

## masa bulletin

THE ANISFIELD-WOLF AWARD IN RACE RELATIONS: A very great honor has come to us with the selection of the book *The American Indian Today* as a winner for 1968 of the Anisfield-Wolf Award in Race Relations. The book, as many of you know, is a much re-edited and enlarged version of material which originally appeared as a special issue of this journal. The award goes once each year to one scholarly book and one belletristic book and consists of \$1500 for each.

In his letter to your editor, Ashley Montagu, chairman of the committee, says that in 1968 each of the awards has been divided between two books. He does not name the other book in the scholarly division.

The award committee is composed of Mr. Montague, Pearl Buck and Oscar Handlin. Nancy Oestreich Lurie, the co-editor of the book, and the editor have decided to distribute the prize money equally among all the contributors.

To our knowledge, the award has never before gone to an anthology, and it seems extraordinary that the committee expended the time and care necessary to recognize that this was not merely an assemblage of articles about Indians, but rather a painstakingly assembled and much re-edited and revised symposium. The editor has written to the members of the committee to express gratitude on behalf of his co-editor, the contributors and the *masa* staff.

The book will shortly be reissued in an inexpensive paperback format by Penguin Books. The announcement of the Anisfield-Wolf Award will be made formally in the *Saturday Review*, probably in April.

JULES ZANGER is the new literature man on our editorial board, and we welcome him cordially. Warren French's term has now expired. It is going to be hard to get used to the idea that Warren

is no longer on the staff. He was an exceedingly good editor—prompt, conscientious and helpful to authors.

The *Journal* as a matter of editorial policy tries to provide some services to contributors beyond a yes or no decision. Very good articles which are too specialized for us, for example, generally get praised in editors' comment sheets which the author is allowed to see and to use in resubmitting his paper to other periodicals. The author of a solid piece of research who fails, in our eyes, to see the real significance of his work, is generally asked to try his hand at interpreting his contribution; his revised essay then gets a second round with our readers. On revised and resubmitted articles, we guarantee authors the *same* set of readers. (Editors of university presses please take note! No practice causes more resentment than encouraging an author to revise and resubmit according to criteria developed by one set of consultants, and then, when he has put in another year's work on his manuscript, sending it off to three new men, who, often as not, ask that it be revised back to something like its original form.)

Mr. French was, it seemed to us, a contributor's advocate, frequently covering pages with detailed and helpful comments, in several special cases even helping authors with style and organization. It is not clear where he found the time: these have been fruitful years in his own scholarship, and he is chairman of a large department as well. Now that he is editor *emeritus*, we hope his presence on *masa* will continue to be felt.

MASA'S IN ST. LOUIS, LOUIS, MASA ISN'T SQUARE: Here is the program for the 14th annual meeting of the Mid-continent American Studies Association at St. Louis University on Saturday, March 29, 1969:

Panel Discussion: The Changes in American Churches.

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Chairman: Richard Smith, School of Divinity, St. Louis University.

Quaker Attitudes Toward Slavery. Robert Corrigan, American Civilization Program, University of Iowa.

The Mischief-Making Man-of-War. Linda McKee, Department of History, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois.

Presidential Address: Some Aspects of Thoreau's Ethics. Alexander C. Kern, American Civilization, University of Iowa.

This is the first time in recorded memory that *masa* has been put to bed before the annual spring meeting, so there is no way to include the usual gossip about Hertz Rent-A-Cars exploding on the way to the meeting, glorious local entertainment provided after the Executive Board Meeting on Friday night, good-looking graduate women, Vertigo Conferences next door and so forth. Undoubtedly by the time you read this such things will have been talked about; undoubtedly the papers will have been stellar, and conversation stimulating.

CONVENTION PAPERS: The present issue contains a number of articles which, in somewhat different form, were originally given as papers at the first annual meeting of the American Studies Association in Kansas City in October, 1967: Jay Gurian, "American Studies and the Creative Present"; Russel B. Nye, "Changes in Twentieth-Century Rural Society"; Elmer F. Suderman, "Fiction and Menno-nite Life"; Keneth Kinnamon, "The Pastoral Impulse in Richard Wright"; and Raven I. McDavid, Jr., "The Language of the City."

ABSTRACTS: Alexander S. Birkos, the editor of abstracts publications for the American Bibliographical Center of Clio Press, writes to remind us that "for a number of years your publication has been abstracted regularly in *Historical Abstracts and America: History and Life*. . . . May I encourage you to consider publishing a notice of this type in your *Journal*." Now we have done it.

NATIONAL ASA MEETING: There will in fact be a second national meeting of the American Studies Association, in Toledo, Ohio, from October 30 to November 1, 1969. Details are available from Ray Browne, English, Bowling Green University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402.

Graduate and undergraduate students get free housing. The preliminary program looks good; Ray Browne is an ace conference-runner. Moreover, Toledo has a fine art museum.

MASA'S IN DE COLD, COLD NORTH: It now seems quite likely that the proposed joint meeting of the Midcontinent American Studies Association and the American Studies Association of Minnesota and the Dakotas will take place in the Spring of 1970, in Omaha, Nebraska. MASA is sending a representative to the northlands for the ASAMD 1969 meeting to make further arrangements. Omaha has been selected as a convenient in-between location, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha will be the host institution, as plans now stand.

DOING WELL BY DOING GOOD: Reaction to the new *masa* format has been most enthusiastic, and we are gratified. Circulation, as we said in our last number, is up markedly, but we still do not see how we are going to be able to meet costs. A suggestion which might be pedagogically useful to you, and which we have followed with great success at the University of Kansas, would help us considerably if it matches your needs: people teaching introductory courses in American Studies are often at a loss to illustrate to their students, early in the semester, the kinds of work which American Studies people do. We've found that adopting a single issue of the *Journal*—not one of the special issues but rather a general one, dealing with a wide range of American issues—is an effective way to demonstrate the range, richness, methodologies and above all, the utility of American Studies scholarship. Feedback indicates that while one would be reluctant to expose students immediately to a general issue of most scholarly publications, because the articles are liable to be too specialized, *masa* is immediately attractive and interesting. The issues raised by the articles in a given number of the *Journal* also invariably turn out to be relevant to other work throughout the course.

If the idea sounds attractive to you—and we urge you to consider it seriously—your bookstore can order copies at the usual textbook discount directly from our business office at Parkville, Missouri. We have adequate quantities of all general issues.

We would like to hear from those who have made use of the *Journal* this way.

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The issue currently in use in this manner at the University of Kansas is the Spring, 1967, number. Students were given a lecture on the nature of issues which concern American Studies scholars, and asked as they read each article to consider, among other things, what good its findings would be to a student of the culture. Since that's essentially the same questions which our editors ask in evaluating articles, the introduction to American Studies concepts *should* go well in class, as it has in fact each time we've tried it.

A BLACK ISSUE: Robert Hemenway of the Coe School of American Studies, the University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo-

ming 82070, will be added to the board of editors of the *Midcontinent American Studies Journal* to serve as guest editorial consultant for a projected issue on black culture in America. He and your editor are currently shipping back and forth successive revisions of the prospectus for the issue. Professor Norman Yetman of the American Studies Program at the University of Kansas has also offered his services on an informal basis to lend a hand with articles which are close to his specialty (the Negro personality). Prospective contributors may write either to Professor Hemenway or to the editor. The prospectus should be ready by the time this issue reaches you.

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