

a special section

***some friends of
american studies
check in***



LEFT: Our editor in a job-application photo (note the marks where the staple was pulled out) c. 1958.



RIGHT: Editor and Associate Editor, David Katzman, outside the *American Studies* office, May 27, 1986. Snapshot by Jeff Rogers.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of *American Studies* passed without any special commemoration in the magazine, but it did at least set the editor to thinking belatedly that perhaps there *should* have been something said. And so, along about the middle of volume twenty-six, a letter went out from his office to as many of the former close associates of the journal as we could locate: members of the editorial board since we first began receiving manuscripts in 1959, undergraduate and graduate student assistants. It asked them to prepare the material which follows. Although he said that he hoped that responses to

the letter would “give current readers a feel of how *American Studies* took shape, and some knowledge of who did the shaping,” the editor admitted that his motives were “as much sentimental as professional.” “Some of you,” he wrote, “I know only professionally, through correspondence; others are or were very close friends. The project is selfish in that I want to know how everybody is, and what you are up to.”

If the results look more like entries from a class-reunion book than like the result of the usual academic commemoration, the editor thinks that that is appropriate, for *American Studies* has, for better or for worse, had just one editor throughout its history and has therefore been unusually personal for a scholarly periodical.

Many of the people written to served the journal under its earlier titles, *Journal of the Central Mississippi Valley American Studies Association* (1960-61); *Midcontinent American Studies Journal* (1962-70).

EDWARD F. GRIER. Chairman, Editorial Board, 1959-75.



Photo circa late 1970s.

Although my doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 1949 was in American Civilization, my appointment as an assistant professor at the University of Kansas in 1951 was to teach graduate and undergraduate courses in American literature. To my surprise I was asked by the dean to activate a program in American Civilization which had been in the catalogue for some years. I therefore spent 1952-1953 on a Ford Foundation Faculty Grant, first visiting American Civilization programs at several universities and then organizing our own program with the help of colleagues in History, Political Science, Anthropology, Sociology and Art History. Our program was based on those at Pennsylvania and Minnesota, and was the usual history-literature combination, although most majors, in fact, double majored in other fields. It was a program, not a department, and had no budget. The English Department generously contributed office support and a third of my time. The program thrived moderately with six to a dozen majors who were usually excellent students. We had more than our share of honors students and Phi Beta Kappas. Since this was the hey-day of Fulbright programs, I lectured in France in 1956-1957 and Italy in 1964.

I had, of course, belonged to the American Studies Association from its earliest moments, and, although I don't remember having attended its first meeting, when MASA was founded by the lively group at Park College, I soon became involved. When the journal moved to KU and into print in 1959-1960, I became Editorial Chairman, while Stuart Levine as Editor did all the work.

By the late '50s my interests had begun to turn back to literature and I became involved in the great collected edition of Walt Whitman projected by the New York University Press. Since Stuart Levine had joined the English Department in 1958 and had

been working in the American Civilization Program and on the Journal, I welcomed the opportunity to resign from the Program in 1964. In 1979, since I felt that I had done as much as I could in the MASA and had become aware that there were murmurs among the younger people in the field about the "feudal barony" at KU, I resigned from the Executive Committee and the Editorial Board. I suppose it *did* seem to be a closed circle, although I remember the struggles to get working members of the Editorial Board. At any rate, we had a lot of fun together in the early years.

By a combination of good luck and good management I finished *Walt Whitman: Notebooks and Uncollected Prose* (6 volumes) which was published in 1984, the year in which I retired from the University.

MARTIN G. HASTING, Editorial Board, 1960-61.

1952-1969: Faculty, St. Louis University

1958-1963: Dean, College of Arts and Science, St. Louis University

1963-1969: Director, Doctoral Program in American Studies, St. Louis University

1969-1984: Faculty, State University of New York (SUNY), College of Arts and Science at Plattsburgh

1984-Present: Professor Emeritus, SUNY

1969-1972: Organizer and Director, Canadian Studies Program, SUNY at Plattsburgh

1971-1972: First Resident Director, Canadian Studies Program, based at McGill University (Montreal) with students at McGill, Sir George University (Montreal), Loyola College (Montreal)

1969-Present: Member, Center for the Study of Canada, SUNY at Plattsburgh

1974-1981: Chairman, Department of History, SUNY at Plattsburgh.

Currently Professor Emeritus, State University of New York (SUNY), Plattsburgh.

From its very first issue, the journal, due the dedication to scholarly excellence demanded by its editors, provided a respected vehicle for the publication of articles and reviews of real merit and interest. Over the years, I have made much classroom use of materials contained in the journal.

ROBERT W. JOHANNSEN, Editorial Board, 1961-66.



Spring 1984.

I was a member of the Board of Editors from 1961 to 1966, so long ago that I hardly remember it. But I can still remember my associations with some of the people involved in what was then (or about then) known as the Central Mississippi Valley American Studies

Association, soon to be shortened to Midcontinent American Studies Association, and now, I understand, changed again . . . people like Ed Grier, Bob Cobb, Jerzy Hauptman over at Park College, and of course Stuart. I left Kansas in 1959 and with that departure my involvement with CMVASA became more tenuous, except for the position on the Board of Editors which continued through the midpoint of my chairmanship of the History Department here at Illinois [Urbana]. My principal task—or at least a continuing task—as I recall it, was to identify reviewers who could write 100 word reviews of the history books which were sent to the journal office. The experience with the CMVASA was my first significant exposure to American Studies. While the concept still often baffles me, it has had a significant (I think) impact on the way I perceive the past and on some of my work, most notably my recent book *To the Halls of the Montezumas: The Mexican War in the American Imagination* (Oxford, 1985).

KENNETH J. LABUDDE, Editorial Board, 1961-63.



Two photographs are enclosed. The early one was taken on Palm Sunday, 1959, when a Roman friend of mine took me to Tivoli for lunch. Isn't it great of the cascade? The late photograph was taken in May, 1985, at the great party the library staff and The Friends of the Library had in honor of my retirement.

I am now Professor-Emeritus of History at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. In May 1985 I retired as Professor of History and Director of Libraries. I had been the director 35 years. I have a desk tucked away in Special Collections, UMKC General Library; I give some time to identifying needed additions to the collections, especially our Americana collection.

In my first year of retirement I am having what I had long promised myself, my third sabbatical. My first was spent touring Europe in 1959. My second was spent traveling from Tunis to Tokyo. After that my administrative duties did not permit a sabbatical.

I was one of the early ones in the American Studies movement. While I have a B.A. in Comparative Literature and B.L.S. (Library Science) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, after military service I entered the graduate program in American Studies at the University of Minnesota the second year of the program. I must have been a charter member of the American Studies Association as I was of the Midcontinent American Studies Association. I was president of the latter in 1963-64. The Midcontinent ASA was kept on its feet in the early years by someone like Jerzy Hauptmann while Stuart is the

reason for the long and distinguished history of *American Studies* as an interdisciplinary journal. Enlightened continuity makes all the difference.

In the 1970s I became active in the Society of Architectural Historians. My interest in architecture goes back to my junior high days in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. (My father had been a builder caught short by the Depression.) My collection of slides is now in the thousands. I do enjoy from time to time reviewing a book or reading a MSS that is in my area of concentration, the place of the arts in American Culture. My orientation has always been in comparing American experience with that of other cultures. I tell myself that next year I am sitting down to that blank piece of paper to see if I can see patterns emerging out of my years of iconological studies.

GEORGE EHRLICH, Editorial Board on and off over the years [1963-6, 1978-85].

Like many other art historians of my generation, I backed into the discipline. Once committed, becoming an Americanist was simply a result of the questions and problems which insisted on intruding into my intellectual space. They came from my immediate academic environment, which included working with Frank Roos, Arthur Bestor and John Flannagan, among others, at the University of Illinois. Such people were very important in my early development. The decision to concentrate quite often on interdisciplinary topics was, however, a case of self-indulgence. I have always been curious about the interactions between those in and those outside the world of the visual arts, and happily no one dissuaded me from spending time on this.

Kenneth LaBudde introduced me to the ASA soon after I joined the faculty of the University of Kansas City, now the University of Missouri-Kansas City. This was in 1955, and thus I was one of the group which constituted the inaugural meeting of the Chapter long known as MASA. Inevitably I became involved (sometimes deeply, sometimes less so) in the affairs of the chapter. For example, I am one of the signators of the legal document which established MASA as a not-for-profit organization.

My involvement with the journal happened so gradually that I cannot document the details. It is sufficient to note that I was willing because I was, from the first, impressed by the obvious concern for excellence, the goal to be indeed a journal of interdisciplinary studies, and the professionalism that Stuart Levine always maintained, along with his good humor, even under often difficult circumstances.

I cannot assess my contributions to *American Studies*, but I am proud to say I have served its cause.

SUSAN LAWRENCE (NICOL), Editorial Assistant, 1963.



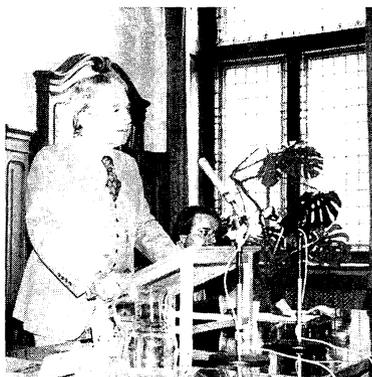
1962



1983

Working for the *Midcontinent American Studies Journal* was one of the more interesting jobs available for the wife of a graduate student. After we left KU in 1964, we lived in Bowling Green, Ohio, and after that in Terre Haute, Indiana. Divorced in 1972, I moved back to the civilization of Kansas City and eventually ended up in the art business. I have been an art dealer since 1976. I am the founder and past president of the Kansas City Art Gallery Association. I am co-owner of Batz/Lawrence Gallery in Kansas City, Missouri. My son David is 17 years old. It would be pushing it to say that the journal was very important to me at the time I worked for it, but over the years I have come to realize how important it really was in terms of valuable skills I learned and friendships I developed.

WARREN FRENCH, Editorial Board, 1965-69; Contributing Editor, 1979-86.



LEFT: This is from the middle of my editorial board tenure, and it catches me in a most characteristic pose for that time when I did a lot for the campus radio station.

RIGHT: From my latest "performance" in Budapest. The photographer was Peter Freese, Vice-Chancellor for the Humanities at the University of Paderborn, West Germany, a professor of Amerikanistik.

The *Midcontinent American Studies Journal*, as it had just become known, was only two years old when I moved from the University of Florida to Kansas State University, to begin what is now stretching into a twenty-five year tenure in the Midwest. I met Stuart Levine my first year in Kansas at a KCTE meeting, and immediately sought to become involved in a project that has ever since remained first in my priorities. My first contribution to the journal was "The Background of Snopesism in Mississippi Politics," which I was honored to find the lead article and cover subject for the Fall 1964 issue. The article became the kernel for what remains my most ambitious book, *The Social Novel at the End of an Era* (Southern Illinois University Press, 1966).

Stuart asked me to join the editorial staff in 1965 to replace my long-time friend Harry M. Campbell, then Chairman at Oklahoma State University. I had moved to the University of Missouri-Kansas City by that time; and while there I had the pleasure of serving as the local arrangements chairman for the first biennial national meeting of the American Studies Association in Kansas City.

Even after I left the Heartland in 1970 to serve as Chairman of the English Department of the newly organized Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis for three years and then to spend much of my time even further afield in Cornish Flat, New Hampshire, as an unacknowledged neighbor of J. D. Salinger, I retained a lively interest in the journal, willing particularly to help resolve editorial deadlocks that sometimes developed.

I also became involved in organizing a local Center for American Studies. In 1978, we presented the first of our several national symposia, that one on "Childhood in American Life" to observe the International Year of the Child; and I was delighted to be able to ask Stuart to serve as one of our Indiana Committee on the Humanities Scholars, commenting on the papers presented. At that time we discussed the possibility of my rejoining the staff of the journal now called *American Studies* as "Contributing Editor," an advisory post in which I've been pleased to serve since 1979.

Largely because of my association with *American Studies*, my own activities have expanded in the most enjoyable way during the recent boom in American Studies overseas. After having been landbound in North America since World War II, beginning just two years ago I have had the opportunity to participate in symposia concerning the development of American Studies programs in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia (1983), Gregynog, Wales (1984), and Budapest, Hungary (1985). After my planned retirement next year, I hope to expand my international activities. Having already written books about John Steinbeck, Frank Norris and J. D. Salinger for the Twayne United States Authors Series, which I also help edit, I'm leaving shortly to finish up another on Jack Kerouac during a working vacation in Great Britain: but I'll still be in touch with the Midwest.

MARY LOU CASSIDY, Graduate Assistant, 1966-68.



A "fan" picture from the movie-horror hostess days. "P.S. The feather on the hat was hot pink!"

"Graduate Assistant to the Editor of the *Midcontinent American Studies Journal*." I always felt that was a most impressive title, especially since it took more than a line to type. (I am easily impressed by uniforms, too.) My Journal memories are faded now. I vaguely remember proofreading, deadlines and assorted characters who wandered through, topped by ol' Stu-Baby himself. The most memorable moment was probably one of the low points in my editorial career. One of my responsibilities was Volume VIII of MASJ. As Chief Proofreader, I dutifully read the contents of Volume VIII No. 1 and Volume VIII No. 2. It must confess, however, I did not reader the cover of Volume VIII No. 2 very closely, for it very clearly recites that it is Volume VIII No. 1. Most places in that issue had the correct number; it was only on the front cover in front of God and everybody that it was wrong. Fortunately, it was correct on the spine of the issue, thus saving me from the wrath of university librarians everywhere.

Since my days with the Journal, my life has continued to be somewhat interdisciplinary, although not in the academic sense. American Studies prepares you for everything or for nothing, and I am not sure which category I am in. As illustration, I left Kansas to attempt to write my master's thesis on Ernie Kovacs. I never quite finished that masterpiece, but that project led to gainful employment as the hostess of the weekly horror movies in Midland, Texas. For three years I was "Stagnasia," a rather inept old biddy loved by fifth graders and drunks in a 14-county viewing area. I am sure a fine master's thesis could be developed concerning the influence of the Agricultural Act of 1926 on Stagnasia's character. But, alas, all good things must end, and our show, "Boo Theater," was forced into the sunset when "Saturday Night Live" came on the air in 1975. It seemed a logical progression from being a witch to being a lawyer, so I went to law school at Texas Tech University and am now a practicing attorney in Midland, Texas, specializing in oil and gas law. An editor, a scholar, a witch, a lawyer—how's that for interdisciplinary?

MARY JANE RAMBO. If I recall correctly (and as I get older my memory gets fuzzier!), I started working on the journal as an **Editorial Assistant** in **1967 through 1970** with you and Mary Lou Cassidy (the Texan who loved Ernie Kovacs) and then assumed the **Graduate Editorial Assistant** position from **1970 through 1972.**



The only current pictures I have are mother/daughter snapshots.

What an amazing coincidence! I spent most of Tuesday and Wednesday of this week editing some documents for one of my bosses and I reminded him, when he questioned my judgment on one item, that I "used to work as an editorial assistant for a scholarly journal." Needless to say, I won the argument and I brought back very fond memories of the years I spent working closely with you on the Journal.

After receiving my Masters degree in American Studies, I taught in South Dakota for two god-forsaken years (1972-74), had one child and got divorced (1975), moved back to Lawrence and received my Masters degree in Public Administration in 1977. I worked briefly with Bob Leanna in the Planning Department at City Hall in Kansas City, Kansas and then spent a year in Topeka as one of several administrative assistants to Governor Robert Bennett.

In September, 1976, I married the absolute love of my life (John Kennedy, then a professor of Latin American History in KU's History Department; in fact, Bill Tuttle introduced us to each other through a blind date that ended three days later). We moved to Chicago in February, 1978. John gave up teaching for a position as a computer industry

consultant and I spent a year at the Council of State Governments as a field representative, visiting state capitols in the midwest, making speeches, raising money and organizing seminars. Eventually I got disgusted with government bureaucracies and being on the road 3-4 days each week. I also decided that public service careers, while certainly worthwhile, do not offer much in the way of monetary rewards.

So when we moved to Boston in March of 1982 I took a position as executive secretary to the Chief Financial Officer of Computervision Corporation, one of the more successful Route 128 high tech companies at the time. I was there for three years with a half year off to have a child (a daughter named Katherine Marie Kennedy who is now four years old). John worked at Wang Laboratories in various marketing and product support management jobs. Boston is a lovely place but we grew to hate living in the suburbs and commuting for two hours every day. Besides, one of John's ambitions was to move back to New York (he lived in the city and got his Ph.D. from Columbia University). So he requested a transfer to a field job as a senior account executive with Wang Labs in their midtown Manhattan office. They wanted him to go to Atlanta, or San Francisco, and even offered to send us back to Chicago. When they realized we were deadly serious about New York, (everyone assumes we are more than a little crazy to want to live and work in the city, especially with a small child) they finally consented to move us here in September of 1983.

The past two years have been absolutely the best in our lives. Our daughter also loves the city and acts (and sometimes speaks) like a native New Yorker. She is in a private nursery school in Greenwich Village. According to one of her teachers at our last parent-teacher conference, Katie is "self-contained, creative, highly intelligent, organized, very funny, and has a flair for the dramatic (maybe the next Katherine Hepburn?)." We intend to explore dance and drama classes this fall, although she has both available to her at her school.

I have had two jobs since moving to the city. I worked for a year with The Rockefeller Family as administrative assistant to their Senior Legal and Investment Advisor, a guy named Bill Pounds who was formerly Dean of the Sloane School at MIT. That was glamorous and exciting; the private office I shared was filled with original Picassos, Chagalls and a few Rembrandts, along with real mahogany furnishings. The rich really are different from the rest of us, in many ways that are not so nice. They tend to treat employees as "hired help" and they have so much help that no one is busy or very productive. I was really driven to change jobs by boredom and the sense that I was not growing or learning anything new.

I now work as research assistant to two investment gurus on Wall Street; one is a premier venture capitalist and the other a leading, often quoted securities analyst who follows the high tech industry. In addition to working well together, we are also good friends and that makes life easier for everyone. I intend to eventually take the Series 7 registered rep exam and become a broker myself.

The latest good news about our lives is that we just bought a house. This is not, however, just any house; this is a three-story, single family, landmark brownstone in Brooklyn! And, best of all, we can almost afford it. The house has six working fireplaces, cathedral ceilings, oak woodwork and mantels throughout, oak parquet floors, sliding and recessed French parlour doors, two skylights made of leaded and stained glass, a huge walkthrough dressing room between the bedrooms on the third floor, and a large back garden space for my roses, daisies and strawberries, and our cat and dog. The place is spectacular and an absolute dream come true for us — not bad for a poor farm girl from Kansas!

While the content of my graduate school training is useless to me now, many of the skills I learned during those years are absolutely invaluable: writing complete sentences that are logical and coherent; digesting and analyzing information almost instantaneously; adapting quickly to rapid change; and a personal style that is both gracious and aggressive.

WILLIAM K. BOTTORFF, Guest Editor of *[MAS]*, 9 (Spring, 1968), author of "Introduction: The Age of Jefferson," for that issue.



1969



1983

Ph.D. in American Civilization, Brown University (1964)

25 years of college teaching

Professor of English, The University of Toledo

Director of American Studies, The University of Toledo

Wrote *Thomas Jefferson*, Twayne-G.K. Hall (1979)

Wrote *James Lane Allen*, Twayne (1964)

Edited several scholarly volumes, mainly for Scholars' Facsimiles and Reprints.

Wrote a number of articles on Taylor, Eliot, Emerson, Thoreau and other writers.

Have turned away from literary criticism and scholarship in recent past to write fiction and poetry—have published a number of poems and short stories.

Congratulations on 25 years.

OSMUND OVERBY, Editorial Board, 1968-71.



1968—just the fifth year after my Ph.D. in art history, the second year of my chairmanship of the Department of Art History and Archaeology at the University of Missouri-Columbia, the year I was elected Editor of the journal in my field, the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, and then came the invitation to serve on the Editorial Board of *American Studies*. I didn't know how to say "no" in those days. But it was a lot of fun even if I never felt completely in control of my own life.

A decade later, I spent six years as Director of the Museum of Art and Archaeology at the University of Missouri. Fascinating, and important, but again something that distracted me from my own field, the history of American architecture. Now I'm trying to be a little

more single-minded about that, and am working on regional architectural history, at the moment most seriously on the history of the Creole architecture in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, and the Mississippi valley. I say "yes" only to things more specifically concerned with architectural history, such as the Vice Presidency of the Society of Architectural Historians. I should become President in '86.

But the methodology in my own field becomes more complex, enriched by other disciplines. Over the past four years working on Ste. Genevieve, I have found myself in close collaboration with historians, anthropologists, archaeologists and geographers. And it was *American Studies* that first challenged me with interdisciplinary approaches, and showed me their potential. I remain a faithful and grateful reader.

JULES ZANGER, Editorial Board, 1969-72.



English professor Jules Zanger lectures at senior citizens center here. From the *Edwardsville (IL) Intelligencer*, January 22, 1985.

I've been long time member, occasional contributor, journal reader and frequent lifter of insights to pass on to my class as my own. I suspect that I've learned as much from papers I've disapproved of as from those I enthusiastically recommended. I'm certain I made mistakes; I like to think they grew fewer. The kind of extended critical responses to the contributors that editorial policy demanded made each act of reading a kind of intellectual risk-taking in which I felt at least as exposed as any contributor, and especially exposed to the opinions of colleagues whose judgement I particularly respected. It was, needless to say, a wonderfully strenuous experience.

I remain at Southern Illinois University, contemplating my last decade with considerably mixed feelings.

ROBERT HEMENWAY, Guest Editor, Fall, 1970 issue: "Perspectives on Black America."



Since 1970 I have become the father of six children, published both a biography of Zora Neale Hurston and an edition of her autobiography (recently reviewed on the cover of the *New York Times Book Review*), and served as Chair of the English Department at the University of Kentucky. I look upon my association with *American Studies* with warm memories, mainly because Stuart and the staff had both standards and stamina.

ROBERT W. SCHNEIDER, Editorial Board, 1970-73.



May 1984. Photo from Richardson Photography.

When I was working with the journal my research and writing centered on an historical analyses of the ideas of novelists during the Progressive Era. As a member of the editorial board I was privileged to comment upon many fine manuscripts that bordered on my subject and to review a large number of books that were relevant to my own research.

Since then my research interests have moved abruptly forward to the Post-World War II period and my concentration from novelists to academic scholars. At present I am working on a manuscript tentatively entitled, *A Flawed Adam in a Boundless Garden: Human Nature and the Dimensions of "Consensus" Scholarship*. An article from the manuscript on Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., appeared in *American Culture*; another on Richard Hofstadter will appear as a chapter in a forthcoming book, edited by Ray Browne, entitled *The Constitution and American Culture*. I also presented a brief outline of the chapter on Daniel Bell at the American Culture Association convention in April 1985. Others who will be discussed in my book include Louis Hartz, Alfred Kazin, Henry Nash Smith and Will Herberg.

My experience in serving as a consultant served to broaden my understanding of both the sweep and the depth of work in American Studies and I have found it highly valuable.

CHARLES CHATFIELD, Guest Editor, "Peace Movements in America," 13:1 (Spring, 1972).

I think I took pride, as much as anything, in the cover of that issue—with the cartoon of Uncle Sam straddling a war horse and a peace dove. It was so appropriate for 1972. There were no current histories of the peace movement in the United States then, and it seemed quite clear that the subject fell within the purview of American Studies. Accordingly, I proposed, and the editorial board accepted, the notion of a thematic special issue of the journal under my editorship. I had the feeling from the first that the issue would be publishable in book form, and this was the case, as Shocken published it in 1973 with an expanded introduction. Since then, I have taken pride in seeing that volume cited frequently in the literature.

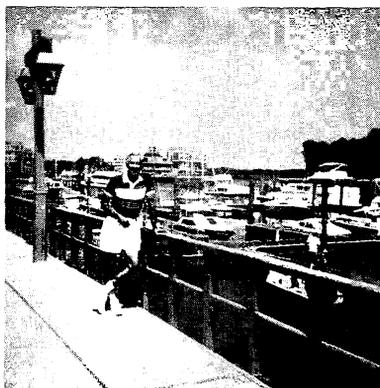
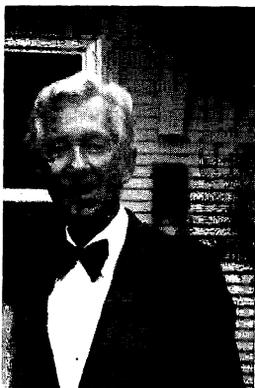
I am grateful to the journal for having had the vision to accept the proposal, and to Geoff Steere for having helped me make the appropriate contacts while Stuart Levine was on leave. I had just published *For Peace and Justice: Pacifism in America, 1914-1941* (University of Tennessee, 1971), and was just about to co-edit the Garland reprint series, *The Garland Library of War and Peace*, so that the special edition of the journal helped launch me on a career in the history of peace movements. Two years later I undertook to direct international education for Wittenberg University, a career diversion which lasted almost a decade and took me abroad repeatedly, one from which I am only now returning to historical research and writing. I return with a new sense of context for American studies—no longer an island culture in an island history but, rather, a culture conditioned by and interacting with global systems.

HAMILTON CRAVENS, Editorial Board, 1972-76. Chair, 1976— .

I'm not quite sure what to say about myself. I was an editorial board member between 1972 and 1976. I have been chair of the editorial board since 1976. Being involved with the journal and the MASA, now MAASA, has been very pleasant personally and professionally. It has been a growing and stretching experience in many ways. I have learned a lot I probably never would have learned any other way, especially about literature and the arts, and this has enabled me to become more of a truly interdisciplinary cultural historian. Perhaps the most important things have been not so much professional as personal fulfillment—the pleasure of associating with a group of interesting and humane people.

There. Stuffy enough?

ROY R. MALE, Editorial Board, 1972-74.

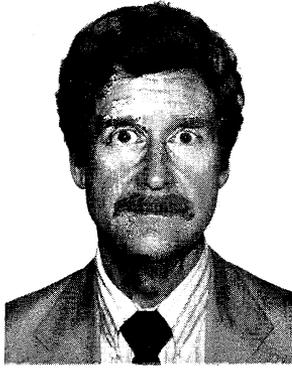


LEFT: Then. RIGHT: Now. Shelter Cover Marina.

I retired from the University of Oklahoma last year and am now enjoying a radically different environment on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Out of academe and into full-time tennis, nature study and reading what I want to read. Among the many pleasant memories I have of the academic life, my association with *American Studies* and its incredibly durable editor ranks high. Good luck in the next twenty-five years, Stuart!

MAX J. SKIDMORE, Editorial Board, 1972-80; 1981-85.

The years of my association with *American Studies* have been fruitful ones. I wish that



Here is a rather bewildered-looking passport photo.

all professional meetings could be as enjoyable and worthwhile as those of the Editorial Board and MASA—now MAASA, and as full of good fellowship. How many of us remember the “travelling wine bottle” that went the MASA rounds for years, originating at the San Francisco ASA meeting?

These years saw me move up into administration from Southwest Missouri State University, where I was Professor of Political Science and Department Head, to Eastern New Mexico University where I was Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. I escaped from the desert to that splendid, if too little recognized city, Kansas City, and now am thoroughly enjoying my position as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Political Science at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

At the same time, I have been able to remain active in political science and American Studies. In addition to articles, I brought out books during these years on language and politics, American political thought, American government and the general field of politics; the latter two in four and two editions, respectively. In 1978-1979 I held a unique Fulbright to India, where I was Director of the American Studies Research Centre in Hyderabad. My connection with *American Studies* has served to make my professional life much richer.

These years have been stimulating ones personally as well. They have included such exhilarating things as my introduction into aviation and the securing of my pilot’s license, and they have been a time of robust health that results partly from physical activities which enabled me to earn a black belt in karate at an age that, regrettably, must be considered to be advanced for such things.

The greatest and most noteworthy development of the period, however, was that it was during those years that I met and married my wife, Charlene.

JOHN BRAEMAN, Editorial Board, 1972-76.

My friendship with Stu Levine goes back to our undergraduate days at Harvard—from the time we both took Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.’s course in American intellectual history. “Young Arthur,” as one of the older faculty rather sarcastically referred to him, was as usual spending a good deal of time trying to save the country from the wicked machinations of the Republican Party. The course met Mondays and Wednesdays plus Fridays at the option of the instructor, and Schlesinger rarely exercised that option. I remember one day Schlesinger assuring the class that thanks to his marvellous powers of compression we were not missing out on any pearls of wisdom. What he meant, in fact, was that he read his lectures faster.

After Harvard, Stuart and I went off along different paths, he to Brown in American Studies, I to Johns Hopkins in history. My own interests at that time were chiefly in

political history focusing upon the progressive era. I wrote my dissertation on Indiana Senator Albert J. Beveridge, which I expanded into a full-scale biography published by the University of Chicago Press. After the frustration of his political ambitions, Beveridge turned to history, writing what is still the standard life of John Marshall and a pioneeringly critical account of Lincoln; unfortunately, he died before finishing it. That aspect of Beveridge's career provided the springboard for a shift of my interests to the study of historiography and, more generally, intellectual history. For the past several years I have been working upon the biography of another Hoosier, Charles A. Beard. I find Beard— notwithstanding his shortcomings—a monumental figure who played a role in American scholarship *cum* public life that will probably never be duplicated.

While finishing my Ph.D. dissertation, I worked as social science editor of the Princeton University Press. Then I was for two years a temporary instructor at Ohio State—a member of what I irreverently called the “sucked orange brigade.” After three years at Brooklyn College (which was grim even before open admissions), I came out to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where, thanks to the collapse of the job market, I remain to this day.

I regard my years of association with *American Studies*—first as a member of the editorial board and since as a sometime manuscript evaluator and book reviewer—as one of my more noteworthy contributions to the scholarly enterprise. Largely because of Stu Levine's dedicated stewardship, the journal has achieved a well-deserved reputation for high standards. Even more important, *American Studies* continues to stand for a genuinely interdisciplinary approach to the study of the American experience in a time of increasingly narrow specialization.

ROBERT L. CARRINGER, Editorial Board, 1972-74.



I was brought onto the board because the journal needed someone with an interest in film and I had recently shifted that way from out of American literature (Poe and nineteenth century fiction). I served only a half term because the film submissions just weren't coming in (one article in three years, as I recall). In the decade since I was associated with the journal, I have published articles on Poe, American narrative and Orson Welles, books on *Ernst Lubitsch* (G. K. Hall) and *The Making of 'Citizen Kane'* (University of California Press), a screenplay edition of *The Jazz Singer* (University of Wisconsin Press) and a laser videodisc critical edition of *Citizen Kane* (Criterion). One of the projects I have planned is an American Studies-type book on fifties television. I am still hoping that one day *American Studies* will do an “American Studies and Film” special issue.

JOHN HANCOCK, Guest Editorial Consultant for 14:1 (Spring, 1973), book reviewer and manuscript reader, 1967-present.

After two years as associate professor helping develop the urban studies component in American Studies at the University of Kansas, I came to the University of Washington (1969), where I am professor and graduate program coordinator in the Department of Urban Planning, specializing in urban history, planning history and thought, and the cultural context of planning (American and comparative). I am also adjunct professor of Environmental Studies and faculty associate in American Studies, General Interdisciplinary Studies and Japan Studies. Currently I am working on the relationship of military and urban development and planning in the modern United States, using San Diego as initial case study, and I also am writing the history of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot there.

The *American Studies* journal has been particularly important for keeping me in touch with the variety and range of scholarship among Americanists and, even more, for its informal, personal touch, as maintained since 1959 by editor Stuart Levine. Most issues give me the sense of being in touch with old friends, although I know few of the authors and staff personally. I have also been impressed over the years with the quality and friendliness of the graduate editorial assistants and managing editors. Onward upward in the next quarter-century.

CHARLES C. ELDREDGE, Editorial Board, 1973-77.



Since 1982, Director, National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. From 1971-82 Director, Spencer Museum of Art and Professor of Art History at University of Kansas; 1970-71, Curator of Collections, Museum of Art, KU.

Congratulations on your Silver anniversary. I should have thought that landmark would be the occasion for a special William Jennings Bryan issue, or one on the Hunt Brothers or the Comstock Lode, or an appropriate silvery moment out of American culture. In any event, I enclose a photo for your class-reunion book. If my memory serves, I was on the editorial board from 1973-77 during the course of my KU association (1970-1982). Since 1982 I have been in my current post, as you know. Beyond that I don't know much that would be of interest to your readers.

Life at the Smithsonian goes well, a bit like a big university with no undergraduates! I am busy with administrative chores more often than I might like, but have in the last six months begun to find time to think and even to write again. I hope I can continue that in the months and years ahead.

JIMMIE FRANKLIN, Editorial Board, 1973-77.



Circa 1973-1975.

Author of books, *Journey Toward Hope: A History of Blacks in Oklahoma* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1982); *The Blacks in Oklahoma* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1980); *Born Sober: Prohibition in Oklahoma, 1907-1959* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1971) and scholarly articles.

Professor and Historian, Vanderbilt University, 1986—. Earlier teaching at Eastern Illinois, 1970-1985; University of Washington, 1969-1976; Wisconsin State University, Stevens Point, 1966-1969.

It was a real joy to work with Stu and the journal and to watch it grow. There was always pride in what we were doing and a belief that excellence was not a distant abstraction. I will continue to cherish my association with *American Studies*.

LINDA K. KERBER, Editorial Board, 1974-75.

When I joined the editorial board, I had already published *Federalists in Dissent: Imagery and Ideology in Jeffersonian America* (Cornell University Press, 1970) and was beginning work on the book that became *Women of the Republic: Intellect and Ideology in Revolutionary America* (Chapel Hill, 1980). I had just begun to teach a course in American women's history—now I teach a variety of women's history courses, alternating among at least five. I still define myself as an intellectual historian, by my interests have been in issues involving women's experience and I expect they will remain so.

My service on the editorial board of *American Studies* was my first such appointment. I had not realized before the pedagogical role that learned journals play in the continuing education of the profession. Our students perhaps think that professors, once they have their degrees, are off the hook, but writing essays and book reviews are in effect the term papers we set for ourselves. It is true that we set our own agendas, but once set, we face challenges similar to theirs—of saying something clear, intelligent and persuasive to our readers. Book reviews particularly are an exercise in which academics keep their critical skills sharpened. And the staff of the journal acts as teacher and critic, offering advice and suggestions for improvement as well as the simple judgment whether something is publishable or not. It is the activity of the journals that keeps us all on our toes and maintains the vigor of academic discourse nationally and internationally. I got my first taste of this role in my service on the *American Studies* editorial board, and I continue to be grateful for the experience.

GERI MUFICH-VEZILICH, Editorial Assistant, 1974-75.

After working on the journal during my senior year at Kansas University, I took off for

parts unknown—or rather Yugoslavia, where I studied for 6 months. Upon my return to the United States, I began graduate work at KU in Applied Linguistics and Slavic Linguistics. More specifically, I wanted to teach English to Yugoslavs in Yugoslavia. To do this I opted for the new “Special Studies” Master’s program, combining courses from the Linguistics Department and the Slavic Department. During 1977 and 1978 I worked at the KU Language Lab and learned the intricacies of tape recorders and tape duplicators. I got my chance to teach English to foreign students when in the fall of 1978 I became a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the Applied English Center.

I taught that year and in the fall of 1979 I was off again to the “Land of the South Slavs” i.e. Yugoslavia, this time on a Fulbright-Hays Grant to do research for my thesis. During the 2 years at Zagreb University, I learned a great deal about the language, customs, people and geography of Yugoslavia, while also getting a chance to travel to Berlin, Budapest, London and Rome. When I came home in 1981 I not only had lots of data/research material, but a husband in tow. Michael, who was also studying in Zagreb, and I met at a seminar and found out how amazingly similar our backgrounds and interest were, although we grew up 2,000 miles apart (he’s a born and raised Californian).

My next trip to Yugoslavia was in the Fall of 1983 with husband and 1 year old daughter. In the intervening 2 years we had both gotten our masters, mine in Special Studies, his in Slavic, and applied for the Fulbright. During the 1983-85 visit, I taught English at the small university in Mostar. My students were graduate students and assistant or full professors in the schools of Economics and Engineering. Michael had his own dissertation research to do on the dialect spoken on the island of Korčula in the Adriatic Sea off the Yugoslav coast. One of the benefits of living in Mostar was its location relative to other places. We were only 2 hours by car or train from Sarajevo, home of the 1984 Winter Olympics. I went to three finals in the ice rink, and saw the East German girl take the gold away from our US star, Rosalynn Summers. I also got to try out the cross-country ski course (after the games, of course!)

It is now 7 months since our return to Lawrence. Daughter number two has arrived and I am at home taking stock of the situation and planning my next move—be it teaching, return to school or some other job. I took an introductory computer course and am currently working on Michael’s dissertation at home on our recently purchased computer. I dropped in Watson Library last fall and picked up a copy of *American Studies* and leafed through it. I was able to recognize some of the names from the MASA people I corresponded with over 10 years ago. The look of the journal has changed somewhat—I think it’s a bit slicker—the no-caps type preferred by Stuart has survived.

The editorial assistant’s job at *American Studies* introduced me to the world of professional journalism, an interest I still hold today. Given my background and experience, I am more of a “foreign” rather than an “American” studies person. But I still feel close to the idea and goals of the field of American Studies. I have had 4 years of living in a foreign country and during that time I was constantly bombarded with questions about America, her people, politics and lifestyles. I think that by living outside this country I have gained an insight and perspective that can be appreciated by those whose studies of American can be related and/or compared to studies of another country.

PEGGY S. ALLEN, Editorial Assistant, April-August, 1975.

Ten years after receiving a B.A. degree from the University of Kansas in American Studies and Anthropology, I have a “real-world” career in publishing. I came to New York following a year in Boston and some graduate level studies, and, with only one day of job hunting, began to work here as a picture researcher. I am now a photo editor at *Newsweek* magazine. I syndicate *Newsweek* staff photography, selling our material to European and foreign publications. Along with my slowly progressing personal work as a photographer, I get a great deal of satisfaction from freelance projects, including acting as photo editor for two well reviewed trade books, one on Elvis Presley and the other on John Lennon and Yoko Ono. (Oh, how strong the influence of POPULAR CULTURE!)



New York City, it seems to me, is hardly life in America; but I appreciate my American Studies background for preparing me for the diversity of experience which I happily find here.

THEODORE R. HOVET, Editorial Board, 1975-79, 1981-85.



I am currently Professor of English at the University of Northern Iowa. Stuart not only edited *American Studies* but in the late 1960s guided me, a semi-lazy graduate student, through a Ph.D. dissertation.

American Studies is something very special to me. It constituted my earliest encounter with serious interdisciplinary scholarship and it has been a vital part of my scholarly reading ever since. Most importantly, working with Stuart on the journal and with other members of the Editorial Board has provided me with an intellectual and professional standard that has greatly enriched my teaching and scholarship. I guess it would be safe to say that *American Studies* has become part of the fabric of my life.

CHADWICK HANSEN, Editorial Board, 1976-80 and occasional consultant and book reviewer since that time.

I had the great good fortune to be a graduate student in the Minnesota Program in American Studies in the early fifties, when Tremaine McDowell, Henry Nash Smith, Leo Marx, Barney Bowron, Jack Levenson, Mulford Sibley, Johannes Riedel, Arnold Rose, Andreas Papandreu and Mary Turpie were all members of the faculty. Sam Monk, Robert Penn Warren and Allen Tate were in the English Department; Bud Steinmann ran



The photograph is roughly contemporary with my term on the Editorial Board. Don't be frightened by the copyright stamp; all you need do is give a credit line to "Bill Coleman." Doing that confers publication rights. Like most photographers, I don't have a current photograph.

freshman English. John Berryman was in Humanities. And that is only a partial list. The graduate students were almost as varied and lively a group as the faculty; Bill Ward was still a graduate student when I was there and Alan Trachtenberg arrived the year after I left.

I've taught at state universities ever since: Penn State, Minnesota, Iowa and at present Illinois at Chicago. At all of these I've been fortunate in being able to teach interdisciplinary courses as well as literary history. My scholarly interests have been chiefly in American folk and popular culture, especially as they relate to or impinge on high culture. The subjects on which I've published include Salem witchcraft, jazz, Afro-American shake dancing and Mark Twain. Currently I'm working on a life of Art Hodes. Whitney Balliett said of him recently in the *New Yorker* that he "is probably—though he is rarely given his due—the greatest of blues pianists." Art and I edited a book (*Selections from the Gutter*) for the University of California Press in 1977. At 80 years of age he is playing better than ever. He can be heard leading his own trio at the Raccoon Club in Chicago on Wednesday nights, except when he is on the road.

The greatest pleasure of my work with *American Studies* has been in the genuine variety, in subject, in point-of-view and in method of the manuscripts which have come my way. And it has always been a special pleasure to see a manuscript on which I've worked appear in print. But I don't want to forget the book review section, which is surely the most useful thing of its kind for anyone seriously interested in American culture. I has been an honor to be a contributor.

ELIZABETH SCHULTZ, Assistant Editor, 1976-80.



My involvement with *American Studies*, the journal, coincided with my growing understanding of and commitment to American Studies, the discipline, as well as to other

interdisciplinary studies. This understanding and commitment has, of late, been reflected not only in my teaching such courses as American Women Writers, American Autobiography, and The Idea of an American Literature, but also in my writing on such subjects as American and Japanese fiction, Afro-American fiction, *Moby-Dick* and American culture. As our lives become more fragmented, the connections seem more important: life with American Studies continues to assure me that this is so.

CHICO HERBISON, Graduate Editorial Assistant, 1976-77.



B.A., M.A., M.Phil., American Studies, University of Kansas. Presently, a Project Counselor with Supportive Educational Services, University of Kansas, free-lance writer and aspiring jazz musician.

MARK H. ROSE, Associate Editor, 1977-78.



In September 1977, Stu Levine asked me to serve as associate editor. He promised it would be fun and hard work and that I'd learn a great deal. Stuart was of course correct on each count. During that year, we handled more than 200 manuscripts and numerous book reviews and participated in another terrific MASA meeting. Stuart introduced me to the magic and mystery of reading referee reports and the equally important work of soliciting manuscripts. Subsequently, I served at another journal and edited a newsletter; currently, I

am the coordinating editor of a monographic series with a university press, and, since 1980, an associate professor, History of Technology, Michigan Technological University. Stuart liked the work and that rubbed off. I find that when I have to reach deep for a judgement, I'll often ask how it would have been done at *American Studies*. Stuart also taught *sechal*.

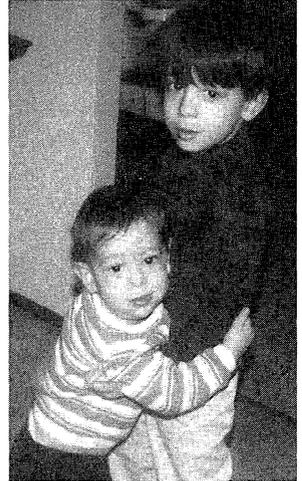
MARY (MOLLY) HURLEY MORAN, Editorial Assistant, 1978-80.

I worked as an assistant on the journal while teaching as a lecturer in Kansas University's English department. In 1980 I moved to Clemson, South Carolina, because my husband, Mike Moran, got a job in Clemson University's English department. While awaiting the birth of our first child that fall, I finished up my doctoral dissertation *in absentia* for the University of New Mexico. In fact, I received my Ph.D. exactly one week before my daughter, Alison, was born, in December 1980.

During 1982 I taught part-time at a number of small colleges in this area. Then in January of 1982 I began teaching as a Visiting Assistant Professor in Clemson's English department. In the fall of 1984 I obtained a tenure-track position in the department. My specialties are technical and business writing, composition and twentieth century British literature. I have published articles in all these fields, my major accomplishment being the publication of my book, *Margaret Drabble: Existing Within Structures*, by Southern Illinois University Press in 1983.

I very much enjoyed working on the *American Studies* journal and hope to have a hand again in some kind of editorial work. I especially enjoyed getting to know you, Stuart, and my co-worker Linda Staples. If she is still around please give her my regards. Also please give my best to Jerry Masinton, whose seminar on the twentieth-century novel I sat in on and greatly profited by.

DEBORAH SPECTOR SIEGEL, Overworked Graduate Editorial Assistant, 1977-79.



LEFT: Just after Leaving Kansas, 1980. CENTER: With Noah, Spring 1985. RIGHT: Josh and Noah Spector-Siegel, March 1986.

Since departing graduate school, Kansas and The Journal, my years, despite the bright luster of my association with *American Studies*, have by no means been as Henry James in

1884 allowed, "a rude workaday life jolting and scraping from one dull day to the other. . . ." I was cheered to find there truly was life after *American Studies*, mine have become a richly varied and oft triumphant encounter with that arcane realm only darkly hinted at behind academic doors: the real world.

In 1979, full of happy anticipation and armed with the tools of the magazine trade, I advanced upon Washington, D.C. ready to experience a miracle. In 8 weeks I had launched a career as editor and chief writer of a Washington D.C.-based trade association, living up, for more than a year, to my bosses' expectations as one who had "received a thorough grounding in every phase of periodical production and business operations on the respected academic journal *American Studies*."

But one grows quickly tired of the banal business of the nation's capital and soon I was in search of fresh fields, beginning anew in the city of Chicago where, following a clear line along my chosen path, I happily married a certain Howard Siegel and quickly found myself in a new and wondrous adventure as the mother of our two boys, Joshua and Noah, now ages 4½ and 1½. The only temper to the joy of those years—a brief but troublesome bout with serious illness.

There was no writing for awhile, save jottings in a notebook, but in the last three years I have again been working variously at my writing craft: a historical biography, a young people's novel, nearly completed and off to an agent, and a free-lance writing career, this latter of which has most fully come to fruition as I play a roving George Plimpton sort of reporter for the Chicago-area Jewish press. My most recent articles appeared this winter in the *JUF NEWS* (the monthly paper of the Jewish Federation)—one an intimate interview with a young man who is the son of Holocaust survivors; the other, entitled "Hill Street Jews" in which I spent a pleasurable and sometimes hair-raising month interviewing the Jewish rascals and heroes of the Chicago and suburban Police Force.

I have always been more than a little amazed that it was my stint as friend and servant to the journal, and not my university education, which has continually opened doors for me. I'll always recall the man who was to become my boss in Washington, pounding his finger on my resume at the point where I described my *American Studies* training saying "This is what I've been looking for, not just a fresh kid with a fancy degree. I wanna see that a person can actually do it." Indeed, very fresh kid though I actually was, I had learned to do it, under the almost always benevolent guidance of my friend and grad-school mentor, Stuart Levine, for which I shall always be grateful.

And I will always be grateful too, for the opportunity I had of being surrounded by some rather extraordinary writers and thinkers. In addition to Stuart and the editorial board readers, there were David Katzman, Elizabeth Schultz and Ham Cravens, on whom I eavesdropped on the exciting business of finding treasures among those prolific piles of manuscripts.

Those years as the stage-struck editorial assistant represent something of a Camelot to me, an ideal time for an eager student, of being constantly stimulated by the unpredictable product that minds can offer. It was the journal and only rarely graduate school classes which drove home to me the essence of what scholarly business was about. I learned quite a bit about discerning from whose pen had flowed something entirely new or perhaps a new ordering of the old vision, whose work was filled with passion, whose ideas were inbedded in a language that somehow came alive on the page. Without even looking at back issues, bits and pieces still dance in my head—Mary McDougal Axelson and *Life Begins*, Walt Whitman and the *Calamus Poems*, Dakota Philosophy, Jacob Riis and the Jews.

Remembering those quiet hours when the journal phones had died down, when the academic publishing machine had ground down to a temporary halt, when even Stuart had given up and gone home and when I reached out to touch those magic piles of manuscripts, I realize now that those were for me, moments of being, of pure cerebral pleasure.

JOHN MODELL, Editorial Board 1979-83, protesteth too much that he is “not an American Studies type.”

At the University of Minnesota, where for 13 years he was in the Department of History, he protesteth thus right from the start to Mary Turpie, who, happily, wouldn't take no for an answer. He taught, argued, and celebrated rather a surprising amount in the Program in American Studies in Minnesota, given his conviction that he was not of the type to do so, and served on the Editorial Board of *American Studies* in much the same spirit. American Studies, and *American Studies*, taught him to push what he *knew* pretty hard toward what he could *guess*. As Board member, he harumphed a great deal about evidentiary and methodological matters, but always tried to recognize and appreciate imagination when in even the lightest of harnesses. He probably failed a lot.

He is now at Carnegie-Mellon University, an institution that does not have (and, by God, will not have) an American Studies program. He must look elsewhere than American Studies for kicks—*American Studies*, for instance.

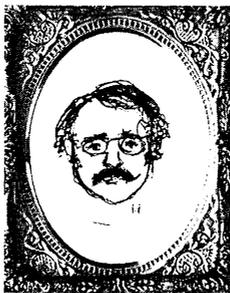
MARY AILOR WATSON, Editorial Assistant, 1981-83.

I held the position of undergraduate assistant while earning a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting at KU. Since my graduation in 1983, I have been working in the Comptroller's Office at KU.

KATHLEEN COLLINS BEYER, Graduate Editorial Assistant, 1982.

Kathleen Collins Beyer, whose M.A. is in American Studies, had just completed her doctoral dissertation on E. M. Forster's *The Hill of Devi* when she spent the summer of 1982 as Graduate Editorial Assistant for *American Studies*: “one of the best professional experiences of my graduate career.” She has taught at Zhengzhou University in China and is now a member of the English Department at Iowa State University. (Kathleen wrote this third-person statement, including the quotation from the “subject,” herself: obviously too much time spent editing OBNA—.) She adds, in a letter, “Well—blushes—is this the sort of entry you're looking for? Tinker with it as you like, of course. I do continue to enjoy the quality, readability, and spunk of the journal.”

BARTON LEVI ST. ARMAND, Editorial Board, 1980-84.



Professor of English, Brown University. Chairperson, American Civilization Program, 1979-1982. Author of articles on such American writers as Hawthorne, Whitman, Thoreau, Jewett, Poe, H.P. Lovecraft, J.F. Cooper and H.P. Spofford in such journals as *American Literature*, *American Quarterly*, *Poe Studies*, *American Transcendental Quar-*

terly, *Caliban*, *The Nathaniel Hawthorne Journal*, and *Bucknell Review*. Most recent book: *Emily Dickinson and Her Culture: The Soul's Society* (Cambridge University Press, 1984). Fulbright Professor of American Literature, Sophia, Waseda and Rikkyo Universities, Tokyo, Japan, 1984. Major interests: 19th-century American Literature and painting; the occult in American Literature; American Victorianism. I have found that working as a reader for *American Studies* has been a challenging experience in all ways, especially when confronted with an essay that was "out of my field." Generally I have hesitated to take a strong hand in editing Mss., since I believe in letting an author have his or her *donnée*, as Henry James affirms. Yet also in a Jamesian sense I have felt my own work to be enriched and accelerated by contact with the multiple perspectives of an American Studies methodology—not some monolithic ideology, but the fruitful, organic, idiosyncratic "shock of recognition" that arises from the marriage of fresh critical ideas with painstaking scholarship. The variety and viability of *American Studies* spring from just such turnings of the magic crystal of text in the changing lights of context.

DAVID GRIMSTED, Editorial Board, 1982-86.



Grimsted raises roses, questions, basil, three children, parsnips, rhubarb and a parakeet, the latter two with great success. He also raises verbena, having liked Faulkner's story, "The Odor of Verbena," especially its title. From such experience he has learned that verbena are delicately lovely *and* odorless, and that people had better not trust authors, at least when engaged in something serious like gardening. Hence he writes slowly, but he hopes with (as Confucious say) Zhi Bi, or "an upright pen," about bad plays and riots and labor and popular culture and Mormons and Jefferson's racism and Jacksonian skulduggery.

He watches horse races and birds and movies and tropical fish and out, and listens to waves and opera and what's in the wind. He knows that the world's best novels are *The Tale of Genji* and *Clarissa*, its best movie Vidoo's *The Crowd*, its best historians Herodotus and Henry Adams, its best song *Simple Gifts* and its most hilarious verbal humorists Thoreau, Joyce and Talcott Parsons. He also understands that the world's true political grail is bourgeois egalitarianism, best represented in this country in the social thought of Timothy Dwight, Thomas Skidmore and Huey Long. He is a dedicated historian, realizing his need for the stolidity of that discipline to offset his natural inclinations toward the quizzically questioning eclecticism that is the charm of *American Studies*. College Park, thank heaven, is no Kansas lotus-land.

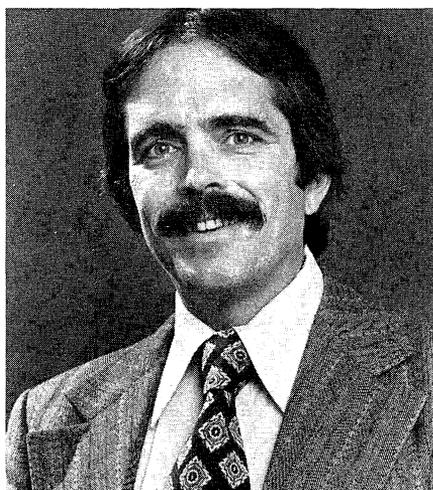
LILLIAN SCHLISSEL, Editorial Board, 1982-86.

Brooklyn College B.A. 1951. Yale University, American Civilization, Ph.D. 1957, part of the vintage years of Norman H. Pearson, David M. Potter, Stanley T. Williams. Looking back, I often wonder how anyone who is second-generation Brooklyn born found her way to research on the American West. For some reason, that incongruity always seems surprising. Sometimes I suggest that starting in Brooklyn, everything past the Hudson River is "frontier." James Fenimore Cooper, "my dissertation subject," himself never traveled beyond the boundaries of New York State. Natty Bumppo, the first national symbol of the frontiersman, was conceived in the mind of a native New Yorker. More seriously, those who are close to the immigrant's delight and fascination with the American dream of endless horizons do harbor a special feeling for the idea of the frontier. The work of my career has been in finding the realities that match that imaginative matrix.

Although much of my published work seems disparate—*The World of Randolph Bourne* (1965), *Conscience in America: A Documentary History of Conscientious Objection* (1970); *Journals of Washington Irving* (with Walter Reigart, 1982); *Women's Diaries on the Westward Journey* (1982)—in retrospect I see it as a long apprenticeship in learning to read private paper and making historical judgments out of them. The greatest challenge, I find, is to make something meaningful out of the letters and diaries of "anonymous" people, the men and women history has overlooked. My current research is in family history, still set on the far western frontier, but more than ever focused upon the possibilities of writing history out of the lives of private, everyday people.

In 1977, the first article I published on the diaries of the women who made the westward journey was printed in *American Studies*. It was a forum receptive to what was then a new approach to the writing of women's history. *American Studies* provided a welcome hospice to new theories and new directions. I have always had a special affection for this journal—less than prepossessing in its format and style—but serviceable and enduring in its flexibility and in its academic integrity. I hope I have served the journal and its contributors in some measure in the past few years. The profession needs a variety of avenues for publishing the work of Americanists of many faiths and inclinations. This strange bird we call "American Studies" will flourish only when there are different roads by which we can all travel. I congratulate *American Studies* and its editor on its twenty-fifth anniversary!

TIMOTHY MILLER, Associate Editor, 1982-86.



I have been physically close to the journal for well over half its life, having done my graduate work in American Studies at Kansas between 1968 and 1973. Thereafter I was never far away; I would look over an occasional manuscript and review books from time to time. Socializing with the editor also continued over the years. Finally, in 1982, I agreed to fill one of the associate editorial slots, and although I don't think I provided much net help to the journal, I certainly learned a lot about how it all worked as Stuart patiently showed me the ropes. Any faint romantic notions I might have had about editorial work were forever quashed; more than anything, I learned, the work was a lot of work. At this writing I am still functioning as associate editor on a limited schedule, but a new arrival in the household has made a major claim on my time, and after the special issue on new religious movements has gone to press, I plan to retire to the position of occasional consultant. Also, my family and I have recently purchased a rambling old house to contain our offspring and assorted other accoutrements (especially the thousands of books), and I think I will for some time to come be wielding a hammer more often than a pen.

I'm also hoping to put more of my time into teaching. For some reason my average class size has been creeping upward for several years, now hitting the 60 to 70 range most of the time. I believe that the single thing college students need most to learn is how to do clear expository writing, and I thus find myself reading reams of undergraduate prose on a fairly steady basis. Not as interesting as learned articles, surely, but just as important.

Years ago the crack around here was that the journal was run as an extension of Stuart Levine's personality. I think that's still true; like Stuart, the journal is serious and scholarly but lighthearted and interesting. Its breadth of scope, which could be a fatal weakness, is a solid strength. It manages to fill an academic niche it has carved out of itself, using specific case studies as lenses through which to examine the entirety of the American experience.

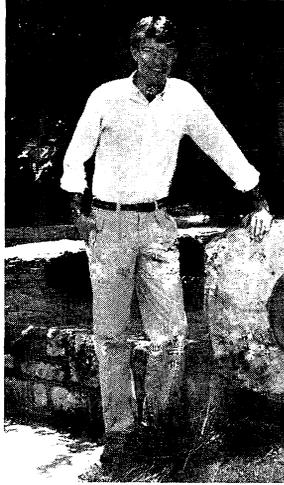
LORI D. MACCURDY, Graduate Editorial Assistant, 1984-86.



Summer 1985.

I enjoy working on the journal more than teaching 7th grade English, which is what I did after graduating from William Jewell College. In fact, after I finish my Master's in English this summer, I intend to head east and find my fortune (or at least a job) in the editing/publishing world. Stuart assures me that several of my predecessors have done so; I'd like to continue the "tradition." My two years with *American Studies* have certainly been instructive, from knowing nothing to a little bit about the work of putting out a publication, and, of course, my typing speed has improved greatly. David, Stuart, Tim and Jeff have been fun to work with and I've also enjoyed the opportunities to read new scholarship; sometimes when reading great works of literature one tends to forget that current writing can be interesting, too.

JEFF ROGERS, Editorial Assistant, 1984-86.



Before leaving KU, May 1986. Snapshot by Lori MacCurdy.

As I proof these other letters written by my predecessors, I am reminded that the memories of tomorrow are the experiences of today. It's not a profound revelation, but it is true. Although I am still on-the-job with the journal, I already have set aside an important place in my memory for my two year association with Stuart, Lori, David, Tim, and the journal itself.

It is hard to imagine a better student job than the one I have been so lucky to hold here. Freedom, responsibility, knowledge, experience, friendship. The journal has given me these things and I would someday like to repay it through some scholarly contributions.

Too soon I will be descending Mount Oread with both sadness and optimism: I will miss the the healthy and inspiring years of growth which I have received from Kansas, but I will venture to the University of Illinois to study cultural geography with confidence. And as I grow further and further away from my southern New Mexico roots and my Kansas blossoming, I will, like these other comrades, remember the journal and its people with affection, honor and pride.

ALBERT STONE, Editorial Board, 1984-88.

My connection with *American Studies* has developed through MASA (now, MAASA). My teaching and writing are with autobiography, history as literature and literature as history, childhood, and psychoanalysis and culture. Reading submissions has educated me in surprising ways this past year, but it still hurts to vote against certain articles which, though flawed, are written in life-blood.

MARY O. FURNER, Editorial Board, 1985-89.

My formal connection with *American Studies* has been brief; I was appointed by the editorial board at the April 1985 MAASA meeting. I can boast a much longer and most rewarding association with some of the people who have breathed a distinctive spirit into the journal, especially Hamilton Cravens and Stuart Levine.

My main scholarly interest is in working out the connection between ideology, institutions and policy. In the history department at Northern Illinois University, I teach

courses on the Industrial Era and the Progressive Era, and research and reading seminars on the industrial transformation and American social thought. After writing a book on the professionalization of American social science, I started looking further into the connection between social science and public policy. At the Woodrow Wilson Center in 1982 that project matured into a book in progress on the transformation of American liberalism in response to the growth of industrial capitalism. The trick is to figure out what traditional liberalism was like by the 1840s and then try to reconstruct the process of social learning that transformed the American political tradition in the Industrial Era. At the moment I am working on the growth of the American state: what was the republican conception of the state to begin with? How (and at whose behest) did it grow, change, direct development, manage the economy, mediate social conflict, influence the growth of knowledge, shape mass culture? And what are the implications of the Reagan revolution for the liberal state and its denizens?

These are exciting times in American studies and American history. If we succeed in ignoring the siren call for a new consensus and keep our minds on serious things, breakthroughs in our conceptualization of American culture—on the order of the 1960s revolution in social history—are at hand.

Except for such things, I suppose I'd rather be in Hatteras.

I look forward to a fruitful and pleasant association with *American Studies*. Happy 25th Anniversary!

LOIS W. BANNER, Editorial Board, 1985-89.



Professor, Department of History and Program for the Study of Women and Men in Society, University of Southern California.

Vice President, American Studies Association.

Author: *American Beauty*; *Elizabeth Cady Stanton: A Radical for Women's Rights*; *Women in Modern America: A Brief History*; *Clio's Consciousness Raised: New Perspectives on the History of Women* (with Mary S. Hartman).

DAVID W. NOBLE, Editorial Board, 1985-89.

He has been at the University of Minnesota since 1952 where he is a professor of History and American Studies. Many of the American Studies dissertations which he has directed parallel his own interests in the way in which political values influence narrative structure in popular culture as well as in classic novels or in the social sciences. His most recent book, *The End of American History: Democracy, Capitalism and the Metaphor of Two Worlds in Anglo-American Historical Writing 1880-1980* (University of Minnesota



Press, 1985) focuses on the crisis in narrative structure which has been present in the works of major American historians beginning with Frederick Jackson Turner.

JOHN R. STILGOE, Editorial Board, 1985-89, article author, 1981.



March 1984. Jane Akiba, photo.

I am Professor of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University, author of *Common Landscape of America, 1580 to 1845* and *Metropolitan Corridor: Railroads and the American Scene* and am presently completing a history of the American suburban landscape. My teaching and research focus on the creation, meaning and perception of non-urban space—the countryside of colonial plantations, nineteenth century small town edges, early twentieth-century industrial zones, and the innumerable other artifacts of past effort at shaping physical form. Now and then I do scrutinize particular urban forms—railroad termini, for example—but the countryside and its portrayal in forms ranging from painting to advertising art to poetry attract the bulk of my energies. No set of subjects strikes me as better suited to interdisciplinary analysis; not only does my research lead me into New Mexico mountain villages and to Tennessee hamlets, it lures me into unfamiliar library collections, among dust-covered glass negatives and through company archives.

American Studies did me an immense service in the spring of 1981, when it published my "Fair Fields and Blasted Rock: American Land Classification Systems and Landscape Aesthetics." Out of the editorial process and post-publication correspondence emerged suggestions that sharpened my thinking on a number of points in the piece, and several which still affect my inquiries. Such accurate help is of immense value to any scholar, and I am honored to now serve on the editorial board that so assisted me. Atop my elderly

John Deere tractor plowing the few fields I farm as a hobby, I look down at the “hazel brown” soil turning over and recall the *American Studies* piece that traced, albeit fitfully, some of the meaning of that color in the mind of farmers and of painters.