

masa bulletin

BOOK REVIEW POLICY: *American Studies* is contemplating something of a reversal in the direction in which its book review policy has moved in recent years. Old readers will remember that we used to run a few review essays covering major shifts in important areas, and a great many brief reviews of books in any American field which we thought might be of interest to readers. This was modified a couple of years ago; more emphasis was placed on the longer review essay and upon medium-length reviews of books which were felt to be explicitly in American Studies (as opposed to sociology, American history, American literature, and so on). Now we're thinking of changing again.

Word reached us informally recently that *American Quarterly* is planning to drop many of its bibliographical services. We've written to their staff, with whom we've always maintained very cordial relations, to confirm this rumor, and as of the present date, have not heard. At its recent meeting, our editorial board decided that if the story were true, *American Studies* was unequipped to assume these functions: even should a suitable bibliographer be located, we do not have the budget to print the extensive bibliography which American Studies practitioners customarily find in the summer supplement to *AQ*. But it was thought that we could pick up a good deal of the slack by returning to a policy of numerous brief reviews of books dealing with many aspects of the American experience, whether or not these books were in fact "American Studies in orientation." If we go to this policy, we will retain the essay reviews and medium-length reviews, adding to them, presumably, a relatively large number of fifty or 100-word brief reviews, and one-line statements about the nature of good but more specialized works.

By way of tooling up for this possible change in direction, we have begun again to send out large numbers of books to

our family of reviewers. These will doubtless come rolling in between now and the spring issue. Since the spring issue is a special number devoted to the city, it is likely to have both a review section devoted to its special topic, and a second, general, review section behind that.

A PRESS RELEASE from a commercial reference book publisher may be related to the presumed change in the *American Quarterly* bibliographical policy: Donald M. Koster, the ASA bibliographer who has supervised the ASA's bibliographical services in *AQ*, is to direct a large American Studies bibliographical series to be published by Gale Research Company.

ZITHERS: The place is set, but not the exact date for the MASA spring meeting. MASA will gather at the Amana Colonies in Iowa. Much talk at the fall executive board meeting about innovations in format and imaginative themes. If you are not a MASA member but would like more information, drop a line to the executive secretary, who will put you on his mailing list, or fill you in on the state of the program. MASA meetings are generally fine affairs, small enough in scale so a newcomer can get to know everyone, and modest enough in format so there's time to discuss the papers or panel topics. But this one carries some insurance: suppose papers and panels are dull. Suppose tensions at the various colleges and universities are so severe that we all show up cross. There are still Amana wines to fall back upon—it's called "sampling"—, stupefying mounds of Amana food, and, generally, zithers.

FROM JOURNAL TO BOOK: Sometime around May 1973 Schocken Books, Inc., will publish a somewhat expanded version of our special issue of last spring, *Peace Movements in America*. Teachers who would like to use this material in class before it is available in the Schocken

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edition may place orders for it directly with us, since we still have on hand a small number of extra copies.

This is the second time that an entire issue of the journal has reappeared in book form; our issue on the contemporary American Indian situation (VI, 2 [Fall, 1965]) appeared in 1968 in hardback form (Everett/Edwards, Inc.) and as a Penguin-Pelican paperback in 1970.

Moreover, an unusually high percentage of our articles have been anthologized or have become parts of monographs produced by their authors. Two notable recent examples come to mind: Gerda Lerner's article, "The Lady and the Mill Girl: Changes in the Status of Women in the Age of Jackson" (X, 1 [Spring, 1969]), is perhaps the single most-reprinted piece we have ever run. We also have heard recently that Bernard W. Sheehan's "The Quest for Indian Origins in the Thought of the Jeffersonian Era" (IX, 1 [Spring, 1968]) will appear in Sheehan's forthcoming *Seeds of*

Extinction: Jeffersonian Philanthropy and the American Indian, which Chapel Hill will publish soon.

POE RALLY: Eric Carlson writes to inform us of plans to organize a Poe Studies Association. By the time you read this, the organizational meeting will have been held. Those interested can communicate with Eric c/o the Department of English, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut 06268.

AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION sends us the preliminary outline of its 1973 annual meeting on February 26-27 in New Orleans. A number of the sessions seem of special interest for American Studies people. Since this is a field we have perhaps made too little use of in the past, AS types interested might want to contact Paul H. Mattingly, at the School of Education, New York University, 737 East Building, Washington Square, New York, New York 10003 for detailed program information.