

Spring 1981
Midcontinent American Studies Association (MASA) Bulletin

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masa bulletin

1982 MEETING! It will be a biggie, and we have been asked to point out that Haskell Springer, the program chairman, will be hospitable to papers on all aspects of American culture. We mention this because there will be joint sessions with other organizations, some of which will stress music and/or the Midwest. Such topics are therefore very welcome, but most of the MASA panels will be devoted to other subjects.

Our sessions will run on Friday and Saturday, for a change—notice the sumptuous plans which result from our going halves with the musical organizations. Indeed, the musical offerings will be richer than shown in the announcement which follows, because in addition to the visiting chamber opera, there will be a resident grand opera staged the same weekend. And plans are to reinstitute certain other aspects of MASA conviviality which used to be traditional when we were a smaller organization.

Bunker Clark's announcement of the 1982 meeting:

The Sonneck Society, the Midcontinent American Studies Association and the Midwest Chapter of the American Musicological Society will meet at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, the first weekend of April 1982. In addition, members of the history special research interest group of the Music Educators National Conference will be attending. Along with the traditional and separate sessions of each organization is the possibility of one or more joint sessions devoted to topics of mutual interest. "The Midwest" will be only one of the focuses of the weekend. The main hotel is a Holidome, a convention center now under construction, which is scheduled for completion by the time of the meeting.

Virgil Thomson, a native of Kansas City, has accepted an invitation to be the honored guest. He celebrates his 85th birthday on 25 November 1981. There will be an evening of his music on Thursday, April 1.

On Friday evening, the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music will pro-

duce in Lawrence the hitherto-unperformed chamber opera *Cabildo* by Mrs. H.H.A. Beach. On Saturday evening there will be a festive banquet, including an entertaining performance of the 19th century melodrama *The Drunkard* by a local professional company which has been doing it for over twenty years. [MASA has yet another event on a related subject planned for later the same evening.]

Those with proposals for papers or presentations are encouraged to send them to one of the following program chairmen no later than the end of October 1981. If a topic might interest more than one organization, send the proposal to two of those listed below, for possible joint sessions. Complete papers are preferred, although abstracts are acceptable. Three copies should be sent to each program chairman.

Sonneck Society (meets Thursday-Sunday, April 1-4): Jean Geil, Music Library, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801

Midcontinent American Studies Association (meets Friday-Saturday, April 2-3): Haskell Springer, English Department, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045

American Musicological Society, Midwest Chapter (meets Saturday-Sunday, April 3-4): Lawrence Gushee, School of Music, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801

In charge of local arrangements is J. Bunker Clark (Music History), for the Sonneck Society. Daniel T. Politoske (Music History) represents the Midwest AMS, and Stuart Levine (English) represents MASA.

OUR THANKS to scholars not on our staff who have helped evaluate articles submitted since the last issue: Robert Bannister, Swarthmore College; Evelyn Hinz, University of Manitoba; Ann McKinley, North Central College-Naperville; Jack Cohn, University of Kansas; John Stilgoe, Harvard; Charles Masinton, University of Kansas; Elizabeth Schultz, University of Kansas; Elliot Barkan, California State College-San Bernardino; John Willingham, University of Kansas; Frederick Carpenter, University of California-Berkeley; Akira
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Yamamoto, University of Kansas; Stella Clark, University of Kansas; Haskell Springer, University of Kansas; Robert Smith, University of Kansas; W. Stitt Robinson, University of Kansas.

HERE IS WHAT HAPPENED in Omaha on April 9-11, 1981 at the Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Midcontinent American Studies Association:

WOMEN, THE WEST ETHNICITY, URBANITY AND OTHER THEMES IN AMERICAN CULTURE

THURSDAY, April 9

THE FRONTIER WEST REVISITED, Richard Overfield, University of Nebraska-Omaha, Chair.

"Roots and Routes" [Braudel and the Oregon Trail], David R. Stevenson, Kearney State College.

"Wallace Stegner and the West," Dan R. Jones, University of Iowa.

"The Influence of the Frontier on the Emergence of Four American Folk Heroes: Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, Andrew Jackson and Abraham Lincoln," Jane C. Pennell, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

WOMEN'S WORK REVISITED, William C. Pratt, University of Nebraska-Omaha, Chair.

FILM: "With Babies and Banners; the Story of the Women's Emergency Brigade."

FRIDAY, April 10

WRITERS: HOW THEY DO IT, Norman Hostetler, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Chair.

"A New Englander Looks at Midcontinent America: A Study of Margaret Fuller d'Ossoli's Travelogues," Kathleen D. Guerin, Emmanuel College, Boston.

"The Ethnic Mosaic as Portrayed in Cather's Works," S. Charlotte Rohrbach, Kansas Newman College.

"Everything Must Change: The Importance of Displacement in the Fiction of Norman Mailer," Steven P. Horowitz, University of Iowa.

ETHNICITY: ASPECTS OF THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE, Harris Mirkin, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Chair.

"The Socio-Historical Roots of the Religiosity of Czech-American Elderly," Chris Johnson, Iowa State University.

"The 'Megali Idea': The Interaction of Greek-American Opinion and United States Foreign Policy, 1944-1947," Sue Oliver, University of Nebraska-Omaha.

"Prospect for Study: The American Immigrant and Ethnic Press," Andris Straumanis, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

THE COUNTRY SCHOOLHOUSE, AGENT OF CULTURE, Robert M. Sawyer, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Chair.

"The Country School Legacy," Andrew Gulliford, Director, Mountain-Plains Project, Greeley, Colorado.

"One-Room Country School Education in the Sand Hills," Ernest Grundy, Kearney State College.

URBANITY AND PERFORMANCE, Albert Stone, University of Iowa, Chair.

"New York City: e.e. cummings' Playground," Michael V. Tueth, Regis College, Denver.

"Stelle MacKaye and the Development of Performer Training in America," John Hollwitz, Creighton University.

"Leopold Stokowski: a Re-Evaluation," William A. Smith, California State Polytechnic University.

POLITICS IN MIDCONTINENT CULTURE, Benjamin G. Rader, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Chair.

"Nebraska and the Prohibition Amendment," Philip A. Grant, Jr., Pace University.

"Courts and the Demise of Political Machines: Omaha's Tom Dennison," Orville D. Menard, University of Nebraska-Omaha.

"Voting Behavior in Midwestern Primaries, Iowa as a Case Study," William P. Collins, Drake University.

THE VISUAL SIDE OF AMERICAN CULTURE, Stuart Levine, University of Kansas, Chair.

"Sherwood Anderson and Modern Painting," Peter A. Carino, University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana.

- "Ideal Cities: Urban Images in Post Office Murals," John C. Carlisle, Purdue University-Calumet.
- ASSAYING WOMEN IN CULTURE**, William C. Jones, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Chair.
- "Hawthorne's 'The Birthmark': Speaking of the Unspeakable," Jules Zanger, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.
- "Jane Addams: Culture and Imagination," James Dougherty, University of Notre Dame.
- "Margaret Halsey," Nancy Walker, Stephens College.
- THE AMERICAN ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**, Wayne Wheeler, University of Nebraska-Omaha, Chair.
- "Smuggling Americana Illegally: C.B. Radio in France," André Prévost, University of Iowa.
- "Jack London's Beauty Ranch: An Experiment with Agriculture and Science," Michael K. Schoenecke, Bellevue College.
- "Utopianism in Recent Environmental History," Saul Lerner, Purdue University-Calumet.
- THE FILM: CULTURAL AND RACIAL CONTRASTS**, Donald Dunlop, Iowa State University, Chair.
- "Urban and Rural Landscape: The Tragic Hero in *High Sierra* and *Colorado Territory*," Dian Gottlob, University of Iowa.
- "Race, Psychology and Segregation in King Vidor's *Hallelujah!*" Brian Gallagher, LaGuardia College, CUNY.
- IMAGES OF AMERICAN PROGRESS**, Haskell Springer, University of Kansas, Chair.
- "Gustav Stickley: Democratic Design and Social Reform," George Stein, Miami University of Ohio.
- "Pioneers and Progress on the Middle Border: Lee Lawrie's Sculpture for the Nebraska State Capitol," Timothy J. Garvey, Illinois Wesleyan University.
- "'Tis a Gift': Shaker Inspirational Drawings," Sr. Regina Siegfried, ASC, Saint Louis University.
- THINKING ABOUT AMERICA**, William Pratt, University of Nebraska-Omaha, Chair.
- "The Birth Order Factor: Speculations on American History," Kent Blaser, Wayne State College.
- "Suspension of Rationality as an American Characteristic," K. Ann Dempsey, Saint Louis Community College-Florissant Valley.
- "Erikson on America: A Psychoanalytical Episode in the Study of National Character," Steve Weiland, Federation of Public Programs in the Humanities, Minneapolis.
- WOMEN'S ROLES REVISITED**, Elizabeth Kolmer, Saint Louis University, Chair.
- "Literature Teaching History: The Mother-Daughter Tie in Nineteenth-Century Afro-American Women's Narratives," Margaret E. Stewart, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- "Reality or Image in the Popular Press? *Good Housekeeping's* View of Female Employment," Melvin J. Thorne, University of Kansas.
- PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**, Theodore R. Hovet, University of Northern Iowa.
- Introduction by Elizabeth Kolmer, Saint Louis University. "Patterned Integrity: The Search for a New Model of Humanity in a Post-Industrial Society."
- SATURDAY, April 11**
- AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN AMERICAN CULTURE**, Nancy Walker, Stephens College, Chair.
- "The Soliloquies of Thomas Paine," Wayne Franklin, University of Iowa.
- "American Autobiography and Ideology: Alexander Berman's *Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist* and George Jackson's *Soledad Brother*," Tom Doherty, University of Iowa.
- "Her Living Mind: The Mark Aimed At" [Anne Bradstreet], Cynthia Larson, University of Iowa.
- CRÈVECOEUR AND EDWARDS: EIGHTEENTH CENTURY AMERICANS?** Gary Elliott, Harding College, Chair.
- "From Pastoral to Urban-Pastoral: Crèvecoeur and Eighteenth-Century America," James L. Machor, Ohio State University-Lima.
- "The New Man's Self-Assertion and Self-Exposure in Crèvecoeur's *Letters from an American Farmer*," Joanne Jacobson, University of Iowa.
- "The Word of Jonathan Edwards," Mary Anne Pernoud, Saint Louis Community College-Meramec.
- ASPECTS OF MIDCONTINENT AMERICAN DISSENT**, Elmer Suderman, Gustavus Adolphus, Chair.
- "Rural Discontent and Suspicions of the City," Barbara Lawrence, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.
- "Farmer Rebels: Plymouth County, Iowa, 1932-1933," Rodney Karr, University of Nebraska-Omaha.
- "McCarthyism as Fad: The Role of Voluntary Organizations in Mid-Western Anti-Communism, 1946-1954," Gary P. Hendrickson, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.
- BLACK AND RED, ETHNIC MINORITIES IN AMERICAN CULTURE**, Theodore Agnew, Oklahoma State University, Chair.
- "The African Methodist Episcopal Church—Rise and Transition," Thomas W. Spann, Shorter College.
- "Short Fiction Writers of Indian Territory, 1895-1915," Daniel F. Littlefield, Jr., University of Arkansas-Little Rock.
- "'He ain't wrong—he's just different': Some Thoughts on the Study of American Indian-White Relations," Burton M. Augst, Columbia College.
- ASPECTS OF THE MIDCONTINENT RURAL-URBAN SCENE**, Richard Herrstadt, Iowa State University, Chair.
- "In the Enemy's Country" [W.J. Bryan &

New York], Mark Sherman Farber, University of Texas-San Antonio.

"The Economic and Cultural Interchange of Madison County, Illinois, and Saint Louis in the 19th Century," Nedra Branz, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.
"Anglo-Hispanic Conflict in New Mexico, 1848 ff.," Shawn Aubitz, New Mexico State University.

AMERICAN STUDIES INTERNATIONAL now costs. Bernard Mergen writes to tell us that he would be happy to offer it to subscribers of *American Studies* at the special rate of \$7.50 per year.

WARREN FRENCH is running another of those stellar and coherent programs of his. The topic this time is "Generations/The Family in American Life: A Dialogue with the Community." The dates are March 25-27, 1982. Proposals and inquiries go to French at the Center for American Studies, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, 925 West Michigan Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202.

POWER, TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC POLICY in Modern America: such is the title of a symposium September 25-27, 1981 at Michigan Technological University. We hear about it from Mark Rose, formerly of our staff; for more information, contact Mark or George Daniels, c/o Social Sciences, M.T.U., Houghton, Michigan 49931. Phone: (906) 487-2113.

A NEW PRESS SERIES from Temple University is called "Technology and Urban Growth."

We heard of it, too, from Mark Rose, a member of its distinguished editorial board. Book manuscripts go to Kenneth Arnold, Editor, Temple University Press, Philadelphia 19122.

PEDAGOGICALLY ORIENTED interdisciplinary seminar was held May 27-June 3, 1981 at the Modern Media Institute, St. Petersburg, Florida, run by the Citizen News Project of Indiana University's Poynter Center. Robert Schmuhl of the Poynter Center can give details about what happened.

LOUIS ADAMIC was the subject of a May 28th-30th symposium in St. Paul, Minnesota. Information from Rudolph Vecoli, Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, 826 Berry Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55114.

WILLA CATHER is examined in several dimensions at a week-long conference June 14-20 at Hastings College in Nebraska. The sponsors are the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Hastings and the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial. Information from Larry Hammer, Conferences and Institutes, 205 Nebraska Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 68583. Phone: (402) 472-2844.

FDR IN 1982. Papers from diverse disciplines are invited for a conference on the centennial of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's birth and fiftieth anniversary of his election as president. Papers on Eleanor Roosevelt are welcome also. Information from Natalie Datlof or Alexej Ugrinsky of Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York 11550. Phone: (516) 560-3296.

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AT THE NATIONAL American Studies Association meetings in Memphis (October 29-November 1), the Council of the national organization, concerned about communication in an era of change and crisis for the organization, asked MASA whether it would undertake to draw the chapters together in dialogue. MASA had its board present; it asked for clarification, then acted quickly to help. One result is that this column is to be made available as a forum. The airing of concerns (in brief items) begins whenever the several chapters see fit to formulate some. A phone call to Your Faithful Editor to discuss proposed items would be helpful. The phone is (913) 864-4878.

GRATITUDE is directed at those scholars who have helped us in recent months by giving our Editorial Board a hand. Usually they commented on articles which touched on areas in which our Board members are not expert. They are Forrest Berghorn, University of Kansas; Nancy Denny, University of Kansas; Alan Gribben, University of Texas-Austin; John Higham, Johns Hopkins University; Bernard Hirsch, University of Kansas; Frances Horowitz, University of Kansas; Bruce Kuklick, University of Pennsylvania; Seth Scheiner, Rutgers University; Elizabeth Schultz, University of Kansas; Robert Sears, Stanford University; Robert Shelton, University of Kansas; James Shortridge, University of Kansas; Haskell Springer, University of Kansas.

HISTORIANS OF PLANNING plan a rally with the historians at the OAH meetings, Friday, April 2, 1982. Details from Mark H. Rose, Department of Social Sciences, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan 49931, 906-487-2115; or William H. Wilson, Department of History, North Texas State University, Denton, Texas, (817) 788-2034.

COMPARATIVE CIVILIZATIONS will be studied through a rich variety of themes in late May (27-30), 1982 at Pittsburgh University. Comparative histories of childhood, comparative urban cultures, religion, humor, patriarchy—it all sounds very rich and attractive. T. Kaori Kitao, Art, Swarthmore College,

Swarthmore, Pennsylvania 19081, has information.

EXPANDED INDEXING in the MLA International Bibliography is the goal of a project acronymed CIFT in which this journal participates. CIFT *es decir* Contextual Indexing and Faceted Taxonomic Access System. (Got that?) Details available from Eileen Mackesy, MLA, 62 Fifth Avenue, N.Y. 10011.

MONTREAL was where the Canadian Association for American Studies held its Seventeenth Annual. A rich and varied program on October 22-24, 1981 involved some *American Studies* regulars and some succulent-looking programs. The scale seemed cozy, too—not too many sessions.

INDIANA MONEY is available to those doing historical research concerning Indiana. Information from Gayle Thornbrough, Indiana Historical Society, 315 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202.

COMMERCIAL ARCHEOLOGY is what the Society for CA Studies is about. It holds conferences and welcomes participation by nonmembers. Its address is c/o Museum of Transportation, 300 Congress Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02210.

A NEW M.A. program in American Studies at the College of William and Mary starts up in fall, 1982. Although the program involves Colonial Williamsburg, it is not limited to the colonial era. Fellowships and assistantships are available; information from Scott Donaldson, English, William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185.

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK is YFE's hometown, so he is happy to puff a conference there next November 4-7. The topic is twentieth-century women writers; a broad range of approaches is welcome; the deadline for papers is March 1, 1982, and the folks to write for details are Natalie Datlof and Alexey Ugrinsky, UCCIS, Hofstra University. Hofstra's zip is 11550; ND or AU can be reached at (516) 560-3296.

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SEXIST DEADLINES make it impossible for us to run a call for papers for the special *American Transcendental Quarterly* issue on unrecognized women writers in nineteenth-century New England. The deadline was 1 December, 1981. But we can at least tell you of the project; you can learn more from Women's Issue *ATQ*, Department of English, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island, 02881.

INDUSTRIOUS WOMEN were studied in a conference so titled held in late September at the Hagley Museum, Wilmington, Delaware. The focus was on the Mid-Atlantic region in the early industrial period. Post-conference information from Box 3630, Wilmington, Delaware 19807.

SLAVE NARRATIVES: *Essays in Literature* proposes a volume of essays on literary approaches to Afro-American slave narratives.

The deadline is March 1, 1982; information comes from John Sekora, English, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois 61455.

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS in the spring of 1982 is where and when the Missouri Conference on History is planned. Information is available from Peter L. Viscusi, History, Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, Missouri 64093. The conference runs April 16 and 17.

A GREAT PLAINS SYMPOSIUM is planned for March 18-20, 1982 by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Great Plains Studies. Details from Frances W. Kaye, English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 68588.

CRISIS AND CULTURE in Midwest cities was the subject of a conference of related events—walks, exhibitions, readings—run by the University of Toledo. Guy Szuberla, a contributor to this journal, was in charge, and could put you in touch with papers or people. He's in the English department there; the zip is 43606.