidney pies and Savile Row suits notwithstanding, Britons in general consider themselves swamped by McDonald's restaurants and Levis' jeans. If nothing else, I thought, this preoccupation with the United States would make Great Britain an interesting place for the study of American culture. After having spent a year at Harvard University as a Fulbright student, I set out for Uppsala. I did, however, not quite make it all the way back to Sweden on my first attempt. When I got the opportunity of becoming the first ever Visiting Research Student at the Institute of United States Studies at the University of London, I decided to extend my self-imposed exile. What, then, had London to offer in the way of resources for a

student of American culture?

The Institute, IUSS for short, was founded in 1965. It is part of the University's School of Advanced Study, a research organization consisting of nine institutes and a number of programs organized in a fashion not unlike that of the otherwise prevalent British college system. The Institute of Historical Research is perhaps the most well-known of the School's members, but some may have heard of the Warburg Institute for classical studies and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies as well. Almost all of the School's facilities are centrally located in or around Bloomsbury's Russell Square, and many are in London University's monumental Senate House on Malet Street.

IUSS is one of the smaller units of the School of Advanced Study but it can still provide many opportunities for the student and scholar. Good connections with both the academic and the political world as well as with the international business community make sure that the Institute can host an impressive range of guests on a regular basis. During my time in London, lectures and meetings were organized with, among others, such notable speakers as Frank Kermode, Margaret Thatcher, Douglas Hurd, Paul Johnson, and Alan Ryan. The Institute also hosts the annual James Bryce Lecture on the American Commonwealth in the Great Hall at Lincoln's Inn. The 1997 speaker was Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. who in his lecture asked "Has Democracy a Future?" The answer, not surprisingly, was "yes, it probably does". In addition to organizing lectures, the Institute offers a number of research seminars in various American studies disciplines. Interdisciplinarity is encouraged and all members are invited to participate in lectures and seminars organized throughout the School as well as to cross-register with other institutes.

Under the excellent direction of Professor Gary McDowell, the Institute of U.S. Studies has just started admitting Ph.D. students in addition to students in its already established MA program. Already a meeting place for advanced scholars, it currently offers courses in international relations, history, literature, and musicology, all with the focus on the United States. These courses and programs attract not only British students, but also many from "overseas", as they say, and even Americans who wish to maintain at least a geographical distance in the study of their own culture.

The location between Birkbeck College and The British Museum once made Senate House a convenient place for scholars who liked to dwell in the old Reading Room in the British Library. These old library facilities closed in September 1997. The new library, which opened to humanities readers in late November 1997, is just a short tube ride to the North at St. Pancras. However, those interested in American Studies might not have to leave the Senate House building at all since the University of London Library has a useful U.S. collection situated on the fifth floor, as well as a good selection of journals and periodicals readily available in open stacks.

Affiliation with any of the School's institutes grants access to the University library, but temporary visitors can also become readers for a fee. The British Library still grants entry to academic readers who can produce a letter of recommendation. This service is normally offered with a minimum of hassle, but the Reader's Office seems to have become more strict with issuing passes to the public in the recent past. Reader's tickets are currently free of charge, but this might change in the future. The British Library's Eccles Center for American Studies has produced a number of useful bibliographies of the library's American holdings, and these can be worth consulting before arriving. Offering a time saving device for prospective visiting scholars, the computerized catalogue is available on-line. The Library's new location boasts modern research facilities, plenty of space, the same old slow but charming service, and very comfortable chairs indeed.

In all, London is a stimulating and exciting place to study the United States. The plentiful resources offered by the Institute and the School of Advanced Study in addition to the British Library's cornucopia of scholarly material made it a most worthwhile academic and intellectual experience. To sum up, London is an alternative well worth contemplating for those not quite willing or able to step all the way across the ocean.

Mattia Bolkéus Blom

Taken From SINAS-News, No.21, November 1998

The American Studies Network

Current member institutions are as follows:

Center for American Studies, Bibliothèque Royale Albert Ier, Boulevard de l'Empereur, 4, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium, Tel: 32 2 519 55 23, Fax: 32 2 519 55 22, E-mail: Francine.Lercange@kbr.be

Institute of United States Studies, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU, UK. Tel: 44 171 862 8693, Fax: 44 171 862 8696, E-mail: gmcdowel@sas.ac.uk; John.Zvesper@sas.ac.uk, URL: <http://www.sas.ac.uk/iuss>

John F. Kennedy Institute, Freie Universität Berlin, Lansstrasse 5-9, D-14195 Berlin, Germany, Tel: 49 30 838 27 03, Fax: 49 30 838 28 82, E-mail: ickstadt@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Department of American Studies, Elte, Ajtósi Durer Sor 19-20, 1146 Budapest, Hungary, Tel: 36 1 153 47 22, Fax: 36 1 142 87 60, E-mail: kovacs@isis.elte.hu

Roosevelt Study Center, P.O. Box 6001, 4330 LA Middelburg, The Netherlands,

Tel: 31 118 631 590, Fax: 31 118 631 593, E-mail: c.vanminnen@rsc.knaw.nl;
secr@rsc.knaw.nl, URL: <http://www.knaw.nl/rscuk00.htm>

American Studies Center, Warsaw University, Ul. Ksawerow 13, 02656 Warszawa,
Poland, Tel: 48 22 45 10 21, Fax: 48 22 45 18 56

Centro de Estudios Norteamericanos, Universidad de Alcala, Colegio de Trinitarios,
C/. Trinidad, 1, 28801 Alcala de Henares (Madrid), Spain, Tel: 34 918855253, Fax:
34 918855248, E-mail: ehaguado@funeco.alcala.es, URL:
<http://www.alcala.es/cenna>

The Swedish Institute for North American Studies, Uppsala University, P.O. Box
514, SE-75120 Uppsala, Sweden, Tel: 46 18 471 2208, Fax: 46 18 122895, E-mail:
Erik.Asard@sinas.uu.se

Arthur Miller Center for American Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich
NR4 7TJ, UK, Tel: 44 1603 592789, Fax: 44 1603 507728, E-mail:
C.Bigsby@uea.ac.uk

Center for American Studies, Odense University, Campusvej 55, DK-5230 Odense
M, Denmark, Tel: 45 66 15 86 00 ext. 3113/3101, Fax: 45 392 26 43 77, E-mail:
nye@hist.ou.dk; Tel: 45 65 57 31 01, Fax: 45 93 04 90, E-mail: ckt@litcul.ou.dk

Centro Studi Americani, Via Michelangelo Caetani, 32, 00186 Roma, Italy, Tel: 39
6 6541 613, Fax: 39 6 683 072 56

Amerika Institut, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Plantage Muidergracht 12, 1018 TV
Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Tel: 31 20 525 43 71, Fax: 31 20 525 52 10, E-mail:
rob.kroes@let.uva.nl

Centro de Estudos Americanos, Universidade Aberta, Rua da Escola Politecnica,
147, 1250 Lisboa, Portugal, Tel: 351 1 397 33 51, Fax: 351 1 397 32 29, E-mail:
laurapir@univ-ab.pt

The Eccles Centre for American Studies, The British Library, 96 Euston Road,
London NW1 2DB, UK, Tel: 44 171 412 7551, Fax: 44 171 412 7792, E-mail:
Bob.Burchell@bl.uk

American Studies Center, Salzburg Seminar, Box 129, A-5010 Salzburg, Austria,
Tel: 43 662 839830, Fax: 43 662 825269, E-mail: mgecek@salsem.ac.at

The David Bruce Centre for American Studies, Keele University, Keele,
Staffordshire ST5 5BG, UK, Tel: 44 1782 583010, Fax: 44 1782 583460, E-mail:
asa17@ams.keele.ac.uk; r.a.garson@ams.keele.ac.uk

American Studies Center, Université de Mons Hainaut, (E.I.I.), Avenue du Champ de Mars, 17, 7000 Mons, Belgium, Tel: 32 2 428 93 48, 32 65 37 36 08, Fax: 32 2 428 93 48, E-mail: a.piette.infoni@infonie.be; alain.piette@umh.ac.be

Centro Studi Euro-Atlantici (CSEA), Via Balbi 6, 16126 Genova, Italy, Tel: 39 10 209 98 28, Fax: 39 10 209 98 26, E-mail: csea@linux.lettere.unige.it

Amerika-Institut, Ludwig Maximilians-Universität-München, Schellingstrasse, 3, D-80799 München, Germany, Tel: 49 089 2180 2739, 49 089 2180 2797, Fax: 49 089 280 52 88, E-mail: b.ostendorf@lrz.uni-muenchen.de

LEUCOREA, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Zentrum für USA-Studien, Collegienstrasse, 62, D-06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg. Tel 49 34 91 466 110, Fax: 49 3491 466 223, E-mail: grabbe@zusas.uni-halle.de, URL: <http://www.zusas.uni-halle.de>

The American Studies Network Prize: Value US\$1,000

Members of EAAS are reminded that this prize will again be awarded in 2000, at the Graz conference. All members of EAAS who have published a monograph in English in American Studies, broadly defined, since the Lisbon 1998 Conference, are invited to submit three review copies of this work to the President of the American Studies Network by 15 November 1999. The present President is Prof. Dr. Alain Piette, Rue de la Royauté, 37 - 1020 Brussels, Belgium.

The American Studies Network First Book Prize: Value US\$500

Members of EAAS can also compete for the newly created ASN First book prize to be awarded in 2000, at the Graz conference. All members who have published as their first book a monograph in English in American Studies, broadly defined, since the Lisbon 1998 Conference, are invited to submit three review copies of this work to the President of the American Studies Network by 15 November 1999. The present President is Prof. Dr. Alain Piette - Rue de la Royauté, 37 - 1020 Brussels, Belgium.

Please note: Members should make clear which prize they are entering their work for. All books should have an ISBN number. Translations do not qualify.

EAAS on the Internet

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

Austria.

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

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

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

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

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

To subscribe to EAAS-L simply send a message to Majordomo@let.uu.nl as follows: `subscribe eaas-l <your e-mail address>`. Leave the subject line blank. Please note that Majordomo is not a Listserv. Therefore you should only include your e-mail address between the two brackets and not your full name.

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

Austria

Austrian Association for American Studies - AAAS

President: Dorothea Steiner, University of Salzburg, Department of English and American Studies, Akademiestrasse 24, A-5020 Salzburg, Austria; E-mail: dorothea.steiner@sbg.ac.at

Vice-President: Mario Klarer, University of Innsbruck, Department of American Studies, Innrain 52, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria; E-mail: mario.klarer@uibk.ac.at

Secretary: Thomas Hartl, University of Salzburg, Department of English and

American Studies, Akademiestrasse 24, A-5020 Salzburg; E-mail:
thomas.hartl@sbg.ac.at

Treasurer: Michael Draxlbauer, University of Vienna, Department of
English and American Studies, Spitalgasse 2, Hof 8, A-1090 Wien, Austria; E-mail:
michael.draxlbauer@univie.ac.at

Activities:

The 1999-AAAS Conference will take place in Salzburg, November 5-7,
1999. The theme is "American Studies and Peace". For details, see
"Announcements" in this issue.

Austrian Association For American Studies
25th Anniversary Conference 1999 *"American Studies and Peace"*

Call for Papers

With its "Silver Jubilee" Conference, the AAAS is once again returning to its
origins, Schloss Leopoldskron, the seat of the Salzburg Seminar. This seems fitting,
as both the Austrian and the European Association for American Studies have such
strong and long-standing relations to this institution which was, after World War II,
founded as an intellectual bridge-builder and peacemaker. After 1989, this mission
was renewed after the Fall of the Iron Curtain. Recently, the Seminar has been
involved in peace initiatives organized in view of the Millennium in Salzburg by
local and international bodies. It seems fitting that the AAAS join in this millennial
spirit of peacemaking by asking itself,

"DOES AMERICAN STUDIES HAVE A MISSION OF PEACE?"

In lectures and workshops we wish to address the following questions:

What has the American Studies concept contributed theoretically to our
academic thinking about literature, culture, society, international politics,
globalization, cross-and transnational questions, ethnicity, migration and, last not
least, English as a global linking language? What impulses has the interdisciplinary
approach given to the formation of Cultural Studies, Women's Studies, Gender
Studies, Euro-Atlantic Studies, etc? Do Americanists have a special role and
responsibility as people who deal professionally with "the one world power" and
self-defined "global peace-keeper"? What kind of a dynamic do texts create which
"disturb the peace" in American Studies (Bloom, Levine, Fukuyama, Postman,
Huntington, etc.) and can they serve as agents of new peacemaking and
peacekeeping? In two panels we wish to discuss (1) the issue of a national
American Studies association within Europe and its relation to "a European
agenda" in American Studies; (2) the need for a new transcontinental engagement in
American Studies. Both issues make us reflect on our own origins and
developments, nationally and internationally, and they invite us to relate our
accomplishments to those of newly emerging American Studies associations
worldwide.

We are asking members of EAAS and beyond to kindly respond to this Call for Papers by making proposals for individual papers and workshops. We are specifically inviting our colleagues from outside Europe to express their interest in participating in the panels.

All responses should reach us by June 1, at the latest, and be addressed to Dorothea Steiner, AAAS President, English-American Studies, University of Salzburg, Akademiestrasse 24, A-5020 Salzburg, Austria (Europe); fax: (662) 8044-613; e-mail: dorothea.steiner@sbg.ac.at

Belarus

Belarusan Association for American Studies - BELAAS

President: Yuri V. Stulov, American Studies Center, European Humanities University, 3 P.Brovki St. Minsk 220000, Belarus. Tel: 375 17 232 7036. Fax: 375 17 2315062. E-mail: asc@ehu.unibel.by

Vice-Presidents:

Nina Kopacheva, Institute of English, Minsk State Linguistics University, School of English, 21 Zakharova St., Minsk 220662, Belarus. Tel: 375 17 284 7562.

Vladimir Dunaev, European Humanities University, 24 F.Skaryny Ave., Minsk 220030, Belarus. Tel: 375 17 229 2366. Fax: 375 17 229 2366. E-mail: dunaev@ehu.unibel.by

Secretary: Irina Ivleva, American Studies Center, European Humanities University, 3 P.Brovki St., Minsk 220000, Belarus. Tel: 375 17 232 7036.

Treasurer: Svetlana Kernozhitskaya, Tel: 375 17 232 7036.

Activities:

9th International Conference: "Revisiting the Canon: Inquiries into its Legitimacy

and into the Future", May 18-20, 1999, Minsk. European Humanities University/Minsk

State Linguistics University. Contact tel.: +375 17 2327036. E-mail: asc@ehu.unibel.by

4th Belarusan American Studies Student Conference: "The USA in a Changing

World", May 16-17, 1999, Polotsk State University. Contact tel. and e-mail as above.

HESP Summer School: "The Phenomenon of American Postmodernism",

July 5-26,

1999, Minsk, European Humanities University. For PhD candidates and young faculty

from Eastern and Central Europe. Instructors: Prof. Denisova (Ukraine), Sam Coale, Seth Silberman (USA), Oliver Scheduling (Germany). Contact tel. and e-mail as above.

HESP Summer School: "Distance Learning in Education: History, Economics,

Environmental Health", July 12-August 1, 1999, Minsk, European Humanities

University. For PhD candidates and young faculty from Eastern and Central Europe.

Instructors: Judy Litoff, Joe Ilaqua, Gaytha Langlois, David Lux (USA). Contact tel. and e-mail as above.

Belgium and Luxembourg

Belgium and Luxembourg American Studies Association - BLASA

President: Alain Piette, Ecole d'Interprètes Internationaux de l'Univ. de Mons-Hainaut, 17, Av. du Champ de Mars, B-7000 Mons, Belgium. Tel: 32 65 37 3612 or -3609. Fax : 32 65 37 3054. E-mail: A.Piette.infonie@infonie.be. Tel./Fax Home: 32 2 428 9348.

Vice-President Belgium: Chantal Zabus, U.C.L., Literatures in English, Collège Erasme, Collège Erasme, Place Blaise Pascal, 1, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. Tel.: 32 10 47 4932, (assts) 47 8672. Fax : 32 10 47 2579. E-mail: Zabus@etan.ucl.ac.be. Tel. Home: 32 2 347 2969.

Vice-President Luxembourg: Jean-Jacques Weber, Centre Universitaire, 162, Av. de la Faiencerie, L-1511 Luxembourg. Tel.: 352 46 66 44 216. Fax : 352 46 66 44 217. E-mail: jean-jacques.weber@ci.educ.lu. Tel. Home: 352 450 973.

Secretary: Francine Lercangée, Center for American Studies, Bd. de l'Empereur 4, B-1000 Bruxelles, Belgium. Tel: 32 2 519 5521. Fax: 32 2 519 5522. E-mail: Francine.Lercange@kbr.be.

Treasurer: Vesalius College, Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 Brussels. Tel: 32 2 629 26 86. Fax : 32 2 629 3637. E-mail: wchew@vub.ac.be. Tel. home: 32 2 759 80 95.

Activities:

On May 7-9, 1999 BLASA will organize in Brussels an interdisciplinary conference entitled: "National Stereotypes in Perspective: Americans in France-Frenchmen in America". Seventeen international speakers will address the

formation of 19th and 20th-century French and American stereotypes through film, the press, travel accounts, e.a. For registration information contact Francine Lercangée, Secretary BLASA, Boulevard de l'Empereur, 4, B-1000 Brussels. E-mail: Francine.Lercange@kbr.be. The speaker list and schedule are available from the conference organizer, Prof. William Chew III at E-mail: wchew@vub.ac.be

Czech and Slovak Republic

Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies - CSAA

President: Josef Jařab, Palacký University, Center for Comparative Cultural Studies, Department of English and American Studies, Klířkovského 10, 771 47 Olomouc, Czech Republic. Tel.: 420 68 563 3109. Fax: 420 68 522 2731, 420 68 563 3111. E-mail: jarab@risc.upol.cz

Vice-President: Hana Hudecová, Komenský University, Dept. of English and American Studies, Gondova 2, 818 01 Bratislava, Slovakia. E-mail: hana.hudecova@fphil.uniba.sk OR hudecova@hotmail.com

Secretary: Marcel Arbeit, Palacký University, Center for Comparative Cultural Studies, Department of English and American Studies, Klířkovského 10, 771 47 Olomouc, Czech Republic. Tel.: 420 68 563 3104. Fax: 420 68 5633 111. E-mail: arbeit@risc.upol.cz

Treasurer: Eva Vacca, Palacký University, Department of English and American Studies, Klířkovského 10, 771 47 Olomouc, Czech Republic. Tel.: 420 68 563 3104. Fax: 420 68 563 3111. E-mail: acca@ffnw.upol.cz

The annual American Studies Colloquium in 1999 will be held in the lovely environment of Olomouc, at Palacký University, on August 29 to September 4. The organizers are the Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies, the Department of English and American Studies at Palacký University, the Centre for Comparative Cultural Studies and USIS, the faculty will be international. The topic is "American Transformations: Regional, Social, Cultural". The organizers expect a participation of about 35 university teachers, researchers, language-school teachers, high-school teachers as well as interested graduate students. The colloquium will consist of morning lectures, afternoon workshops and seminars and evening cultural activities. The selection of participants will be done on a competitive basis and those selected will be notified by 25 June 1999.

Applications should be sent to David Livingstone, Palacký University, Department of English and American Studies, Krizkovskeho 10, 771 47 Olomouc, Czech Republic, e-mail: davidl@rupnw.upol.cz with a short CV and a statement of expectations of the colloquium. The deadline for applications is June 4, 1999.

Applicants are advised to address national USIS offices with the request for a financial support. The registration fee is 400 Czech crowns (approximately \$13), the cost of accommodation is 950 crowns (approximately \$32) for a double room per night (including breakfast).

France

French Association for American Studies - FAAS

Président: Liliane Kerjan, Université Rennes 2, 6 avenue Gaston Berger 35 043
Rennes Cedex. Tél: 33 02 99 10 23, Fax: 33 02 99 60 00 09, liliane.kerjan@uhb.fr

Vice Présidents: Antoine CAZE, 16, rue Jules Gouchault, 45 100 ORLEANS.
Tél: 33 02 38 56 16 37, Fax: 33 02 38 49 47 07

Jacques Portes, 85, bd Gallieni, 92 130 Issy Les Moulineaux. Tél: 33 01 47 36 05
38

Secrétaire Général: Vincent Michelot, Université Lumière Lyon II, 86 rue Pasteur,
69 365 Lyon Cedex 07. Tél: 33 04 78 27 81 31, Fax: 33 04 78 69 56 01

Trésorier: Serge Ricard, Tour 10 « La Biscaye », 92 allée granados 13 009
Marseille, Tél: 83 04 91 73 00 85, Fax: 33 04 91 72 69 24, E-mail:
ricard@newup.univ.msr.fr

May 2000 Conference - Aix-en-Provence: America as Image: Call for Papers

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

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

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

Sessions will be organized around the following themes:

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

2. AMERICA AS IMAGE OF THE FUTURE: A HISTORY TO BE WRITTEN. This

theme is linked to the former, but will call for a more ideological perspective. It can be explored from a variety of sources, media, and points of view. Has America been a tool for thinking out the future, how and why? It might thus be possible to define the project of an intellectual, cultural, and political history, which should not be strictly restricted to the European point of view.

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

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

5. THE IMAGE AND TEACHING AMERICA. All the previous themes should

be justified and expanded by a reflection on the role of images in our teaching practices as Americanists. Progress might be made by assessing the state of things and by investigating certain forms and contents of such practices.

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

Germany

German Association for American Studies - GAAS (DGfA)

President: Hans-Jürgen Grabbe, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, D-06099 Halle (Saale), Germany. Tel: 49 345 552 3511. Fax: 49 345 552 7044. E-mail: grabbe@amerikanistik.uni-halle.de

Vice President: Anne Koenen, Universität Leipzig, Institut für Amerikanistik, Augustusplatz 9-11, D-04109 Leipzig, Germany. Tel: 49 341 973 7330. Fax: 49 341 973 7339. E-mail: koenen@rz.uni-leipzig.de

Treasurer: Jörg Helbig, Universität zu Köln, Englisch Seminar, D-50923 Köln, Germany. Tel.: 49 221 470 3034. Fax: 49 221 470 5109. E-mail: jhelbig@uni-koeln.de

Activities 1999:

Special Conferences 1999:

Conference "Iconographies of Power: The Politics and Poetics of Visual Representation", München, 17.-19.6.1999. Organizers: Ulla Haselstein/Berndt Ostendorf/Peter Schneck (all Munich)

Conference of the Political Scientists in the GAAS "Gegenwärtige Entwicklungstendenzen des amerikanischen Regierungssystems" [Contemporary Development in the American Political System], Frankfurt am Main, 12.-13.11.1999. Organizer: Hans-Jürgen Puhle (Frankfurt am Main)

Great Britain

British Association for American Studies - BAAS

Chair: Philip Davies, American Studies, School of Humanities, De Montfort University, Leicester LE1 9BH, United Kingdom. Tel: 44 116 257 7398, Fax: 44 116 257 719, E-mail: pjd@dmu.ac.uk

Secretary: Jenel Virden, American Studies Department, University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RX, United Kingdom. Tel: 44 1482 465638/303, Fax: 44 1482 465303, E-mail: J.Virden@amstuds.hull.ac.uk

Treasurer: Janet Beer, Department of English, Manchester Metropolitan University Geoffrey Marton Building, Rosamond Street West, Manchester M15 6LL, United Kingdom. Tel: 44 161 247 6590, Fax: 44 161 247 6398, E-mail: J.Beer@mmu.ac.uk

Editor of the BAAS Newsletter: Susan Castillo, Department of English Literature, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, United Kingdom. Tel: 44 141 330 6393, Fax: 44 141 330 4601; E-mail: S.Castillo@englit.arts.gla.ac.uk

BAAS Web Page Editor: Dick Ellis, Department of English and Media Studies, Nottingham Trent University, Clifton Lane, Nottingham NG11 8NS, United Kingdom. Tel: 44 115 941 8419, Fax: 44 115 948 6632. Web Page: <http://human.ntu.ac.uk/baas/>

American Studies in Great Britain continues to grow with numerous conferences, symposia and seminars schedule to take place throughout 1999. BAAS continued to support up and coming scholars by awarding seven short term travel awards to post-graduate students doing research into American Studies. The BAAS

newsletter also underwent an official name change to: American Studies in Britain: Newsletter of the British Association of American.

Greece

Hellenic Association for American Studies - HELAAS

President: Savas Patsalides, Department of English, School of Philosophy, Aristotle University, GR-54006 Thessaloniki, Greece. Tel: 30 31 997 461. Fax: 30 31 997 432. E-mail: spats@enl.auth.gr.

Vice President: Anna Kakoullos, Department of English, University of Athens, Univ. Campus Zografou, GR-15784 Athens, Greece. Tel: 30 1 724 7414. Fax: 30 1 724 8979. E-mail: akakoul@atlas.uoa.gr

Secretary: Youli Theodosiadou, Department of English, School of Philosophy, Aristotle University, GR-54006 Thessaloniki, Greece. Tel: 30 31 997 461. Fax: 30 31 997 432. E-mail: theodosi@enl.auth.gr.

Treasurer: Michalis Kokonis, Department of English, School of Philosophy, Aristotle University, GR-54006 Thessaloniki, Greece. Tel.: 30 31 997 461. Fax: 30 31 997 432. E-mail: kokonis@enl.auth.gr.

EAAS delegate:Savas Patsalides. Deputy EAAS delegate: Youli Theodosiadou.

Activities:

The English Department at the University of Athens, in collaboration with HELAAS, organized a poetry seminar in Delphi on December 5 and 6 titled "Gary Snyder: Mountains and Texts in Delphi." The seminar was well attended by many teachers, graduate students, and scholars from a wide range of disciplines. Gary Snyder opened the seminar with a reading of his poetry and a variety of lively lectures followed.

A further symposium was held at the Vafopoulio Center in Thessaloniki on May 7 and 8, 1999. The theme will be "The Aesthetics and Ideology of Melodrama" It is hoped that the proceedings will be published in the series of HELAAS publications.

Calls for Papers: May 25-28, 2000, University of Athens, Athens, Greece
The theme of the conference will be: Culture Agonistes: Text Against Text

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

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

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

Hungary

Hungarian Association for American Studies - HAAS

Co-Chairmen: Tibor Frank, School of English and American Studies, Eötvös Loránd University, Ajtósi Dürer sor 19-21, H-1146, Budapest, Tel: 36 1 343 6041, Fax: 36 1 343 6801, E-mail: frank@osiris.elte.hu; Professor Zoltan Abadi-Nangy, Institute of English and American Studies, Kossuth Lajos University, H-4010 Debrecen, Pf. 73, Tel/Fax: 36 52 431 147; E-mail: IEAS@tigris.klte.hu

Secretary General: Dr Andras Csillag, Associate Professor, Department of English and American Studies, Juhász Gyula Teacher Training College, Hattyas sor 10, H-6725 Szeged, Pf. 396, Tel: 36 62 456 047, Fax: 36 62 443 324

Treasurer: Dr Ilona Kovacs, National Széchényi Library, Budapest, Hungary.

Conference Reports: The Hungarian Association for American Studies (HAAS) held its biennial national conference on November 27-29, 1998 in the historic city of Eger hosted by the Department of American Studies at Károly Eszterházy Teacher Training College of that city. (Chair: Prof. Lehel Vadon.) The conference, entitled "Multicultural Challenge in American Culture", attracted Americanists from a number of institutions in Hungary, most of them giving a lecture or workshop talk in the "traditional" style. The event was accompanied by a spectacular photo exhibition about the United States.

The program was varied and interesting for scholars representing several areas of American Studies, such as literature, history and ethnic studies, where multiculturalism can be a focal issue. The keynote speakers were Zsolt Virágos (Kossuth Univ. of Debrecen) on "Multicultural Dilemmas"; Tibor Frank (Eötvös Univ. of Budapest) on the "Hungarian Image of America"; and Huba Brückner

(Fulbright Commission, Budapest) on “J.W. Fulbright and His Legacy”.

Also included in the program were presentations, among others, by Enikő Bollobás (Budapest) on “Canonicity in Literature OR How Liberal is Our Liberal Arts Education?”; András Tarnóc (Eger) on “Convergence of Parallel Cultures”; Tibor Glant (Debrecen) on “Governor Wilson Meets Multicultural America: The Ethnic Dimensions of the 1912 Presidential Election Campaign”; András Csillag (Szeged) on “Pulitzer and the Hungarian Community of America”; Klára Szabó (Szeged) on “Two Possible Approaches to Multiculturalism in American One-Act Plays”; Tamás Vraukó (Nyiregyháza) on “The Image of Chicanos in American Literature”; Pál Csontos (Debrecen) on “The Ebonics Debate and Its Aftermath; Dimensions of Multicultural Education”.

Another important professional organization in this country, the Hungarian Society for the Study of English (HUSSE) held its own national conference at Eötvös Loránd University’s School of English and American Studies in Budapest on January 28-30, 1999. Although this Society has its main focus on British Studies, one of the sections at the conference was dedicated to U.S. Studies. A fairly large number of presentations were given relating to the following general topics: “History and Political thought”, “Social and Cultural Correspondence”, “Revisions of US. literature” “African-American Literature and Music”, “Post-World War II. Fiction”.

Ireland

Irish Association for American Studies - IAAS

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

Secretary: Tony Emmerson, International Office, University of Ulster, Shore Road, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim, BT37 0QB, Northern Ireland

Treasurer: Jean Nee, Dept of Sociology, University of Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland.

EAAS Representative: Stephen Matterson, Dept of English, Trinity College, University of Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel: 353 1 608 1879, Fax: 353 1 671 7114, E-mail: smttrson@tcd.ie

Italy

Italian Association for North American Studies - AISNA

President: Tiziano Bonazzi, Dipartimento di Politica, Istituzioni, Storia, University

of Bologna, Strada Maggiore 45, 40125, Bologna, Italia. Tel: 39 51 6402515; Fax: 39 51 239548; Email: Bonazzit@spbo.unibo.it

Secretary: Raffaella Baritono, Dipartimento di Politica, Istituzioni, Storia, University of Bologna, Strada Maggiore 45, Bologna, Italia. Tel: 39 51 6402546; Fax: 39 51 239548; Email: Baritono@spbo.unibo.it

Treasurer: Gigliola Nocera, Facoltà di Lettere, University of Catania. Home address: Via Zappalà 8, 96100 Siracusa, Italia. Tel.-Fax: 39 931 411592; Email: nocerasr@tin.it

Members:

Gianfranca Balestra. Univ. Siena (Tel. 577-298535; Fax: 577-298546); E-mail: balestra@unisi.it

Clara Bartocci, Univ. Perugia (Tel. 75-5736796); E-mail: cbartox@unipg.it

Biancamaria Pisapia, Univ. Rome "La Sapienza" (Tel. 6-49917298; Fax: 6-44249216); E-mail: pisapia@uniroma1.it

Ugo Rubeo, Univ. Rome "La Sapienza" (Tel. 6-49917298; Fax 6-44249216); E-mail: rubeo@uniroma1.it

Activities:

The AISNA Biennial Conference will take place in Siracusa (Sicily), November 4-7, 1999. "America Today: Highways and Labyrinths". Workshops titles are to be found in the AISNA Newsletter. For information: contact AISNA Treasurer and Conference Organizer Gigliola Nocera, Via Zappalà 8, Siracusa, Italia, 96100. Fax. Italy 0931-442976. E-mail: nocerasr@tin.it

Publications:

RSA Journal 8/9 (1997-1998) appeared November 1998. Articles on Plantation life, Faulkner, Claude McKay, and six unpublished poems by Margaret Atwood.

Address enquiries to Editor, Rosella Mamoli Zorzi (U. of Venice)

Other publications from Italy:

Intertextual Identity: Reflections on Jewish-American Artists. Ed. by Franco La Polla and Gabriella Morisco.

Bologna: Patron, 1997. pp. 193. (Biblioteca del Dipartimento di Lingue e Letterature Straniere Moderne dell'Universita' di Bologna, 21.)

Contents:

Mario Materassi, "Feeling uniformly Jewish: an interview with Gordon Lish"; Guido Fink, "Shylock and his daughter: an anti-Semitic archetype in Jewish-American literature"; Joel Salzberg, "The 'Loathly landlady', Chagallian unions and Malamudian parody: 'The girl of my dreams' revisited"; Alessandra Calanchi, "Uncomfortable connections: zipping/unzipping identity"; Geoffrey Green,

"Metamorphosing Kafka: the example of Philip Roth"; Gabriella Morisco, "Stanley Elkin and the sense of the past-iche"; Gigliola Nocera, "Cynthia Ozick and The pagan Rabbi"; Alessandra Contenti, "Mike Gold, William Bleach, Judah Waten: an Australian connection"; Massimo Bacigalupo, "No Jerusalem but this: Reznikoff to Menashe"; Maria Vittoria D'Amico, "The history of Jerzy Kosinsky's last novel: an intertextual road back to Jewishness"; Daniela Daniele, "'I cannot keep my mind on Jerusalem': Grace Paley's poetics of hearing"; Franco. Minganti, "Music of John Zorn and Don Byron: intimations on radical new Jewish culture: an agenda".

Netherlands

Netherlands American Studies Association - NASA

President: Hans Bak, Vakgroep Engels/American Studies, KU Nijmegen, Erasmusplein 1, 6525 HT Nijmegen. Tel: 0031 24 3612782. Fax: 0031 24 3615939. Email: h.bak@let.kun.nl

Secretary: Jaap Verheul, Vakgroep Geschiedenis, Utrecht University, Kromme Nieuwegracht 66, 3512 HL Utrecht. Tel: 0031 30 2536034. Fax: 0031 30 2536391. Email: jaap.verheul@let.ruu.nl

Treasurer: Gene Moore, Vakgroep Engels, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Spuistraat 210, 1012 VT Amsterdam. Fax: 0031 20 5253052. Email: g.moore@let.uva.nl

Activities: Between June 2-4, 1999 the NASA will hold its 22nd annual meeting on "The American Metropolis: Image and Inspiration" at the Roosevelt Study

Center in Middelburg. The program contains the following subthemes: Perils and

Problems of the City; Still Images of the Metropolis; City Music; Moving Images; Cityscape; Religion and Education in the Metropolis; Metropolitan Words. For information about registration (\$45, including lunches, refreshments),

the program, and accommodation, please contact the RSC. Postbus 6001, 4330 LA Middelburg, the Netherlands, tel. (0)118-631590/fax 631593, email: secr@rsc.knaw.nl.

"Regulating morality: A comparison of the role of the state in mastering the mores in the Netherlands and the United States." Between 23-24 September 1999 the Roosevelt Study Center will host a conference comparing the efforts of the state to control moral behavior in two countries by exploring the historical developments in regulating morality and the contemporary efforts to implement moral policies. The conference starts with an overview of recent moral developments in the

Netherlands compared to the situation in the Western World, and especially in the USA, followed by a comparison of the cultural climate in the Netherlands and the United States. The importance of the presence of strong national myth will be tested by comparing the histories of prostitution and abortion policies in both countries, the course and contents of family law (divorce, adoption, homo marriage), and the jurisprudence and legislation with respect to euthanasia in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These cases should reveal the strategies, successes, and (unintended) consequences of state regulation and evaluate the guidance of a national myth and elite leadership in shaping morality. The conference will be concluded by a discussion of the importance of a national myth in the changes of morality. The speakers represent different disciplines from both countries and include A.A.M van Agt (former Dutch Prime Minister and EU-Ambassador in Washington and Tokyo).

For information and registration contact the Roosevelt Study Center, Postbus 6001, 4330 LA Middelburg, tel. (0)118-631590/fax 631593, email: secr@rsc.knaw.nl. Participants pay Dfl 50,00. Included are lunch, coffee/tea refreshments, and summaries will be distributed in advance.

NASA 1999 Conference, The American Metropolis: Image and Inspiration

On June 2-4, 1999 the Netherlands American Studies Association will hold its 22nd annual meeting on "The American Metropolis: Image and Inspiration" at the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, the Netherlands. The program contains the following subthemes: Perils and Problems of the City; Still Images of the Metropolis; City Music; Moving Images; Cityscape; Religion and Education in the Metropolis; Metropolitan Words; the City as a Way of Life..

For information about registration (\$45, including lunches, refreshments), the program, and accommodation, please contact the RSC. Postbus 6001, 4330 LA Middelburg, the Netherlands, tel. 0 118-631590/fax 631593, email: secr@rsc.knaw.nl. The program can be consulted at the RSC webpages: www.knaw.nl/rscuk00.htm

Over the past two decades, the rediscovery of the city by scholars in history, social sciences, film-and tv studies, musicology, art history and cultural and literary studies has generated a wealth of information about the American metropolis and its representation. These research efforts offer ample opportunities for an interdisciplinary and comparative approach.

The 1999 NASA conference will serve as a platform for presenting the latest approaches and research results in this field. In order to narrow down the proposals to manageable proportions and to encourage a regional spread, the proposals should focus on New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Atlanta, and Miami in the twentieth century (although interesting proposals on other urban experiences will also be

considered). Interdisciplinary approaches and comparisons with European cities are encouraged.

Those who are interested in making a contribution to this conference are invited to submit a one-page paper proposal on one of the following subthemes:

Recent Developments in Urban Studies: The city as an academic research topic;

- The Models: American cities as inspiration for European cities and vice versa;
- The Image of the City: (Audio) visual representations;

The City in Words: literary representations;

- Sounds and Rhythms of the City: urban musical forms and references;

Perils and Problems of American Cities: big city politics and policies;

- The Cityscape: parks, architecture, city planning and zoning, changing patterns of industrialization and gentrification;

A Mini Salad Bowl? The big city as a microcosmos of national ethnic interactions;

- Seductions of City Life: tourism, entertainment, alternative and countercultural lifestyles, clothing styles, and socialization centers;

Goods from the City: City life as a source of inspiration for material culture (such as clothes, postcards, souvenirs, transport);

- The Power of the Cities: The role and importance of cities in national political culture.

Paper presenters are expected to cover their own travel and hotel expenses. The conference is organized by Marja Roholl, Hans Krabbendam, and Tity de Vries. A selection of papers will be published in the series European Contributions to American Studies (VU University Press, Amsterdam). Those interested in submitting a proposal (1 page) for a presentation (20-30 minutes) are invited to write before December 1, 1998, to: dr. Tity de Vries, Department of History, University of Groningen Postbus 716, 9700 AS Groningen, The Netherlands. Fax: 31 50 3637253, Tel: 31 50 3636010, E-mail: t.de.vries@let.rug.nl

Poland

Polish Association for American Studies - PAAS

President: Jerzy Durczak, Department of American Literature and Culuture, Maria Curie-Sklodowska University, Pl. M. Curie-Sklodowska 4, PL-20-031 Lublin, Poland. Tel: 48 81 5375 389. Fax: 48 81 5357 279. E-mail: durczak@klio.umcs.lublin.pl.

Vice-President: Agata Preis-Smith, Institute of English Studies, University of Warsaw, Nowy Swiat 4, PL-00-497 Warszawa, Poland. Tel: 48 22 6252 862. Fax: 48 22 6252 931.

Secretary: Irmina Wawrzyczek, Department of English, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Pl. M. Curie-Skłodowska 4, PL-20-031 Lublin, Poland. Tel: 48 81 5375 389. Fax: 48 81 5357 279. E-mail: irmina@klio.umcs.lublin.pl.

Treasurer: Dr. Tomas Basiuk, Institute of English Studies, University of Warsaw, Nowy Swiat 4, PL-00-497 Warszawa, Poland. Tel: 48 22 6252 862. Fax: 48 22 6252 931.

EAAS Board Member: English Department, Maria Curie-Skłodowska, University Pl. M. Curie Skłodowskiej 4, PL-20031 Lublin, Poland. Tel. 48 81 5375 389. Fax: 48 81 5375 279. E-mail: kutnikjr@klio.umcs.lublin.pl.

Activities:

1. The 1998 PAAS Conference on "Ethical Values in Post(?)modern American Societies and Cultures" was held on October 21-24 1998 in Ustron, a holiday resort in the Beskidy mountains. It was organized by the Department of American Literature and Culture of the University of Silesia and subsidized by the Polish Research Funding Council, the United States Embassy in Warsaw, and Stalexport S.A. in Katowice. About 80 scholars from 6 countries (Poland, the USA, Germany, Hungary, Turkey, and Japan) attended the conference. The plenary session was opened by two distinguished keynote speakers: Prof. Samuel Coale of Wheaton College, Norton, Mass., and Ms Kate Delaney, the Cultural Attache of the US Embassy in Warsaw. Altogether 41 papers were read and discussed in two sections. They concerned various aspects of contemporary American fiction, poetry and drama, the new ways of looking at historical, cultural, and political phenomena, as well as the perspectives in which contemporary America is perceived at home and abroad. Informal discussions were continued until small hours.

2. The theme of the 1999 PAAS Conference is "Apocalypse Now: Prophecy And Fulfilment". It will be held in Lodz, December 9-11, 1999. For details, see "Announcements" in this issue.

Apocalypse now. prophecy and fulfilment

Polish association for American studies 1999 conference Lodz, December 9-11, 1999

Call for Papers: The theme of the 1999 annual convention of Polish Americanists will, from the perspective of the millenium's end, provide opportunity for investigating the fascination of the American culture with both promise and punishment.

We invite papers exploring continuities and fluctuations of the sense of America's special destiny, its spiritual and civilizational mission, its concerns with catastrophic upheavals and self-destructive urges. To what extent have such

dilemmas been characteristic of the American cultural consciousness? How do they manifest themselves in politics, social sciences, literature, the media, or the visual arts? Are, for example, the current preoccupations with cultural hybridity and the intensified questioning of the role of English as the national language to be perceived as opening vistas for millennial fulfillment or as harbingers of annihilation to national identity and social cohesion?

The field of investigation is very broad. We hope it will accommodate established approaches as well as emerging interests in the phenomena of popular culture, in popular literary genres (e.g. science fiction), the new media, religion, or ecology where apocalyptic visions seem to grow more intense as the end of the century becomes imminent. Please, send proposals of 20-30 minute presentations by September 1, 1999 to: Zbigniew Maszewski, Department of American Literature and Culture University of Lodz, Al. Kosciuszki 65, 90-514 Lodz, Poland, Fax: 48 81 636 6337, E-mail: jagamasz@krysia.uni.lodz.pl

Portugal

Portuguese Association For Anglo-American Studies - APEAA

President: Maria Helena Paiva Correia, Faculdade de Letras, Universidade de Lisboa, Alameda da Universidade, P-1699 Lisboa Codex. Tel: 351 1 7965162, Fax: 351 1 7960063, E-mail: L41188@alfa.ist.utl.pt

Secretary: Teresa Cid, Faculdade de Letras, Universidade de Lisboa, Alameda da Universidade, P-1699 Lisboa Codex. Tel: 351 1 7965162, Fax: 351 1 7960063, E-mail: terescid@fc.ul.pt

Treasurer: Adelaide Meira Serras, Faculdade de Letras, Universidade de Lisboa, Alameda da Universidade, P-1699, Lisboa Codex. Tel: 351 1 7965162, Fax: 351 1 7960063. E-mail: L41188@alfa.ist.utl.pt

Members of the Board: Luisa Leal de Faria, Maria Isabel Casanova, Mário Raposo, Maria Luísa Falcão, Faculdade de Letras, Universidade de Lisboa, Alameda da Universidade, P-1699 Lisboa Codex. Tel: 351 1 7965162, Fax: 351 1 7960063, E-mail: L41188@alfa.ist.utl.pt

Scandinavia

Nordic Association for American Studies - NAAS

President: Clara Juncker, Center for American Studies, Odense University, Campusvej 55, DK-5230 Odense M, Denmark. Tel: 45 661 58600, ext. 3405 or 3101. Fax: 45 659 30490. E-mail: juncker@litcult.ou.dk

Vice-President: Pirjo Ahokas, Department of Art Studies, University of Turku, SF-20500 Turku, Finland. Fax: 358 21 633 6560. E-mail: piraho@utu.fi

Secretary: Dag Blanck, Center for Multiethnic Research, Uppsala University, Box 514, S-75120 Uppsala, Sweden. Fax: 46 1 818 2363. E-mail: ag.blanck@multietn.uu.se

Board member for Norway: Robert Baehr, Adger College, Solberggaten 4, N-4890 Grimstad, Norway. Fax: 47 38 141051. E-mail: robert.baehr@hia.no

Board member for Denmark: Katrine Dalsgaard, Roskilde University Center, Box 260, DK-4000 Roskilde, Denmark. Tel: 45 4674-2581. E-mail: katrined@ruc.dk

Board member for Iceland: Martin Regal, Department of English, University of Iceland, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland. Fax: 354 525 4410. E-mail: regal@rhi.hi.is

Editors for American Studies in Scandinavia: David Nye and Carl Pedersen, Center for American Studies, Odense University, Campusvej 55, DK-5230 Odense M, Denmark. Tel: 45 661 58600, ext. 3405 or 3101. Fax: 45 659 30490.

Activities: Center for American Studies, Odense University, Denmark, arranged its annual Black History Month seminar on Feb. 12, 1999. Speakers included Maria Diedrich, University of Münster, Germany; Patrick Miller, Northeastern Illinois University, and Prof. Harvard Sitkoff, University of New Hampshire.

The American Studies Center at Aarhus University, Denmark, lists its activities for spring 1999 at <http://www.hum.aau.dk/dk/engelsk/asca/Activity.htm>

ASANOR conference 1999: The annual national ASANOR conference will take place at the University of Oslo at Blindern, Sept. 17-19, 1999, hosted by the Dept. of British and American Studies. The theme of the conference is "Across Borders." This will be a nonresidential conference, and the participants are expected to pay for their own travel and accommodations, plus a moderate conference fee. Package deals for hotel accommodation will be available, and lunch and dinner will be provided. There will be plenary lectures and "works in progress" presentations. Proposals for both categories are welcomed. For further information, contact Ole O. Moen, Vice-President, at: Ole O. Moen, IBA, U. of Oslo, P.O.Box 1003 Blindern, N0315 Oslo, Norway. E-mail: o.o.moen@iba.uio.no; tel: 47 22 85 69 72; fax: 47 22 85 68 04.

The Swedish Association for American Studies (SAAS) was formed in 1996.

It held its first conference on March 5-6 1999 at Växjö University, Sweden. Some thirty papers were presented on a variety of American studies topics. This was the first comprehensive American Studies conference for Swedish scholars for many years, and represented a significant step forward for American

Studies in Sweden.

For information on the forthcoming biennial NAAS conference, to be held in Turku, Finland, in August 1999, please contact piraho@utu.fi or consult the fall 1998 issue of the EAAS Newsletter.

Spain

Spanish Association for English and American Studies - AEDEAN

President: Fernando Galván-Reula, Dept. de Filología Moderna, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Universidad de Alcalá, Edif. Caracciolos, C/ Trinidad, 3, E-28801 Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, Spain. Tel. 34 91 885 44 73. Fax: 34 91 885 44 45. E-mail: fernando.galvan@cytrus.alcala.es

Secretary: Javier Pérez Guerra, Dept. de Filología Inglesa, Francesa y Alemana, Facultad de Humanidades, Universidad de Vigo, Apdo. 874, E-36200 Vigo, Spain. Tel. 34 986 81 23 50. Fax: 34 986 81 23 80. E-mail: jperez@uvigo.es. Homepage: <http://www.uvigo.es/webs/h04/jperez>.

Treasurer: Pedro Santana-Martinez, Dept. de Filologías Modernas, Universidad de La Rioja, C/ Cigüeña, 60, E-26004 Logroño, Spain. Tel. 34 941 29 94 21. Fax: 34 941 29 94 19. E-mail: pedro.santana@dfm.unirioja.es

Officers:

María Aída Díaz Bild, Dept. de Filología Moderna, Universidad de La Laguna, Campus de Guajara, E-38071 La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain. Tel. 34 922 31 76 18. Fax: 34 922 31 76 11.

Ricardo Mairal, Dept. de Filologías Extranjeras, Universidad a Distancia, Senda del Rey, s/n, Ciudad Universitaria, E-28040 Madrid, Spain. Tel. 34 91 398 68 19. Fax: 34 91 398 68 30. E-mail: rmairal@sr.uned.es

AEDEAN's Web Page: <http://www.uned.es/aedean>

AEDEAN electronic list via Internet: aedean@uvigo.es

Activities 1999: - The 23rd Annual Conference of AEDEAN will take place in December 16-18 1999 at the Universidad de León. One section of the Conference is focused on US Studies, with a variety of papers and round-tables dealing with literary and historical topics, as well as other sections on Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies, Feminist and Gender Studies, Film Studies, Literary Theory and Censorship (Conference details: visit AEDEAN Web).

- 'I Congreso Internacional de Cultura, Racismo y Discriminación': Universidade de Vigo (9-12 Mar 1999); <http://www.stopdiscrimination.net> (contact: Dr Matilde Mansilla).

- Symposium 'The Myth of the American Adam': Universidad de Salamanca

(11-13 Mar 1999); mediaz@gugu.usal.es.

- 'Chicas buenas, chicas malas; mitos e imágenes de lo femenino en el siglo XX': Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (1-12 May 1999); fax: 34 913974359 (contact: Dr Eulalia Piñero).

- "And He Only Had the Words of a Song": Myth and Ritual in African American and Native American Literatures International Symposium: Universidad de Huelva (6-7 May 1999); mar@uhu.es (contact: Mar gallego, Laura P. Alonso Gallo).

- 'Literature and Ethnicity in the Cultural Borderlands': Univ. Castilla La Mancha, Ciudad Real (Nov 1999): jbenito@fimo-cr.uclm.es.

Switzerland

Swiss Association for North-American Studies - SANAS

Web address: <http://www-sagw.unine.ch/members/SANAS>

President: Fritz Gysin, Friedheimweg 53, 3007 Bern. Tel: 41 31 371 3376, Fax: 41 31 631 3636, E-mail: fritz.gysin@ens.unibe.ch

Secretary: Otto Heim, In der Mühlematt 6, 4450 Sissach. Tel/Fax: 41 61 971 8806, E-mail: heimo@ubaclu.unibas.ch

Treasurer: Ernst Rudin, Neuweg 16, 4450 Sissach. Tel: 41 61 971 4090, E-mail: ernstbeat.rudin@unifr.ch

Members of the Board:

John G. Blair, 8, ch. Adrien-Jeandin, 1226 Thônex. Tel: 41 22 349 1101, Fax: 41 22 320 0497, E-mail: blair@uni2a.unige.ch.

Martin Heusser, Alte Landstr. 297, 8708 Männedorf. Tel: 41 1 920 2928, Fax: 41 1 920 5804, E-mail: heusser@es.unizh.ch.

Hartwig Isernhagen, Herbergsgasse 4, 4051 Basel. Tel: 41 61 267 2790, Fax: 41 61 267 2780, E-mail: isernhagen@ubaclu.unibas.ch

Peter Halter, ch. de Chissiez, 1006 Lausanne. Tel: 41 21 728 3423, Fax: 41 21 692 2935, E-mail: phalter@ulyss.unil.ch

Auditors: Werner Brönnimann, Seminarstr. 71, 4132 Muttenz. Tel: 41 61 461 0586, Fax: 41 71 224 2669, E-mail: werner.brönnimann@kwa.unisg.ch

Roger Forclaz, Weissenbühlweg 3, 3007 Bern. Tel: 41 31 372 1983, Fax: 41 31 322 7854.

Activities: On December 11-12, 1998, the SANAS biennial conference brought together members and guests in Bern for two days of lively debate about "Apocalypse in America." Donald Pease and Andrew Ross delivered inspiring keynote lectures, and papers addressed the conference topic in contexts as diverse as evolutionary theory, modernist poetry, academic journalism, the visual arts, and the

postmodern novel. The same spirit of debate also distinguished the graduate forum in which four doctoral students presented their research to the conference participants.

Turkey

American Studies Association of Turkey

President: Gülriz Büken, Bilkent University, Faculty of Humanities and Letters,

Department of History, Bilkent-Ankara, Turkey. Tel: 90-312 290 2341.
E-mail: buken@bilkent.edu.tr

Vice-President: Gonül Pultar, Bilkent University, Faculty of Humanities and Letters, Center for Turkish Literature, Bilkent-Ankara, Turkey. Tel: 90-312 290 20-44; E-mail: gonul@bilkent.edu.tr

Vice-President: Dr. Atilla Silku, Ege University, Faculty of Letters, Department of American Culture and Literature, Izmir, Turkey. Tel: 90-232 388 0110; E-mail: Asilku@edebiyat.ege.edu.tr

Secretary: Dr. Baris Gumusbas, Hacettepe University, Faculty of Letters, Department of American Culture and Literature, Beytepe-Ankara, Turkey. Tel: 90-312 297 8500; E-mail: gumusbas@eti.cc.hun.edu.tr

Treasurer: Dr. Ayca Germen, Hacettepe University, Faculty of Letters, Department of American Culture and Literature, Beytepe-Ankara, Turkey. Tel: 90 312 297 8500

Activities 1998 and 1999: The 23rd Annual American Studies Seminar, co-sponsored by USIS and ASAT was held last November 4-7 1998 in Mersin. The topic of the conference was "American Visions: America's Vision of Herself, America's Vision of the World, The World's Vision of America." The keynote speaker Robert A. Gross of the College of William and Mary delivered an excellent opening address in which he approached the issue of trans-nationalism and changing visions of America in the age of ever shifting cultural borders. With the attendance of about a hundred Turkish scholars and some distinguished scholars from abroad as well, the program included speakers and topics such as: Dr. Robert J. Allison (Suffolk University) "Americans View Themselves through a Muslim Prism," Dr. Himmet Umunc (Hacettepe University) "In the Land of Sunrise: Turkey and the Turks Through American Eyes in the 19th Century," Dr. Valerie Kennedy (Bilkent University) "Edward Said and America's Role in the Middle East: A Critical Vision," Dr. James Deutsch (Veliko Turnovo University) "Hollywood's Double Vision: Subversive Subtexts in Contemporary Science Fiction," Dr. Meldan Tanrisal (Hacettepe University) "Borrowed Visions: Native

Americans' and White Americans' Use of Each Others' Visions," Dr. David Cowart (University of South Carolina) "The Luddite Vision: Pynchon's *Mason and Dixon*."

The earliest upcoming event is a 1999 Cultural Studies Seminar, co-sponsored by The British Council, Ege University, and ASAT, which was held in May 12-14, Izmir. This year's topic is "Dialogue and Difference."

Israel

Israel Association of American Studies (Associate member of EAAS)

President: Professor Emily Budick, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Fax: 972 2 322545, E-mail: budicke@hum.huji.ac.il

Secretary: Dr Hanita Goodblatt, Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

Treasurer: Dr Sharon Baris, Bar-Ilan University.

Reviews

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

Editor's note: As a result of technical problems the following sentences were omitted from the review by Orm Overland of David C. Mauk's The Colony That Rose From the Sea.

Perhaps more attention could have been paid to the role of the few immigrant institutions in the early years, in particular the Methodist and Lutheran congregations, the first organized with help from the American Methodist church and the other a part of the immigrant Midwest-based "Norwegian Synod." But Mauk does not seem to have located archives for such sources. On the other hand, his sources have made it possible for him to give a detailed account of the Norwegian Seamen's Mission in Brooklyn and its many conflicts with the growing community.

The book's accomplishments are many. One weakness is the virtual absence of comparisons with other immigrant communities. The account of the differences and conflicts between the several Lutheran congregations and groupings may, for instance, have benefitted from comparison with the situation in the Midwest. The otherwise fine book is marred by unnecessary repetition. For instance, the concluding chapter largely repeats points made earlier. Instead, Mauk could have suggested some of the twentieth century developments of the Brooklyn colony. In effect, his account ends with the 1890.

Jan Nordby Gretlund, Frames of Southern Mind. Reflections on the Stoic, Bi-racial and Existential South (Odense, Denmark: Odense University Press, 1998). Pp.278, Index 279-286. ISBN 87-7838-397-8

The South as the best place, or the contemporary “modernized” South? The South which preserves old stoic values, or the South participating fully in the vast sameness of the nation? Jan Gretlund maintains that “there is a continuity rather than a discontinuity in the treatment of ethics, prejudice, and existence in Southern literature. Gretlund, by offering this kind of interpretation, answers the vexata quaestio of Southern distinctiveness still discussed today, when the cultural values of the past seem to be vanishing into the shadow of the so called “growth ethics”.

If we use Michael O’Brien’s argument that to understand the South one faces “a choice between seeing the South itself as an idea used to organize or comprehend disparate facts of social reality, or viewing the South as a solid and integrated social reality about which there have been disparate ideas”, we may say that Gretlund has moved insightfully, in the seventeen chapters of his book, between the two terms of the dichotomy dissecting at times the idea of Southern stoicism and existentialism, and at times getting into the tangible (sometimes tragic) reality of facts and human beings, and of their sufferings and thoughts. Consequently Gretlund sees history and fiction so often intertwined that it becomes hard to trace a boundary between them: fiction as a “recreation” of the past, and history as a “construct” written and re-written through times. With this perspective in mind Gretlund has been able to write literary criticism while putting in historical context the fiction writers he chooses to analyze. The reader of this lively (and sometimes provocative) book shares with Gretlund the vividness of his memories, both in his interviews (with Martin Luther King, Sr.), or in his correspondence (with Walker Percy). The reader also feels the silence of the south, “the silence of isolation and existentialist concerns” (p.163) which permeate contemporary Southern literature, but also another kind of silence, which seems to ignore the voice of the racial past, as Gretlund maintains (p.148). Gretlund, in my opinion, is at his best when he interprets manuscript unpublished notes of some of his favourite writers. Such being the case with A.K. Porter “The man in the Tree”, where the hot topics of violence against African-Americans and of the paradoxical “mutual victimization” put to the fore the still profound ambiguities of race relations in the South.

To conclude, I think that the book, besides discussing in depth basic issues of Southern contemporary Literature, also traces Gretlund’s own intellectual and professional itinerary, a journey of the mind to understand “the frames of Southern mind”, from his first graduate work at Charlottesville (1973), his Fulbright and ACLS fellowships, to his teaching and lecturing, and to his active contribution to the European Southern Studies Forum, of which he is a co-founder.

This journey allows the author to believe that “to apprehend the South, and be

nourished and sustained by it imaginatively, it is not enough to be able to see it, and certainly not to be able to see beyond the region. In order to gain the necessary perspective and vision, a journey of self-discovery is required” (p.154).

Valeria Gennaro Lerda

University of Genoa

Michel Delville, The American Prose Poem: Poetic Form and the Boundaries of Genre (University Press of Florida, 1998. Pp. xvi + 291). ISBN 0-8130-1591.X

The phrase ‘prose poem’ is itself a contradiction in terms, of course, and it inevitably raises complex questions about genre and definition. Delville deals with these in his introduction where he states his intention not to seek to establish a theoretical category for this writing. Instead he takes an historical approach to the form focusing, not on what he might want to define as prose poetry, but on what has been marketed and consumed in these terms.

After a long prologue discussing the significance of Joyce in the development of the form, he goes on to address the emergence of the prose poem in America. He breaks this into three parts. Part One deals with the writing of Gertrude Stein, together with the work of two writers who attract less critical attention: Sherwood Anderson and Kenneth Patchen. According to Delville there was something of a dearth of prose poetry in the forties and fifties and it was not until the sixties that the form was rediscovered by poets as diverse as Robert Bly and Russell Edson. Though Bly’s ‘Deep Image’ aesthetics are at odds with the fabulist trend championed by Edson, both are deemed pioneering figures in “the American prose poem revival” discussed in Part Two. Part Three - for me the most engaging section of the book - deals with the Language poetry movement and, particularly, the work of Ron Silliman. Here Delville considers the aesthetic and political implications of the Language poets’ rejection of liberal humanist assumptions.

This is one of the few works to address English language prose poetry. Though obviously not exhaustive, the scope of the book is broad. It displays an agreeable readiness to discuss writers who are too often ignored and it takes an equally agreeable, non-prescriptive approach to this significant form.

Paul McDonald

University of Wolverhampton

George T. Kurian, ed. A Historical Guide to the U.S. Government. (New York; Oxford, 1998). Pp.741. ISBN 0-19-510230-4

Based on the premise that: ‘A history of U.S. government is part of the history of the American people,’ *A Historical Guide to the U.S. Government* will doubtless be of great assistance to all those interested in the ways in which the growth, evolution and often demise of federal departments, agencies and bureaus have been influenced by the social, cultural, intellectual and economic ideas and

movements that have shaped US history as a whole.

The *Guide* is arranged alphabetically by entry-term, and most of the signed, essay-style entries are written by historians, political scientists or federal employees. A significant proportion of the entries are upwards of ten pages long, and most conclude with a selected bibliography of approximately ten to twelve sources, as well as 'see also' references where necessary. Overall the entry-terms themselves are obvious and straightforward, however, ones such as 'Advising the President' can seem a little awkward. However, the excellent index makes up for any shortfall in this area, and enables one quickly and easily to locate the appropriate information. Finally, an appendix consisting of many of the most important documents of public administration is included at the end.

Not surprisingly, the vast majority of information in the *Guide* concerns the evolution and activities of the federal government in the twentieth century. Indeed, George Washington ran the affairs of state with only four assistants, and, due to peculiarly American circumstances--the open frontier, the strength of private enterprise, fear of big government, among others--the establishment of government structures in the nineteenth century was relatively slow. However, the Great Depression brought the federal government into American public life in an unprecedented way and today, despite the backlash of the Reagan years, it employs nearly three million civilians and is one of the largest public institutions in the world. The story of this incredible expansion is well-documented by this useful, illuminating work.

Jean Kemble

The Eccles Centre, The British Library

Jefferson Humphries and John Lowe eds., The Future of Southern Letters (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996). Pp. x+198. ISBN 0-19-509782-3.

In his introduction, John Lowe states that 'the future of southern letters won't lie entirely in the hands of white male southerners'. Not only does Lowe's interview with Brenda Marie Obsey confirm this, but many of the thirteen other contributors to The Future of Southern Letters also assert the importance of black, female and regional perspectives to 'the new canon' of Southern literature. More problematically, however, this volume attempts to fit its multicultural eclecticism into familiar, foundational notions of 'Southernness'. It is entirely valid to emphasise that neither the tragic burden of history nor the 'sense of place' has been entirely effaced from the South during 'the modernist and postmodernist zeitgeists'. However, it is questionable whether literary and cultural tradition really 'dictates the future' of Southern letters to the extent that Lowe and many of the contributors suggest.

James Olney's essay deals with those whippersnappers Richard Wright and Eudora Welty, while James Applewhite seems loathe to let go of a model of 'southern

writing' premised upon Faulknerian white male genealogies. Applewhite's fellow poets Kate Daniels and Dave Smith uphold 'place' and 'home' by contrasting this established 'Southern' sensibility with the supposed disorder of postmodernist poetry. Yet Applewhite, Daniels and Smith all admit the alarming disparity between the contemporary social reality of the (dread phrase) 'New New South; and the traditional, often anachronistic representation of 'the South' in current writing. Having employed critical theory to explicate how 'Southernness' was constructed through narrative discourse, even Jefferson Humphries subsequently dismisses the possibility that there might be a 'postsouthern' letters completely dissociated from Robert E Lee, Scarlett O'Hara and the other usual suspects.

Rodger Cunningham's excellent essay on Appalachian alterity indirectly exposes the extent to which, despite Humphries' deconstruction and Lowe's introductory allusions to Derrida and Bakhtin, much of this volume evinces the characteristic Southern literary critical aversion to theory. Complemented by innovative essays from Fred Chappell and Jim Wayne Miller, Cunningham's attention to Appalachia is arguably the most important aspect of an erratic collection.

Martyn Bone

University of Nottingham

A. Robert Lee, Designs of Blackness, Mappings in the Literature and Culture of Afro-America, London : Pluto Press, 1998, 259p.

Despite the title, this compact survey by Robert Lee deals almost exclusively - and quite extensively - with the literature of Afro-America. This erudite compilation sets out to cover no less than the whole of what could be termed the Afro-American literary canon, starting with the early slave narratives and working its way, through ten chapters involving the literature of Harlem, drama, poetry, "womanist literature", to the latest postmodern novelists, with a closing paragraph on Charles Johnson's Ox herding Tale (curiously, though, Charles Johnson does not appear in the index). Although Lee has sought to "move away from linearity" and provide "a series of culture studies maps, soundings, configurations", the reader is offered a reading mostly structured along genre, gender, and chronology rather than along a conceptual inquiry. As far as the critical angle is concerned, Lee steers clear of "prescriptive" approaches of the type advocated by the Black Aesthetic school but does not offer much in terms of an alternative. The most striking feature in this book is the wealth of material covered. No fewer than 70 writers are mentioned, as the author makes a special effort not to leave anybody out. The pages are packed with references which follow one another in such rapid fire order that, despite Lee's ability to encapsulate the spirit of any one specific novel within a single sentence, many writers and novels get little more than a few cursory remarks that do not provide much critical insight into the works considered. The book actually often reads like an annotated bibliography. Of course Lee had to make choices and some of these choices could be questioned: why, for instance, should Leon Forrest, one of Lee's favorites, get a full ten pages while John E. Wideman only gets three sketchy

paragraphs and Ernest Gaines is only granted a skimpy couple of lines? Then, of course, there's always the question of where you draw the line between those who get in and those who don't. Cecil Brown does not. Nor does Iceberg Slim, nor Gil Scott-Heron (as a novelist). Most authors will get one or two pages and most pages get many authors: p.47, for one, mentions no fewer than 21 titles. The book's last chapter on Black Americans' fictions of passing" is particularly interesting in its focus on early fictional deconstructions (e.g. William Wells Brown's *Clothel*) of the "fiction" of race as masking and doubling. But as a general rule Lee's study finds it difficult to move beyond the level of generality, calling attention to the amazing "variety" displayed by Afro-American literature. As a reflection of this variety, and as a reference work, the book serves its purpose. To those acquainted with Afro-American literature, however, opening the book will often feel like walking into a very crowded party where you get to bump into hundreds of guests but hardly get a chance to really get to know anyone.

Yves-Charles Grandjeat Université Michel deMontaigne/ Bordeaux III

Werner Sollors (ed.), Multilingual America: Transnationalism, Ethnicity, and the Languages of American Literature (New York University Press, 1998). Pp x+409. 25.00USD (pb). ISBN 0-8147-8093-8

In his introduction Werner Sollors makes the simple but devastatingly ironic point that because of their own ever-burgeoning monolingualistic (Anglophone) background, many multiculturalists of recent years have been incapable of acknowledging multilingualism. The thrust behind this handsomely produced, fully indexed book is the desire to promote a move from the unitary hegemony of "English only" in literary studies, to the copious diversity of "English plus".

There are 28 pieces here ranging from surveys to detailed considerations of specific areas -- from the interaction of Anglophone literature with the multilingual phenomenon, to a consideration of the difficulties faced by users of sign language. Simply to list them all here would take up all available space, but any reader with even a minimum of interest in multilingualism will find the collection invaluable. The intent and indeed the content of the volume are admirable, but there is, however, little in the way of proposed strategies for changing the monolingualistic monolith in the United States and elsewhere. The fact is that such strategies will be difficult to develop as long as language teachers, translators, bilinguals and multilinguals continue to be undervalued in the world's meritocracies. *Multilingual America*, however, could indeed constitute the foundation of a new movement in that direction by adding considerably to the perceived value of "English plus" in the study of literature.

From the European perspective it must be said that while Sollors' praise of language-learning initiatives on this side of the Atlantic is to some extent, with regard to some specific nations, more than justified (for the most part, however, these are nations with a historical imperative for living with more than one language), there

remain large tracts of the Union that have still to pay anything more than lip service to the ideal of multilingualism.

Iain Halliday

University of Catania

Matthew Frye Jacobson, Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998). Pp. x+338. \$29.95. ISBN 0-674-06371-6.

Matthew Frye Jacobson's *Whiteness of a Different Color* is an important book. It contributes to our understanding of how race affects almost every aspect of the American present by exploring some of the ways in which American concepts of race have been "fabricated," have developed and changed, and have become apparently solidified in the dualism of "black" and "white" today. To use the word "solidified" in discussing a work where the fluidity of racial concepts is a central theme may seem a contradiction. And yet Jacobson's story, fascinating to read and troubling to contemplate, is also about how American ways of imagining race have tended to isolate that part of the population descended (in some degree) from African slaves as the absolute other. This has had both the tragic effect of creating a divided nation and the no less troubling effect of making other outsider groups nearly invisible in much social and political discourse.

Jacobson is explicit about his two guiding premises: that "race is absolutely central to the history of European immigration and settlement" and that race is imagined, a perception as well as a conception, residing "not in nature but in politics and culture" (8-9). An unquestioned concept of whiteness was basic to the creation of the United States. In 1790 Congress passed a Naturalization Act, that declared, "all free white persons who, have, or shall migrate into the United States, and shall give satisfactory proof, before a magistrate, by oath, that they intend to reside therein, and shall take an oath of allegiance, and shall have resided in the United States for one whole year, shall be entitled to the rights of citizenship." While many of the terms of the act were debated, "the racial dimension of the act remained unquestioned" (22).

What was questioned with increasing clamor throughout the 19th century was the definition of whiteness itself. The rationale for a racial restriction was the issue of fitness for self-government and the history of the changing applications of whiteness is the history of changing views about what races had the necessary qualities that made them fit for selfgovernment. The 1790 naturalization law, still in effect in the 1940s, was all too obviously exclusive. Jacobson, however, is more interested in studying its inclusivity. It was with the changing nature and increasing volume of immigration in the 19th century that an inclusive definition of whiteness gave way to the insistence that only the Nordic, and more specifically the Anglo-Saxon race was fit for citizenship in a free republic. One of Jacobson's many telling illustrations of this change is the difference between the 1840 and 1859 editions of

Richard Henry Dana, Jr.'s *Two Years before the Mast*. As the book first appeared, Europeans and Euro-Americans are referred to as "whites" and "white men." In the 1859 postscript, "Twenty-Four Years After," "the phrases 'English Race' and 'Anglo-Saxon race' appear in the text for the very first time." As the context makes clear, it is the influx of Irish immigrants that has led to this new distinction (41).

Although race may, to speak with Jacobson, be a "perception," it is no less a reality in American history. Indeed, the tendency to read the turn-of-the-19th-century use of the term "race" as more or less synonymous with the more recent terminology of nationality or ethnicity is at best misleading. The debates leading up to the Johnson-Reed Act of 1924 were not only permeated with racist ways of thought but the arguments for the exclusion of certain races were based on current science. Consequently, the customary quotation marks used to indicate that "race" is a cultural and political fabrication have no place in Jacobson's book. (The metaphor of "alchemy" in his subtitle, however, is in itself a comment on the nature of the *science* involved in the division of mankind into races.)

To simplify Jacobson's subtle argument and detailed history, there are four main stages of the changing perception of "whiteness." In the first, 1790-1840, whiteness is not a problematic concept. Basically, the concept serves to draw the line between civilized man and the savagery of Indians and Africans. Then, in the period from the beginning of mass immigration, first from Ireland, and to the quota act of 1924, it is, increasingly, the Anglo-Saxon race that is singled out as superior and fit for life in a democratic republic. Central to this development, but not to Jacobson's book, is the colonialization of the Mexican population in the large area that became part of the United States in 1848. As immigration restriction took effect, however, and the white Protestant fears of being swamped, indeed "mongrelized," by inferior races from Eastern and Southern Europe subsided, less restrictive definitions of whiteness became dominant. Gradually Jews, Slavs, Alpines, Mediterraneans and the other 36 European races recognized by the Dillingham Commission's Report on Immigration in 1910 ceased to be regarded as separate races and became part of the increasingly catch-all Caucasian race. One of the ways in which Jacobson discusses the shifting definitions of a "white person" is the analysis of naturalization cases before courts of law from the 1870s through the 1920s. By 1965 a division of mankind into the larger racial categories of Caucasian, Mongolian, and Negroid was in place. What has characterized American society since then is the entrenched black-white dichotomy mentioned in the opening of this review.

This simplification cannot do justice to Jacobson's both sensitive and scholarly approach to the study of *European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race*. As he also notes, this is an alchemy that as yet has had little effect on Americans whose descent is from other continents, including, of course, the American one.

Orm Øverland

University of Bergen

Brian Jarvis, Postmodern Cartographies. The Geographical Imagination in Contemporary American Culture (Londen: Pluto Press, 1998). Pp. 208. L 13.99. ISBN 0 7453 1285.

Maps are simply too important to be left to cartographers alone, in particular for those involved in American Studies, concludes Brian Jarvis in his *Postmodern Cartographies*. Geography, landscapes, horizons (and human bodies) play a central role in the American imagination and the way in which that imagination refers to utopian and dystopian antipodes. Cultural concepts like the Frontier, the Wilderness, the Garden, the Land of Plenty, the Wild West, the Small Town, the Big City, the Open Road all refer to geographical elements of the American experience which were central to the American imagination of intellectuals, novelists and filmmakers. Jarvis took the contemporary forms of this geographical imagination, the representation of space in American culture, as the focus of his study, wondering whether postmodern mappings of space constitute a decisive break with previous traditions. Jarvis' perspective is a Neo-marxist one, which makes his analysis of postmodern texts in the fields of social sciences, fiction and film initially refreshing, but later on 'more of the same' and rather hard to digest, although no less valuable.

In the first part social scientists Daniel Bell, Marshall McLuhan and Jean Baudrillard are his victims. Bell's utopian mappings, for instance, marginalise 'the underside of postindustrial landscapes', and 'casually sweep[s] aside crisis and conflict, poverty and waste'(23). He reproaches McLuhan and Baudrillard with the same arguments of marginalizing social relations and economic activity while they are fixated on 'the time of the sign' and simulacra.(31) Bell choses to ignore the conditions of urban crisis and McLuhan transcends them, while Baudrillard actively seeks to aestheticise them. In Jarvis' view one cannot make a greater mistake.

Jarvis comments on the postmodern representation of space in fiction in the work of Thomas Pynchon, Paul Auster, Jayne Anne Phillips and Toni Morrison. Morrison answers his expectations best: "[...] there is no casual sentimentalisation of nature and the rural South. The aim is always to distinguish between those places that manage and fail to resist homogenising capitalism and white racism."(135)

In spite of his scepticism of some of the postindustrial mappings and the spectacular differences between these mappings, Jarvis concludes that the core impulse of the geographical imagination, the practice of *reading the landscape* remains constant from Fenimore Cooper's *Leatherstocking* to David Lynch's *Twin Peaks*. The concern for space itself has not diminished across time, although there has been a shift in emphasis from the machine in the garden to the garden in the machine (like in Phillips' *Machine Dreams*). Emphasis has shifted from the romantic and modernist concern for industrial technologies of production to postindustrial technologies of reproduction. Films like *Alien* and *The Terminator* are excellent examples of this development, as Jarvis shows convincingly.

Robert Williams, Political Scandals in the USA (Edinburgh: Keele University Press, 1998). Pp. vi+140. ISBN 1-85331-189-8

This study of the culture of scandal in the United States is a most welcome one in the wake of all the recent unsavory developments in Washington, D.C. No, there is nothing in this book about the now too famous Monicagate, besides an indispensable account of the fortunes of its so polemical suffix. Robert Williams confers intellectual substance to the subject by tackling it from a purely political point of view. The point is convincingly driven that political scandals, as increasingly characteristic features of American democracy (and therefore as promising, though still largely underestimated, fields for academic research), deserve more attention than mere superficial epiphenomena.

Besides its introductory and concluding chapters, the book contains three case studies of the most important presidential political scandals of this century: Watergate, The Iran-Contra Scandal, and Whitewater. There is also a reflection on political scandals in Congress from Koreagate to Newt Gingrich, and on the fact that “Congress has a clear preference for the executive-branch scandal” (p.126). All analyses are based in the post-Watergate era, Watergate having “assumed the role of ‘pre-emptive metaphor’ [M. Schudson]” (p.35) though Robert Williams stresses that “it would be inaccurate to claim all political scandals are variations on the Watergate theme” (p.35). All case studies are interestingly constructed and their conclusions always illuminating, although the accounts of factual events, because necessarily synthetic, may render the overall stories difficult to grasp without a prior knowledge of each imbroglio. The point of the book, however, does not lie in the mere successions of more or less (dis)connected events, but in the coherent comparative explanations its author successfully derives from the typical utter complexity of each situation.

Robert Williams makes it possible to find a rational happy medium between such fantasies as “Did Elvis Assassinate JFK?” (p.64) and the more modern (i-e post-Watergate) determination of independent counsels to pinpoint exactly “what the President knew and when he knew it” (p.46). The book includes a useful history of the office of independent counsel from Watergate to Whitewater, as well as thoughtful analysis of “the transformation of the media from poodles to watchdogs to Rottweilers” (p.128). Is the office of independent counsel really likely to be altered in months or years to come? What are the long-term democratic implications of this recurrent use of scandals as a means to achieve victories outside the ballot box? There is much food for thought in this book food for those interested in the future of bipartisan politics in the United States.

France

Robert D Schulzinger, A Time for War: The United States and Vietnam (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997), Pp xiii+397. \$35.00. ISBN 0-19-507189-1

The historical literature on American involvement in Vietnam is enormous. It includes not only monographs on aspects of political, military and social developments but also journalistic accounts such as David Halberstam, The Best and the Brightest, impressionistic works such as Michael Herr, Dispatches, memoirs such as Robert Macnamara, In Retrospect, as well as imaginative literature such as Graham Green, The Quiet American and films such as Apocalypse Now. There has long been a need for a work of synthesis of all of this outpouring on the war in Vietnam. Few, however, would feel qualified or willing to undertake the daunting task of attempting to write such a synthesis. Robert Schulzinger is eminently well-qualified for this task. His previous works have established him as one of the leading historians of American foreign policy, such as his American Diplomacy in the Twentieth Century or monographs such as Henry Kissinger: Doctor of Diplomacy. Schulzinger's work has been characterised by solid research, lucidity of expression and well-balanced judgement. He demonstrates the same qualities in the book under review. He covers the various phases of the war chronologically from World War II to the humiliating American withdrawal and final Vietnamese Communist victory in 1975. At every point there is clear evidence of the use of the most recent research on the subject. Schulzinger, however, offers more than simply a summary of new research. He also carefully crafts his own overall interpretation. He does not offer a radically novel view. His general conclusion does not differ greatly from, for example, George Herring, America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975. The mastery of detail and familiarity with all of the most recent work, however, give a richness and authority to this volume which set it apart from other books on America and Vietnam. Schulzinger is now working on a sequel, A Time for Peace, examining the impact of the war in Vietnam on American society since 1975. This will enable Schulzinger to demonstrate his historical imagination and original creativity to a greater extent than in the present work, which deals with familiar territory. We shall look forward to this new book. Meantime, however, we are extremely grateful to Schulzinger for this work on the 1941-1975 period, which is likely to become the standard book on the subject.

Peter G. Boyle

University of Nottingham

Maurizio Ascari, In the Palatial Chamber of the Mind: Comparative Essay on Henry James (Pescara: Edizione Tracce, 1997). Pp. 228. L.25.000. ISBN 88-86676-16-6

Maurizio Ascari is very relaxed about his forays into the 'chambers' of Henry James ('palatial' or not), wanting 'a circuitous approach, a leisurely wandering through the "landscaped" language of literature'. The origins of his book in conference papers and articles promise a diversity of their occasions, a promise fulfilled in the first

half where he begins with James's negotiations of the oppositions between 'convention' (understood as 'British reticence') and the 'passione' he discovered in the works of Matilde Serao and Gabriele d'Annunzio. The James/Serao connection is pursued through a comparison of 'In the Cage' and 'Telegraphi dello Stato' before confronting a further dualism, taste and vulgarity, in the deployment of country houses and their acquiring by American wealth where Hawthorne's American Claimant is unusually (within the body of commentaries on James) if rather schematically invoked. Ascari then turns to The Princess Casamassima to illustrate James's sense of the forces threatening social and civilized order and arguing (despite his acknowledgement of Mark Seltzer's Henry James and the Art of Power) that the novel is impelled principally by 'the mysterious and darkly powerful genius loci of London, with its babel of languages and its oppressive immensity'.

Matters take on a more continuous form in the book's second half. Chapters five to seven want to pursue the notion of Jamesian subjectivity: they begin with his use of the aesthetic movement through the characters of Gilbert Osmond (The Portrait of a Lady), Mark Ambient ('The Author of Beltraffio'), and Gabriel Nash (The Tragic Muse), continuing with the development of synaesthesia in Pater and Wilde, and confronting the forms of subjectivity discovered in Pater, Edouard Dujardin, and William James where the relations between textual openness and closure are seen as marking a transitional movement towards modernism. We are returned to the volume's variousness in the final chapter, a discussion of James's return to New York and his confrontation with the pressures and pace of newspaperish modernity.

Ascari's title, by his own admission, runs the risk of sounding 'pretentious' (a risk taken further by his predilection for purple prose where James is seen as 'the supersubtle explorer of the abysses of human consciousness', where the experience of reading is seen as an entry into 'a majestic edifice where every step resounds like thunder', and 'Crapy Cornelia' is seen as possessing 'the density of a precious stone dextrously carved into spirals of words'), but this collection, by and large, is true to his wish to provide 'an act of homage'. Frequently, it is usefully suggestive - on James's view of passion as 'amorphous and vampiric', or finding in The Awkward Age and "In the Cage" a 'combination of secretive voyeurism and vicarious experience' which 'represents a powerful dramatization of the condition of late nineteenth-century young women', for example - but equally frequently, these suggestions are under-argued. A particular case in point is Ascari's discussion of James and aestheticism: while this labours inevitably in the shadow of Jonathan Freedman's excellent Professions of Taste: Henry James, British Aestheticism and Commodity Culture, Ascari can be perceptive about the ambiguities within an aestheticism (helpfully glossed under the rubrics of immobility, the 'elsewhere', and itinerancy) which 'shuns the canons of cultural, national and gender identity', but his arguments tend to be assertive rather than demonstrative. An exception here is a pertinent discrimination between Wilde's aesthetic of the ear and James's poetic of the eye, but while Ascari is absolutely right to see James's reworking of Paterian

subjectivity as a crucial element in the ‘genealogy of modernism’, he allows William James’s engagement to remain regrettably slight.

The sense of James’s transitional position between nineteenth-century realism and modernity which this collection advances is a handy perspective: ‘While James’s impersonal narratives, with their foreshortened views and their quest for perceptive verisimilitude, transcend the omniscience that marked so many nineteenth-century novels, his quest for closure - ie his refusal to indulge in uncontrolled perceptions - is the symptom of a literary career that stops at the threshold of modernity and whose fascination is enhanced by its unsolved contradictions’.

Nevertheless, it is perspective which seems innocent of those specifically American lessons - from Hawthorne and Melville especially - where such issues had been interrogated for some time. Ascari’s palace carries perhaps too strong a tint of the Old World to serve as a metaphor for Jamesian forays into the New.

Ian F A Bell

University of Keele

John Logan Allen, ed. North American Exploration: Volume 3: A Continent Comprehended (Lincoln: university of Nebraska Press, 1997). Pp. ix + 656. \$75 (hardcover). ISBN 0-8032-1015-9

Given the revitalization of interest in North American exploration following documentary film maker Ken Burns’s latest historical epic on the Lewis and Clark expedition (1997), Stephen Ambrose’s fresh biography of Meriwether Lewis (Undaunted Courage, 1996), and a definitive new edition of the Lewis and Clark Journals, the appearance of the final volume in the three part North American Exploration is highly opportune. Like the previous two volumes (also edited by Logan, which between them carry the story from Columbus to circa 1800), this is magisterial in its breadth and impressive in its depth of coverage and selection of illustrative materials. Logan again assembles a team of contributors that includes the leading scholars and strikes a balance between historians and geographers, Canadians and Americans and coverage of Canada and the United States. Focusing on the period between 1784 and 1914, the volume’s overarching theme is the “transition from imperial ambition to commercial incentive to scientific curiosity” (p.2). Contributors play to their strengths and dovetail neatly.

The story is overwhelmingly one of white males, though Suzanne Zeller highlights a female contribution in her essay on scientific explorations of Canada and James Ronda on the Jeffersonian era and W. Gillies Ross on the Arctic emphasize indigenous peoples. The selected bibliography reminds us that, despite the wealth of valuable secondary studies (many of them by this volume’s contributors), there is no substitute for immersion in primary accounts, which, in the editor’s words “enable us to feel the chill of the Wing River as its waters penetrate the elkskin moccasins of a fur trapper” (p. 606).

This is straightforward history with the accent on fact and narrative. We have to wait until page 603 (in the notes to William Goetzmann's concluding essay) for references to Michel Foucault and Patricia Limerick. It is left to Goetzmann, the only contributor with a background in American Studies (who better qualified?), to stand back and reflect on the mentality and ethnocentricity of exploration as well as its negative impact on the 'discovered'. Nevertheless, he wraps up the three-volume series on an upbeat note, listing no less than sixteen beneficial results of North American exploration (though some will be unhappy with this firm distinction between explorers and exploiters).

North American Exploration elevates the subject beyond the realms of travel and adventure, leaving us in no doubt that its study is an integral part of the history of empire and settlement, international relations, commerce, railroads, military affairs, science, cartography and natural history.

Peter Coates

University of Bristol, UK

Elizabeth Cobbs Hoffman, All You Need is Love: The Peace Corps and the Spirit of the 1960s (London, Harvard University Press, 1998). Pp. 306. ISBN 0-674-01635-1

In June 1963, President John F Kennedy gave a speech at the American University in which his single simple topic was peace. "What kind of a peace do I mean and what kind of a peace do we seek?" inquired the president. "Not a *Pax Americana* enforced on the world by American weapons of war... I am talking about the genuine peace... not merely peace in our time but peace in all time." More than two years beforehand Kennedy had put his brother-in-law, Sargent Shriver, in charge of an organization for which this word was their *raison d'être*, and for the two years leading up to Kennedy's speech, the Peace Corps had not only been initiated into being, but had tripled in size and joined the front-line of a moral crusade to reshape American identity and aspirations around the world.

With breathtaking eloquence and a strong objective tone of analysis, Elizabeth Cobbs Hoffman has recreated the mood of the New Frontier's "can do" ethos in the 1960s and delivered an exhaustive and up-to-date examination of the successes and failures of the Peace Corps. Not that the entire book dwells upon the sixties (the later chapters on the Nixon and Reagan eras are as informative in relaying ideological persuasion as the bulk of the analysis on Kennedy and Johnson), it is just that the individual sacrifices, the outwardly moral rectitude, and the rhetorically ambitious sentiment of the organization all bore the stamp of sixties idealism, as Cobbs Hoffman rightly claims. And if her history too readily falls under the banner of fond remembrance for virginal principles and humanitarian philosophy during that decade, she is quick to point out the personal stories and regale us with the positive shaping of young minds (94% of those who have volunteered since its

inception said they would go into the Peace Corps again and 93% would recommend it to a friend). Indeed Cobbs Hoffman's microcosmic analysis of young volunteers who ventured out but tragically never returned from Latin America, and her case study of one of the Peace Corps' great national triumphs, in Ghana, are the places where the book finds the heart and soul of a latent manifest destiny that the author is keen to share with the reader.

Where she readily admits ambiguity and finds the strain of political forces more difficult to interpret is in that phrase Kennedy himself balked at, *Pax Americana*. For the Peace Corps undeniably helped to sow the seeds of a hegemonic doctrine for the United States, and not only in the realms of neighbourly communitarian values. The author does not so much deny this as create a detached middle ground of heroic consensual diligence that the Peace Corps under Shriver attempted to cultivate against the backdrop of barely concealed hostility from within the State Department.

All this strikes one as the product of bold and courageous philosophy, and undoubtedly Shriver's raw enthusiasm and informality set the tone for the loyalty the Peace Corps engendered in its volunteers. In the chapter on Ghana, however, Cobbs Hoffman also notes that correspondence between President Kennedy and his Secretary of State Dean Rusk confirmed that Cold War politics remained as the fundamental bottom line. Kennedy had indicated this with comparisons to Soviet volunteer technicians when he originally came up with the idea while campaigning in 1960. Later, in the White House, he speculated that if sending teachers into West African republics like Ghana, Guinea and Mali could swing the ideological pendulum, they would be the first communist countries to turn their backs on Moscow, a major coup. Likewise, manipulation of the organization from host countries themselves for their own diplomatic agenda, together with a rather naive outlook on the complex politics of Latin America, lay the Peace Corps open to allegations of interference in foreign affairs and worse, spying - although any historical rumours of links to the CIA are largely dismissed here.

Yet for all this, Cobbs Hoffman's analysis, particularly the early history of the Peace Corps, is compelling and her recognition of problems open and revelatory. It was true that the organization was in many ways the victim of America's own foreign policy doctrines and in that way shared a kindred plight with the nations it was trying to help. It was not the fault of the Peace Corps that moves into India were met with the suspicions of neo-colonial intent. Nor that a temporary cessation of activity in Tanzania was the result of American actions in Vietnam. In Bolivia American attitudes towards family planning was a cause of further rifts between the government and the Peace Corps.

In having to deal with major national and international issues like these Cobbs Hoffman stresses that the Peace Corps has remained at heart the story of often young, innocent volunteers who carve a niche for themselves in faraway societies

that they have little or no knowledge of, and do so against the backdrop of a modern world that has undergone cataclysmic changes. In this respect it was probably too much to expect idealism to survive on its own terms when it has always needed the reality of hard-ball politics. As Alec Dickson of the British equivalent of the Peace Corps, Voluntary Service Overseas, remarked, the organization in its infancy quickly moved to look “as though Standard Oil had moved in on the Quakers”.

Overall this very thoughtful and readable account of the Peace Corps’ ongoing history stands as a marvellous testament to all those who have given their time, effort and skill for nearly forty years of developmental aid around the world. The Peace Corps was and is, a tool of self-interest for the United States, but in adversity it also stands as a monument to hope and promise that transcends borders, cultures and politics. The author has brought the legacy of both these positions into sharp focus with this excellent account.

Ian Scott

University of Manchester

John Callens, From Middleton and Rowley’s Changeling to Sam Shepard’s Bodyguard. A Contemporary Appropriation of Renaissance Drama (Lewiston, New York: The Edwin Mellen Press, 1997). Pp. 177. ISBN 0-7734-8653-4.

Quite convincingly, Johan Callens shows how Shepard’s only screen adaptation of a Renaissance play fits in his itinerary. Not only had Shepard been writing scripts at an early stage but the stormy central passion, the emphasis on feminine strength and intricacy, the collateral plots of *The Changeling* (1622) necessarily kindled his imagination at a time when, as an expatriate, he was deeply preoccupied with national identity and myths. Comparing the two versions written between 1971 and 1978, and the revision, J. Callens explores interculturalism and the representation of society and cultural background involved in the original and the adaptation. Moreover, the position of *Bodyguard*, between *Blue Bitch* and *Geography of a Horse Dreamer*, expands the combination of expatriates and national heroes. Well documented, this book is a useful excursion in a province often ignored by Sam Sheperd’s fans.

Liliane Kerjan

University of Rennes 2.

Tomás Pospisil, The Progressive Era in American Historical Fiction: John Dos Passos’ *The 42nd Parallel* and E.L. Doctorow’s *Ragtime* (Brno: Masarykova Univerzita v Brne, 1998). Pp118. ISBN 80-210-1748-1

This study is more an introduction to two novels published a half-century apart than an exploration of “significant divergences in the artistic treatment of American historical reality as exemplified by both”. It focuses on five shared themes - the body, Mexico, film, music, race - and describes the relationship of each to social

developments during the Progressive Era and after. Pospisil's investigation fails to account for how Doctorow, aside from including several minority groups that Dos Passos neglects, has revised Progressive Era fiction. Pospisil alludes to Doctorow's statement that "history is a kind of fiction", yet he neither demonstrates how Doctorow enacts this premise - mention of Doctorow's incorporation of "obvious inaccuracies" is confined to an endnote - nor assesses the debt Doctorow's "false documents" project to late Modernists like Borges. He implies that Doctorow's appropriation of ragtime as a narrative technique is further evidence of the novel's po-mo status, forgetting that this organizing principle is a Modernist as Dos Passos' Eisensteinian strategies throughout *USA*. Pospisil insists that Doctorow provides a popular, postmodern interpretation of Modernist left-winging, yet never inquires into (Jameson's definition of) postmodernism vis-à-vis *Ragtime* as "nostalgia for nostalgia". Nor does the final chapter's examination of "white American blindness" in Dos Passos confront several recent studies concerning subtle Modernist constructions of race, such as Morrison's *Playing in the Dark*. Pospisil's insistence that pop culture is as valuable as "great literature" in framing "what really matters in a society" is understood, and though he warns against New Criticism, his "close reading combined with added historical information" is a limiting form of critique. Pospisil's understanding of how social milieux inform aesthetics, particularly regarding the liberation of the body, is welcome, but the central critical tenet of his comparison is only that the "perception of past things" changes over time.

Andrew Zawacki

Editor, Verse Magazine

Jude Advise and Carol R Smith, Gender, Ethnicity and Sexuality in Contemporary American Film (Edinburgh: Keel University Press, 1997). Pp. v-156. ISBN 1-85331-174-X

Focusing on "the uses of cinematic uses of identity" rather than on the (mis)representations of various American marginal groups, the authors argue in their analyses of relatively recent films such as Malcolm X, Glory, and Wall Street that what we might term the "bourgeois ideal" increasingly appears dysfunctional. Though a unified, normalized identity still remains popular in Hollywood, recent films also inspire partial, multidirectional audience identifications, and thus invite plural readings. Davies and Smith thus distance themselves from critical texts such as Tania Modleski's Feminism Without Women: Culture and Criticism in a 'Post-feminist Age' (1991) because her "innovation of the psychoanalytical gender binary as a master-code" fails to allow for the multiple constructions of identity and identity politics characteristic of American films of the 1990s. The task of contemporary film critics is instead that of "unpacking multiple representations of separatism and inclusiveness" by analyzing the interacting representations in a variety of film and genre contexts, an approach reflected in the organization of the work.

In three major sections - "White Masculinity as Paternity"; "Transactions in Race and Ethnicity"; "Putting the Homo into America" - Davies and Smith thus consider a specific identity category in relation to other categories in selected film examples. As a result, they present us with innovative, intriguing film readings that move beyond, say, a stressing of positive African American representations or a privileged male gaze. Those teaching contemporary American film courses will find useful critical material in, for example, "Glory: African American history as male rites of passage" and "Iconicity: Image and Narrative in Spike Lee's Malcolm X". Unfortunately, the authors' use of critical jargon and convoluted prose may discourage many readers, and tempt remaining ones into high caffeine intakes.

Prof. Clara Juncker

Odense University

Christina Giorcelli and Rob Kroes (eds), Living with America, 1946-1996
(Amsterdam: VU University Press, 1997). Pp. iv+329. ISBN 90-5383-548-2.

The book is a compilation of twenty seven papers presented in the 1996 EAAS conference held in Warsaw. As the editors point out in their brief introduction, the subject of the volume is the endeavour by Americans and non-Americans involved in American Studies to make sense of the experience of living with America in the postwar period. The four articles that open the volume focus on the American role in the integration of Western Europe (G. Lundestad) and the policy of containment regarding Eastern Europe (Peter Boyle) while the need to consider questions of morality in the writing of Cold War history and analyse popular texts within their historical framework is addressed by J. L. Gaddis and Vickie Olsen, respectively. The remaining papers are classified into three dialogue sessions that more or less share a certain approach or perspective.

The first dialogue session entitled «Where's the Coke» begins with William Marling's critique of R. Wagnleitner's thesis on American cultural export in Austria to which the latter gives an ironic but poignant answer. The next three articles offer interesting facts and refreshing insights on the cultural implications of the affluent society of the 1950s and the 1960s in America, the energy crisis of the 1970s and the informational metropolis of the 1980s. Dialogue session Two deals with the future of English language. To Bernard Vincent's persuasive argument of the lethal effects of linguistic universalism, Kövecses predicts a long future for American English because, in his view, it is the language of liberal democracy. The topics of the ten papers that follow extend from examinations of individual authors to gender issues and questions of genre. The final dialogue session poses the problem of racial relations in Europe and America. The four articles that close the volume are quite diverse ranging from an exploration of the construction of cultural difference and identity formation to a comparison of the economic strategies employed in both sides of the Atlantic. Although some essays deserve a closer look, overall the book is stimulating, thought-provoking and extremely useful for both American and European scholars and students of American Studies.

Theodora Tsimpouki,

University of Athens, Greece

-----André

Béziat, Franklin Roosevelt et la France (1939-1945): la diplomatie de l'entêtement (Paris: L'Harmattan, 1997). Pp. 507. 270 FF. ISBN 2-7384-6070-4.

Most books on Franco-American relations have been a celebration of the 'cloudless and unshakable friendship' which was originally sealed in Paris by the Treaty of Alliance of 1778. Diplomats have a different story, as sometimes also do clear-sighted historians like André Béziat. The subject of his richly-documented and well-written book is the apparently irremediable hostility which, throughout World War II, opposed Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Charles De Gaulle, a personal antagonism which resulted in what Frank Costigliola has described as the "cold alliance" between the White House and Free France.

Béziat's challenge as an historian is to explain the inexplicable, i.e. the fact that beyond the personal enmity between the two leaders, and even when it was obvious that the Vichy state collaborated actively with the Reich, Roosevelt—who called himself a "pig-headed Dutchman"—stuck to his anti-Gaullist guns. Nor did he change his mind or attitude after the Allied landing in North Africa and the breaking off of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Vichy in November 1942. And it was Roosevelt again who personally denied De Gaulle a seat at Yalta.

The role of Roosevelt's disease and infirmity seems here overemphasized and somewhat irrelevant in the sense that poliomyelitis never prevented Roosevelt from being diplomatic and friendly with other statesmen. Whether or not his stubbornness was pathological, it cannot be a sufficient clue to understanding such a long and profound estrangement. The book suffers from an imbalance, with maybe too much on the man, and not enough on the great issues beyond the man—in particular what Béziat himself calls "the irreconcilable disagreements regarding the ends of the war," with America's hegemonic ambitions on one side and De Gaulle's dreams of national reunification on the other. Although Béziat's book is an important contribution to the history of that disconcerting episode, the reader is nonetheless left somewhat unsatisfied, especially as these World War II tensions are not 'situated' from the outset within the centuries-old context of Franco-American rivalry and mutual lack of understanding.

Bernard Vincent

University of Orléans

Paul Sniderman and Edward G. Carmines, Reaching Beyond Race (Cambridge & London: Harvard University Press, 1997). Pp. Ix+191. \$22.95. ISBN 0-674-14578-X.

In a work addressed particularly to those who have engaged in "the practice of

racializing arguments over justice” (154), the authors (political scientists at Stanford and Indiana Universities) join sociologist William Julius Wilson’s call for bettering the situation of poor black Americans by means of government policies that are “race neutral” or “universal.” Wilson correctly observed that poor and middle class whites would be more inclined to support government aid for the black poor if they were eligible for it as well. What makes *Reaching Beyond Race* original (and heartening) is that its authors base their policy recommendations not on the grounds of universal self-interest but on the basis of the widespread support their surveys have uncovered, among even well-to-do whites, for the principles of equal opportunity and equal treatment. Their findings lead them to reject the preferences, quotas, and diversity criteria of Affirmative Action as “not publicly defensible”(57) and to point out the “irony” even “tragedy” that the well-intentioned “commitment to affirmative action . . . may [have] come to symbolize unfairness.” (58)

The policy recommendations made by Sniderman and Carmines are more persuasive than they might otherwise be, because they derive from evidence about American beliefs and practices that carries more authority than such data might otherwise command. Given the possibility that white Americans have endorsed racial equality in previous surveys because they refused to admit their racism in public opinion polls, the authors built into their surveys a clever series of “experiments” which allowed them to guard against such dishonesty and uncover “aspects of Americans’ thinking about matters of race previously invisible.” (13) They corroborate the common sense observation that “whites do not form a singleminded nation” (9), but some of their findings run counter to the reigning conventional wisdom: Americans are not more racist than ever; American racism is not more virulent than its counterpart in other societies; the division between the races has not worsened; blacks and whites do not live in separate, isolated, worlds; substantial agreement exists among blacks and whites concerning racial issues; considerable goodwill toward black Americans exists among both conservative and liberal whites; opposition against race-based government programs by both conservative and liberal whites rests not upon racism but derives from a principled belief in the importance of fairness and equal treatment.

Reaching Beyond Race limits its coverage of American attitudes to black-white race relations, but it contains an impressive amount of information about that subject and is based on sophisticated surveys and analyzed with careful attention to the points of view of competing contemporary and historical studies. The authors do not suggest that racial prejudice, racist outrages, and mean-spirited Americans have disappeared. However, they do urge policy-makers and political leaders to adopt “color-blind” politics and “universalistic arguments” in order to better appeal to the majority of Americans who, according to their findings, would endorse helping-hand programs for the black poor if such programs did not violate nation-wide standards of fairness. The recent rejection by California voters of the state’s Affirmative Action policies, following a campaign led by African-American Ward Connerly, a businessman who is a Regent of the University of California, is

precisely what one would have predicted given the evidence about American beliefs reported in this book.

William Issel

San Francisco State University

Bruce Ackerman, We The People: Transformations. The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1998. 515 pages. \$29.95. ISBN 0-674-94847-5.

Bruce Ackerman is repeatedly explicit about his agenda in the second volume of his provocative and engaging trilogy on what he calls “higher lawmaking” in the United States, *We the People: Transformations*: “to uncover the recurring pragmatic basis for the exercise of popular sovereignty in the United States” (124) and to use the understanding of this pragmatic basis to map the future course of continued “revolutionary reform” (70) for the nation. His particular constitutional focus is Article Five, that lays down the rules for the process of constitutional amendments, and how “We the people” have transformed the constitution in ways not laid down by such rules in the three most significant constitutional processes in American history: 1787, Reconstruction, and the New Deal. The constitution itself was made possible by breaking or disregarding the formal and restrictive rules for constitutional amendments as laid down in Article 13 of the Articles of Confederation, and Ackerman argues that similarly creative approaches were developed by Republicans during Reconstruction and Democrats in the years of the New Deal.

Ackerman, Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale, calls his work “a fundamentally legal enterprise.” However, as any scholar worth his salt, he works with and within several disciplines: “There is lots of history in this book, some political science, a little philosophy...” (28). It may be added that there is also much concern for the present and for future developments and that the book leads up to a proposal for an amendment of Article Five. The book may serve as an instance of American Studies at its very best.

The reform process in the three periods selected for analysis is characterized as revolutionary in the sense that they were “acts of constituent power” or “authority.” The authority was based on a clear mandate given by “the People,” in the last two instances through a series of elections. But while they were “revolutionary” in their disregard of “well-established rules and principles” they were conservative (not a word used to characterize them by Ackerman) in their respect for “powerful constitutional restraints” and in the continuity achieved through these revolutionary processes. Thus they served to preserve basic constitutional structures and thus “leaders like Madison and Fessenden” are very different from “those like Robespierre and Lenin” in that while they may “challenge normal procedures, they are unwilling to smash all of the legitimating structures within which they are imbedded” (176).

Basic to Ackerman's account is his insistence that the leaders who guided the country in these periods of crisis were heeding the voice of the people, as when he writes that "the election of 1866 served as a magic moment at which THE PEOPLE SPOKE and decisively ratified a Fourteenth Amendment that had previously been the object of elite contestation in Washington." He explains, however, that for him, "'the People' is not the name of a superhuman being, but the name of an extended process of interaction between political elites and ordinary citizens" (187). Indeed, it is of processes Ackerman writes, and he does so with a fine sense of the use of narrative in analysis. And, indeed again, narrative and a refined sense of historical scholarship must be central to the analysis of a legal system, such as that of the United States, based on common law. Throughout, Ackerman's focus is not so much the legal and political substance of amendments as the process of amendment (see 245).

From the process leading up to the ratification of the Constitution of 1787 Ackerman sets up a model of constitutional amendment that he uses in his analysis of the constitutional changes during Reconstruction and the New Deal. Since in all three cases the Constitution was changed without much regard for the rules laid down for such change, their legitimacy is a natural concern. Since the New Deal wrought radical changes in the ways the Constitution was understood rather than in the way it was formulated, the argument that an amendment process took place is another important concern. Ackerman's analyses and arguments may at times be controversial (in particular in the chapters on the New Deal) but they are always clearly and convincingly expressed. Running through his narrative and serving to make it a compelling one is the story of how the United States has developed from a federation of states to a nation.

Orm Overland

University of Bergen

Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Lighting Out for the Territory: reflections on Mark Twain and American culture (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1997). Pp. 264. \$25.00. ISBN 0-19-510531-1.

Lighting Out for the Territory looks at a number of questions. How, its author asks, has Twain's home town of Hannibal, Missouri memorialised its most famous son, and how have Twain's novels been translated into other media like advertising, film, or the Internet? And what, Fishkin finally ponders, would old Samuel Langhorne Clemens make of it all? The 'matter of Hannibal', as Fishkin puts it, is an interesting one, for Hannibal has quite literally white-washed the whole issue of race in its commemoration of Twain. In all areas, and not just the 'delightful "pageant"' that is the Mark Twain Outdoor Theater, Fishkin finds that the 'black presence in Hannibal and in Mark Twain's work' has been erased. In its place stands Tom Sawyer's fence, the crack of a bullwhip and forty years of Becky Thatcher carnival queens.

This work goes some way to redressing the balance, yet every now and then it comes dangerously close to shooting itself in the foot. To begin with, Twain is too often at centre-stage, puffed up by Fishkin's consistently ebullient praise. This is a shame, as Lighting Out could have been a book about John Berry Meachum, Mary Ann Cord, Warner McGuinn and other ignored or forgotten African-Americans like them, if only Fishkin had followed her friend's advice and moved on to something else. Fishkin had already proved convincingly that Twain was no racist in Was Huck Black?—this book reads like a less than emphatic sequel. The epilogue is a somewhat similar affair, citing a number of contemporary writers whom Twain is said to have influenced, like Kenzaburo Ôe, Ben Okri, Toni Morrison and Bobbie Ann Mason, but there is no deeper excavation involved here, only an uncanny sense that Fishkin is right. It may take her another, more convincing sequel to prove it.

John Place

University of Nottingham

Michael Anesko, Letters, Fictions, Lives: Henry James and William Dean Howells (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997). Pp. xviii+492. ISBN 0-19-506119-5

“Fiction”, Henry James wrote, was a house that had “not one window, but a million - a number of possible windows not to be reckoned, rather...” For James, mind and money were linked: Rye House afforded multiple views and the possibility of stylistic detachment. What he resented about female suffrage, he wrote to William Dean Howells, was being “hustled into *concluding* about it at all”. Howells, meanwhile, marched with suffragettes, worried about the effect of the Irish on the price of property, and gave “employment to four men, two boys, two horses” and a host of story-writers - including James.

The complex and shifting economic and literary co-ordinates of the 151 letters that comprise Michael Anesko's magnificent edition of the Howells-James correspondence make fascinating reading. James the Master was once the initiate: it was Howells who first published him in the *Atlantic Monthly*. James the Irish-American inherited social and cultural gravity; Howells manufactured his own, but was never fully allowed to forget that he came from Ohio. James's aesthetic consciousness and indifference to the actual a mark of literary caste; as an editor, Howells depended on his ability to gauge (and engage with) the fluctuations and demands of the market.

And yet, for nearly fifty years Howells and James each acted as implied reader (and critic) for the other. Anesko traces with impeccable scholarship (background essays, published materials by one on the other, annotations and textual notes) an unusual but enduring epistolary relationship. By the First World War, Howells felt that his pedestal “in the House of Fable” was dropping; come World War II, James was such a cultural monument that the Germans bombed Rye House. The windows of the House of Fiction are sometimes uneven and obscure; with brilliant clarity,

Michael Anesko brings two of them back into alignment again.

Dombnall Mitchell The Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Talk-Story in Chinatown and Away. Essays on Chinese American Literature and on US-China Relationships, Edited with Introduction by Lina Unali, Roma, Sun Moon Lake, 1998, 124 pp. ISBN 88-87332-01-0

Derived from Lina Unali's experience and writing about the cultural and literary relationships between the West and Asia, this volume has the double function of introducing the European reader to the most outstanding American Chinese literary production and providing an historical background to the works of Chinese American writers who have dominated the American literary scene in the last decades.

In the Introduction to *Talk-Story in Chinatown and Away* Unali explores the concomitance between the establishment of the Western presence in China in the mid-nineteenth century and the start of the migratory movements of large numbers of Chinese towards all parts of the world, in particular towards the US. To several closed sectors of Chinese towns inhabited by Euro-Americans came to correspond equally delimited areas of American towns known as *Chinatowns*. The analysis of how all this occurred is presented in *Talk-Story in Chinatown and Away* and is of particular interest to both historians and literary scholars.

By the authors of the various papers contained in the volume - originally presented at a workshop chaired by Lina Unali at the EAAS Conference held in Warsaw in 1996 - Chinese American literature is seen as connected to the Chinese literary tradition and culture and also as a wholly new and original production, a fascinating *hybrid*, one would say, contrived by writers in whom the memory of China's traditional culture is either repelled or mingled with the search for a new identity, with the needs and aspirations connected with their present condition of immigrants or descendants of immigrants.

Particularly significant in the volume is Chris Connery's paper based on the analysis of the central metaphor of the sea in Chinese imperialism. This essay somehow upturns the position of China, presented at the beginning of the volume as the victim of Western imperialism, and introduces China as a shrewd and powerful agent in a new era of imperialistic expansion.

What appears evident from a reading of the book is the editor's tendency to inscribe ethnicity, the problems related to it and its most outstanding literary products in the United States within a more general view of international relationships and universal values.

Giuliana Mariniello

Istituto Universitario Orientale Napoli-Italy

James Annesley, *Blank Fictions. Consumerism, Culture and the Contemporary American Novel*. London: Pluto Press 1998. ISBN 0 7453 1091 5hbk. Pp. 175.

The book by James Annesley is a study of the recent literary productions coming from the so-called “blank” or “X generation” writers, including such authors as Dennis Cooper (*Jerk Closer*), Douglas Coupland (*Generation X*), Brian D’Amato (*Beauty*), Bret Easton Ellis (*Less Than Zero, American Psycho*), Jay McInerney (*Brightness Falls*), or Lynne Tillman (*Absence Makes the Heart, Motion Sickness*). In successive chapters, the author investigates such themes as violence, sex, shopping, devotion to luxury consumer brands, and decadence. What in Annesley’s view those new writers have in common, is, among other things, an emphasis on the extreme, the marginal and the violent, and a “sense of indifference and indolence”, combined with an obsessive preoccupation with consumption. In this, rightly claims Annesley, the new generation of writers reflects the cultural orientation characterizing their society at large. The thing about the “blank fiction”, argues the author, is not only that it uses a commodified language to depict the increasingly commodified world, but also that it “provides a surprising amount of ‘intellectual nourishment’.” And, as he proceeds to explain, trying to account for this new phenomenon by seeing it as a mere reflection of the “cultural logic of late capitalism” will not do justice to the new literature. However, perhaps not unlike the very authors he set out to investigate (he rightly observes about Ellis, for instance, that he “may be using [his] representations to make a point about sex and violence in contemporary culture, but in doing so he produces a text that employs those representations in a way that mimics the very process he is criticizing”) Annesley seems to be largely unable to justify his critical assumptions: even his theory-informed and culture-sensitive readings of the new authors fall short of persuading the reader as to the intrinsically daring and intellectually challenging quality of their “blank” fictions.

Piotr Skurowski

Warsaw University

Gary W. Gallagher *The Confederate War: How Popular Will, Nationalism, and Military Strategy Could not Stave Off Defeat* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997). Pp. ix+218. \$25. ISBN 0-674-16055-X.

James M McPherson, *For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War* (NY: Oxford University Press, 1997). Pp. xviii+237. \$25. ISBN 0-19-509023-3

Scholarship sometimes intersects with tangents of “buffdom”. James McPherson and Gary Gallagher command a respectful readership both among academics and roundtable re-enactors of the American Civil War. They have contributed greatly to our understanding of the most pivotal moment in the making of the United States. And yet, in the works under review, the smell of gunpowder, sentimental asides, and a writing enthusiasm that can only be described as heroic hagiography obscures

the arguments advanced. These are both thesis-driven works from two of the founders of the revisionist and highly popular “New Military History”.

McPherson’s title For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War states his conclusion for both Union and Confederate soldiers. In a previous book, What They Fought For (1994), he advanced the same argument. Using the papers of 1,076 veterans, McPherson established a conceptual framework to explain why men enlisted in the first place, what sustained their participation, and what motivated them over and over again to “face the elephant”. A patriotic - and manhood driven - rage militaire propelled men into uniform in the days after Fort Sumter. When the reality of men dying and time lengthening replaced eager notions of quick romantic warfare, a primary group loyalty based upon revenge maintained the regiments.

McPherson stresses that soldiers North and South committed themselves to the principles of liberty and freedom set forth in the US Constitution. Civil War soldiers were neither the non-ideological, salary-motivated, adventurous boys who Bell Wiley described fifty years ago in Johnny Reb (1943) and Billy Yank (1952), nor were they the disillusioned, 1960s-like soldiers Gerald Linderman found in Embattled Courage (1987). Instead, McPherson’s volunteers are “Thinking Bayonets”* who display a nationalism and patriotism that go beyond personal reputations of manhood. Initially, they killed and died for “the cause”, and later, for comrades, refusing to leave bloodied units for either promotion or civilian life.

Gallagher’s focus is tighter than McPherson’s, and less satisfactory. He takes issue with historians who argue that a general discontent with the policies of Jefferson Davis’s government and an increasing war-weariness were responsible for the Confederate collapse. Gallagher contends that historians who focus on why the Confederacy failed so soon should instead be asking what kept it alive for so long.

Gallagher maintains that battlefield victories or losses actually decided the fate of the Confederacy - not support or non-support from home, a lack of nationalist feelings, gender struggles, and certainly not the offensive-defensive tactics of Robert E. Lee, who has been blamed by many historians for a strategy that bled the Confederacy dry. Gallagher insists that Lee’s methods were absolutely correct and that he and his fighting men were ultimately responsible for the life of the Confederate States of America. One hundred years ago, as the primary sponsor of “Lost Cause” mythology, General Jubal Early insisted the same things after the disaster at Gettysburg made many question Lee’s generalship. Overall, Gallagher speculates more than he proves.

McPherson and Gallagher have diminished the value of their findings by an overwhelming dependence upon the papers of the most literate and motivated soldiers from 1861 and 1862. These volunteers wrote in the patriotic mode common to the 19th Century and in the paternal tone in defence of the patriarchy,

especially when addressing women relatives or girlfriends back home. Neither author used many letters from African American soldiers, nor from the 1863-1865 draftees, nor from women at home. Both authors feinted toward an inclusion of two decades of race, class, and gender studies before they settled into writing about white soldiers in battle. And yet, McPherson's work is important in its study of the motivating and sustaining psychological forces that put and kept men in battle and Gallagher's book challenges the non-military historians to come out from behind the barricades once again.

* See Mike Bennett, "'Thinking Bayonets': Union Soldiers and the American Civil War" (MA thesis, John Carroll University, 1994).

Russell Duncan

University of Copenhagen

Announcements and Notices

Call for Papers

Melus Europe Conference, Université d'Orleans, France, June 22-25, 2000
Europe and the United States: Comparative Ethnic Literatures

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

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

Deadline for proposals: October 1, 1999

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

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

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

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

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

Orders within Europe from Lit Verlag, tel. 49 40 446446, fax 49 40 441422. Orders in the U.S.A. from Transaction Publishers, tel. toll free 888 999 6778, fax (732) 445 3138

The Baltic-Scandinavian Interdisciplinary Conference, Culture and Nature August 7-9, 1999 at Palmse, Lahemaa National Park, Estonia Supported by NORFA

Featured Speakers:

Peter Quigley, a well-known poststructural theorist from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Arizona, USA; Sigmund Kvaløy, a distinguished ecological philosopher and activist from Trondheim, Norway.

Ecocriticism is a paradoxical mixture of diversity and common purpose. Problems with applying US-based criticism to other literatures and the need for situated ecocritical theory have been key ideas discussed at Culture and Environment Conferences in the US and England. Ecocriticism is on the way towards recognition in British universities. The main objective of the first Baltic-Scandinavian Interdisciplinary gathering is to bring together scholars working in different environmental fields from Scandinavian and Baltic countries and establish a network. Our other aims: to map purposes and directions of ecocritical research in Scandinavian and Baltic cultures and literatures; to further academic interest in identifying local traditions of environmental literature and local concepts of nature; to help graduate students to find professors who would share their interests and spread the information about research materials. Considering the importance of the conference for establishing the new field in Scandinavian and Baltic region, provisions will be made for doctoral students.

We invite proposals of papers on all aspects of the broad theme of the conference. The anticipated subject areas are: ecocritical readings of culture and literature, ecocritical theory and classroom practice, deep ecology, poststructural criticism, ecofeminism, environmental history, art and environment, environmentalism and

media, phenomenology, environmental psychology, ecology, biology, geography.

To facilitate interdisciplinary discussion, there will be no separate sections; all lectures will take place in one room. The reading time for papers is 20 minutes with 10 minutes for questions. Conference organizers: Tiiu Speek, Estonian Institute of Humanities, Estonia; Werner Bigell, Nesna College, Norway; Bruce Carlson, the University of Tampere, Finland.

Please send, fax or e-mail one-page abstract and a CV to Tiiu Speek, Conference Coordinator by April 30, 1999. E-mail: tiius@ehi.ee, fax: 372-641-64-23. Address: English Department, Estonian Institute of Humanities, Salme St.12, Tallinn 10413, Estonia. Welcome to the first meeting of ecocritics in Northern Europe!

The book "American Character. Cultural Traditions" is the fifth book prepared and published under the aegis of the Commission on the USA History of Culture, which functions within the Russian Academy of Sciences Council on the History of World Culture.

The four preceding books were: "The Interaction of the USSR and USA Cultures. XVIII-XX Centuries", 1987; O.E. Tuganova "Contemporary USA Culture. Structure. World Outlook. Artistic Creation", 1989; "American Character. Essays on USA Culture", 1991; "American Character. The Impulses of Reformation", 1995; all were published by the publishing House "Nauka", Moscow.

The fifth book has the subtitle - "Cultural Traditions". The researchers, who take part in the activities of the Commission on the History of USA culture, consider the subject to be very real: conceptually, philosophically and also for the reason, that the examining of the phenomena of the tradition gives important outlets into the practical spheres of American socio-cultural life.

The authors of the above enumerated books are researchers in the fields of history, sociology, philosophy, history of culture, literature, art. They come from different regions and cities of the Russian Federation, also from foreign countries, including the USA. The concepts of the authors differ, sometimes to a considerable degree to develop discussions.

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

On 23-24 September 1999, the Roosevelt Study Center, Middelburg, the Netherlands, will organize a conference on: Regulating Morality: A Comparison of the Role of the State in Mastering the Mores in the Netherlands and the United States. The purpose of this interdisciplinary conference is to compare the experiences of state efforts to control moral behavior in two countries by exploring the historical developments in regulating morality and the contemporary efforts to

implement moral policies. The importance of the presence of a strong national myth will be tested by comparing the histories of prostitution and abortion policies in both countries, the course and contents of family law (divorce, adoption, homo marriage), and the jurisprudence and legislation with respect to euthanasia. These case studies reveal the strategies, successes, and (unintended) consequences of state regulation and evaluate the influence of a national myth and elite leadership in shaping morality. The conference will be concluded by a discussion of the importance of a national myth in the changes of morality.

The speakers represent different disciplines and include: A.A.M van Agt (former Dutch Prime Minister and EU-Ambassador in Washington and Tokyo), James C. Kennedy (Hope College), Martin Bossenbroek (Leyden University), David J. Langum (Samford University), Raymond Tatalovich (Loyola University Chicago), Joyce Outshoorn (Leyden University), Janet L. Dolgin (Hofstra University), Gerda A. Kleijkamp (Utrecht), Margaret P. Battin (University of Utah), John Griffiths (University of Groningen), and Jan Willem Sap (Free University Amsterdam).

For information and registration contact the Roosevelt Study Center, P.O. Box 6001, 4330 LA Middelburg, the Netherlands, tel. 0 118-631590/fax 631593, email: secr@rsc.knaw.nl. Registration fee Dfl 50,00 payable at the desk. Lunch and refreshments are included; summaries will be distributed in advance.

(Re) Mapping the Centres: Membership and State.
GRAAT (Groupe de Recherches Anglo-Américaines de Tours) International
Conference 17th-18th September 1999

How is it possible to belong to a territory when its boundaries are no longer exclusively physical? How can we define the centre, or allegiance to that centre, at the end of the second millennium, if that centre cannot hold?

In an age when appeals are made both to sovereignty and "the global village", when terms such as "subsidiarity" and "the international community" have become common currency, the notion of membership is irrevocably plural.

This obviously invites reflection upon the fluctuating relations between central authority and secessionist tendencies in a historical perspective. Today one might consider the issues of federalism and devolution as not necessarily being incompatible. Another case in point would be the tensions between competing conceptions and myths of nationhood, or between social and cultural identities in the English-speaking world.

In literature, the whole notion of literary value and language has become problematised: the traditional Western canon has been radically challenged by a variety of critical discourses that demand either its extension or its explosion.

How far have so-called regional or minority writers influenced and modified the mainstream? What type of shifts and contradictions does this create?

Linguists may ponder the historical imposition of a national language as well as the issue, today, of regional languages and the impact on language of mass media and information technology. Can the purity of a (national) language be retained by legislation from above? Or does language evolve through the "democratic voice"? In short our purpose should be to locate or identify the paradoxes and flashpoints created by these shifts from the centre to the margins, from nationhood to membership (and community).

Send your proposals by May 7, 1999 to Raphael Costambeys (literature) or Dominique Daniel (history and linguistics), UFR anglais LEA, Université de Tours, 3 rue des Tanneurs, BP4103, 37041 Tours, cedex 1, FRANCE

The program chair of the Southern Jewish Historical Society is currently seeking proposals for presentations to be given at the annual conference which will take place in early November 1999 in Richmond, Virginia. Short descriptions of individual papers and/or panels with brief c.v.'s of participants will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Catherine Kahn, Program Chair, Touro Infirmary Archives, 1401 Foucher St, New Orleans, La 70115; e-mail: archives@baileylink.net

Mark Bauman, 2517 Hartford Dr, Ellenwood, Ga 30294, (Atlanta Metropolitan College)

Announcement of a colloquium on "The Role of Objects and Individuals in the Construction and Dissemination of National Values: the United States in a Comparative Perspective" organized June 3-4, 1999 by the CIRNA's research group on cultural history and international relations, (Institut Charles V, Paris VII-Denis Diderot) under the responsibility of Marie-Jeanne Rossignol and Barbara Karsky. The colloquium will take place at the Institut Charles V, 10 rue Charles V, 75004-Paris. Contacts : B. Karsky : karsky@club-internet.fr; M-J Rossignol : rossignol@paris7.jussieu.fr

The University of Orléans and the Laboratoire Orléans-Tours de Littérature américaine (LOLiTA) will organize in March 2000 an international conference on William Gaddis provisionally entitled "Reading William Gaddis". For further information contact: Brigitte Félix, Université du Maine, Département d'Etudes Anglophones, Faculté des Lettres, Langues et Sciences humaines, avenue Olivier Messiaen, 72085 Le Mans Cedex 9, France. Tel: 0 243 83 31 85. Fax: 0 243 83 31 81. E-mail: bfelix@univ-lemans.fr

Literature and Ethnicity in the Cultural Borderlands International Conference

This conference will be organized by the Departamento de Filología Moderna (Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Ciudad Real, Spain). The conference will be held at the Aula Magna, in the Facultad de Letras, Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Ciudad Real, SPAIN, November 1999.

The conference will focus on the different meanings of the border and the borderlands, and their literary and cultural production. As Guillermo Gómez-Peña explains in his artistic manifesto *The Border Is*, Border culture means boycott, complot, ilegalidad, clandestinidad, contrabando . . . but it also means transcultural friendship and collaboration among races, sexes and generations. Border cultures and literatures create new literatures and cultures within old spaces through transculturation, subversion, mimicry and collaboration. Border and the borderlands are understood here not as physical entities but as the terrain where, as Anzaldúa suggests, two or more cultures edge each other, where people of different races occupy the same territory.

The conference is open to writers, professors and researchers interested in these border encounters between different cultures and literatures. We welcome articles dealing with different literatures and cultures of the U.S. and the Anglophone Caribbean: African American Literature, Afro-Caribbean Literature, Native American Literature, Chicano and Latino Literature, Jewish Literature, and Asian American Literature. The conference intends to be an open forum of discussion for researchers interested in so called minority literatures and cultures and their relationship with hegemonic cultures. It will cover aspects such as the appropriation, subversion and displacing of main stream American literature and culture, and the creation of an inclusive, mestiza literature.

The official languages of the event will be English and Spanish. Articles (11-14 pp) dealing with different aspects of the border and the borderlands (preferably from a comparative approach), as well as a short c.v. should be sent to profs. Jesús Benito Sánchez or Ana Manzananas Calvo by 30 April 1999 at the following address: Dpto. Filología Moderna, Facultad de Letras, Universidad de Castilla - La Mancha, 13071 Ciudad Real, Tel: 34 926 295300 ext. 3111 (Wed-Fri.); Fax: 34 926 295312 E-Mail: jbenito@fimo-cr.uclm. esamanzana@fimo-cr.uclm.es

A World of Local Voices: English Language Poetry Today

Universität des Saarlandes Saarbrücken, Germany, October 22-23, 1999

Today, when the terms of "local vs. global," "center vs. periphery" are being re-thought and re-defined in all areas of knowledge, poetry, always the spear-head of the literary avantgarde, is one of these areas. Poetry, by definition intensely personal and local, but today increasingly global in its references, languages, and readership, thus awaits examination from premises other than purely nationally ori-ented ones. Similarly, when literature is no longer wielded as a weapon in the cultural battles of

national states, redefinition of critical concepts is urgently needed. In the future, the term "local," for instance, would have to transcend national categories, subsuming similar properties of the identifiably individualistic.

The common reference of this conference is poetry written in all the varieties of the English language, including translations. We hope to be able to welcome several poets at the conference.

Please send your proposals for a presentation by March 15, 1999 to: Prof. Dr. Klaus Martens Nordamerikanische Literatur und Kultur, FR. 8.3 Anglistik, Universität des Saarlandes PF 15 11 50, 66041 Saarbrücken, martens@rz.uni-sb.de

If you have interest in a particular topic worth examining in more than one presentation please send your suggestion to the address above a.s.a.p. Please also indicate whether you would like to chair the proposed session.

The Comparative Literature Association of the Republic of China will hold its Eighth Quadrennial International Conference on 27-29 August 1999. The conference will be held at Tamkang University on its main campus in Tamsui, Taipei Hsien, Taiwan. The general theme of the conference is "Reading the Fin de Siecle, Writing the Millennium." Attached please find the CALL FOR PAPERS announcement of the conference (file type: word 6.0). Please kindly help distribute it among friends, colleagues and members of your institutions.

Lee Yu-cheng, President, Comparative Literature Association of the Republic of China Taiwan Lee Yu-cheng, Research Fellow/Professor, Institute of European and American Studies Academia sinica, Nankang, Taipei 11529, Taiwan, ROC

President, Comparative Literature Association of the Republic of China. Tel: 886 2 2782 3108 225; Fax: 886 2 2653 3462, 886 2 2785 1787; E-mail: yclee@sinica.edu.tw

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars is very interested in the internationalization of American Studies and would like to hear from subscribers regarding the degree to which the field has become internationalized and in what respects? How might one understand internationalization of American Studies? Does it simply mean that more scholars abroad are studying the US and teaching about American culture and society? Or, is the process having a fundamental impact on the content of the field as well as its perspective and methodology? We would also like to learn your views about the kinds of programs and fellowship opportunities that will facilitate the internationalization process? Please send responses to avandyke@cies.iie.org

Conference Announcements & Calls for Papers

The Program Committee for the Savannah Meeting is putting together an exciting agenda. Sessions will be held Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Friday evening will begin with a reception and end with a tour ("Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil"?) of several historic squares downtown. After the luncheon/business meeting on Saturday, excursions will be offered of historic homes and museums downtown and of the plantation country. For those who like to really plan ahead mark your April 2000 calendars for Albany, GA!

19th Annual Berlin-Prague Seminar 1999

The 19th Annual Berlin-Prague Seminar organized by Bradley University will be held at the European Academy of Berlin (20 June-26 June) and the Prague University of Economics (27 June-3 July). The Seminar is intended to inform college faculty about a wide range of issues facing contemporary Germany and the Czech Republic. Past presentations have focused on politics, foreign policy, history, economics, societal issues, the media, and art. Participants may choose to attend one or both segments of the Seminar. For further information contact Dr Charles Bukowski, Director, Institute of International Studies, Bradley University, Peoria, IL 61625. Tel: 309 677 2450; Fax: 309 677 3256; e-mail: cjb@bradley.bradley.edu.

The entire program is on the North East PCA/ACA Web-site:
<http://www.wpi.edu/~jphanlan/MAY98.html>. Contact information, registration information etc. are all there on this site for inspection. Check out the program and try to attend. The NE Meeting is a lot of fun and always sends us away inspired.

Peter J. Rollins, Director of Development, PCA/ACA. RollinsPC@aol.com

Publications by Members

Claude CHASTAGNER *La Loi du Rock, ambivalence et sacrifice dans la musique populaire anglo-américaine*, Montpellier: Climats, 1998. 240 pages, 130F.

Alain SUBERCHICOT, "Treize Façons de regarder Wallace Stevens: une écriture de la présence". Paris, 1998, 304 pages, ISBN: 2-7384-7066-1, 150 FF. [22.70 Euros]

"Le Monde Nord-Américain" series. Pierre Lagayette (University of Paris IV-Sorbonne), General Editor. Editions L'Harmattan, Paris, 1998

Marie-Christine MICHAUD, "Les Italiens aux EU, 1918-1929, Progrès et limites d'une assimilation"

Histoire de la Fédération des Alliances Françaises aux États-Unis, Alain

Dubosclard, ed. (Paris, L'Harmattan, 1998). ISBN 2-7384-6996-5

Talk-Story in Chinatown and away, Lina Unali, ed. (Sun Moon Lake, Roma, 1998). ISBN 88-87332-01-0

Le livre "Histoire de la Federation des Alliances Francaises aux Etats-Unis, 1902-1997" vient de paraitre aux Editions L'Harmattan, Paris, 1998, 192 p. au prix-France de 110FF, a commander dans n'importe quelle librairie en France ou disponible a la Delegation generale des Alliances a Washington a partir de fin octobre 98. Prefaces Marc Blancpain et Steve Cobb. Amicalement a tous.
Alain Dubosclard.

A Catalog of American Studies Projects in Sweden, third edition, Erik Asard, ed.
The Swedish Institute for North American Studies

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

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

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

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

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

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

The series "Voix Américaines", published by Editions BELIN and edited by

Marc Chenetier publishes every year 8 128 page- monographs on American authors by French scholars. Every volume costs only fifty francs. Four come out in January and four in September. The volumes are written in French by specialists and aim at introducing American authors to students and the general public. Leaflets, order forms and subscription forms can be obtained from Sylvie GILLET (at Editions Belin, 8 rue Férou, 75006-Paris, Fax: 01 43 25 18 29) Published so far are volumes on Gertrude Stein, Toni Morrison, John Dos Passos, John Hawkes, William Gaddis, William Gass, Guy Davenport, Ralph Ellison, John Barth, Erskine Caldwell, Robert Coover, Norman Mailer, Shelby Foote, Willa Cather, James Purdy, Grace Paley. In January, four more volumes will be available (Bernard Malamud, Jack Kerouac, Richard Brautigan, H.D. Thoreau).

American Studies in the Nordic Countries introduced and edited by Alan Shima and Hans Löfgren, 101 pp. (ISSN 0284-0774; ISBN 91-506-1279-4)

Order by Fax: 46 18 122895 or by E-mail: erik.asard@sinas.uu.se Price: SEK 120 (postage and VAT not included)

After Consensus: Critical Challenge and Social Change in America, introduced and edited by Hans Löfgren and Alan Shima, 226 pp.

Forthcoming in Gothenburg Studies in English (ISSN 0072-503X), nr. 72 (ISBN 91-7346-335-3). Acta Universitatis Gothoburgensis: November, 1998.

It has now been several decades since the image of American culture as a melting pot first came under attack. But the multiculturalist discourse of the 1980s and the break-up of Cold War politics at the end of the decade have produced a new challenge to the idea of the United States as an indivisible nation. Concurrently, the need to promote, construct, or theorize the unity of American culture has to some become increasingly urgent. While there is no agreement on the nature of these new political and cultural conditions, many seem to respond, whether negatively or positively, to the notion that Americans now find themselves "after consensus." We must also ask, however, if there ever truly was consensus. Is the consensus debate merely a new way of speaking about a characteristic American problem, or is it symptomatic of more fundamental changes?

Originating as papers presented at the 1997 Conference of the Nordic Association for American Studies held at Göteborg University, the essays in this volume address the "after consensus" theme from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

Answers to the simple quiz in newsletter 41

1. Both born 10 December. Kaumeyer = Dorothy Lamour
2. Swedenborgian: Henry James, Sr.

3. Henry Ward Beecher.

A New Simple Quiz

1. Who wrote: 'Gore was tone-deaf. Every time the national anthem was played, he invariably said, 'Now there's a catchy tune'?'
 2. Who said: 'Ever since he took up sex, I never see him'?
 3. Of whom was it written: 'He is cross-eyed, and has a thoroughly Scotch face'?
-

The next issue of American Studies will appear in September 1999. All items for inclusion should reach the editor by 1 August 1999.

Those who wish to subscribe to ASE but are not members of a constituent association of EAAS should contact the editor of ASE to arrange an individual subscription. Present rates are \$US 7.50 for two issues sent sea-mail; \$US 12.50 for two issues sent air-mail. Subscribers in the United States are urged to take the latter subscription. Cheques should be made payable to The Eccles Centre, British Library.