

masa bulletin

EDITORIAL POLICIES: *American Studies* rejects, pretty much out-of-hand, essays which do not address themselves quite directly to the question, "What is to be learned (from my article) about society or culture in the United States?" It also says "No" to articles which, because of their narrow focus or their failure to cross disciplinary boundaries, would be more appropriate, in our editorial opinion, in more traditional "disciplinary" periodicals. We try to have no biases about subject matter—artistic, folkloric, literary, historical, sociological, cinematic or whatever—providing that what is done with the subject is broad in its implications, and that those implications are explored. We expect also a graceful style and effective development of argument.

These have been our policies since the journal's inception, but it seems wise to repeat them from time to time.

HISTORY AND LITERATURE, WE LOVE YOU: Bending over backward to stress cultural and social issues, Sister Elizabeth Kolmer produced a flyer on the forthcoming MASA 1978 Spring Meeting which, she fears, makes it sound as though people in literature and history need not apply. Not so, not so, she urges—as always, we want people from these two mainstay-of-American-Studies disciplines; the brochure was intended to encourage them and other scholars to propose projects which related their work to social or cultural considerations. For convention details, see below.

MIGHTY MASA MEETING for spring, 1978 will take place under the chairmanship of Elizabeth Kolmer of the American Studies Program, Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, Missouri 63103 from March 31 through April 1. This year's theme will be regional: "The History, Cultures, and Peoples of the Mississippi Valley." The announcement reads, in part, as follows:

Proposed papers should be in one of the following areas:

Ethnic groups of the Mississippi

Valley

Indian cultures

Painting of the Mississippi Valley:

artists of the region or works on the Valley

Music of the Mississippi Valley

Anthropology of the Mississippi Valley

The role of the river in the growth of culture

The cities of the region: individual or comparative studies

Religion and the Great Revival in the Mississippi Valley

Note: There will also be sections on the teaching of American Studies at the high school and college levels if there are sufficient papers to warrant them.

Note that if none of the items on the list is your bag, you should see the item immediately preceding this one (History and Literature, We Love You). MASA conventions charge one's batteries; Saint Louis University is a notably good academic host; Saint Louis has concerts, museums, restaurants, jazz and the Climatron. You should come.

OHIO-INDIANA ASA holds its spring meeting on April 21 and 22, 1978 at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. For information, write Joe Trimmer, English, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana 47306. Its topic is regional, too: "The Old Northwest and the New Regionalism."

THE FIRST AND SECOND RECONSTRUCTIONS: That's the title of a conference February 15, 16, 17, 1978, at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The subtitle is informative: *The Historical Setting and Contemporary Black-White Relations, 1860-1978*. The program is already set: twenty-four historians of the Reconstruction era will, according to the blurb, "explore the historical setting for contemporary race relations."

AMERICAN STUDIES AND FILM: Peter Rollins, a member of our editorial board, writes to tell us about a model American Studies course on film. This is not film history but an exploration of "American cultural themes and values reflected in our films." A heavily annotated freebie syllabus can be glommed

(continued on p. 118.)

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(continued from p. 4.)

from Susanne Schall, National Humanities Institute, 53 Wall Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06510.

AMERICAN INDIAN HISTORY MONEY from the Newberry Library can be had through a number of eleven month fellowships. ABD's and better are eligible at various stipends. You write to Francis Jennings, Director, Center for the History of the American Indian, Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

INDIANA HISTORY MONEY is available to doctoral dissertation writers if the topic deals with Indiana or the relation of Indiana to its region. Information from Gayle Thornbrough, Indiana Historical Society, 315 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202.

\$1000 PRIZE for an unpublished manuscript—a long piece of fiction or non-fiction—is now awarded annually by the *Colorado Quarterly*. The subject matter is wide open; the winner gets published as an issue of the magazine. More information from Claudine Seever, Hellems 134, the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80309.

WESTERN LITERATURE of Canada and the U.S. is the topic of an ambitious conference at the Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta, on April 12 through 15, 1978. There will be major papers, readings, panels and group discussions. For the straight word, you write to Dick Harrison, English, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada.

TOO LATE, by the time this reaches you, probably, to apply for one of those NEH Fellowships in Residence for College Teachers. There are to be sixteen seminars in 1978-1979. But since this is an on-going program it's good to be advised of it. It is directed at junior college and college teachers; it hopes to give such folks a chance to work with scholars at places which have strong libraries.

COMPARATIVE CIVILIZATIONS: The International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations announces an April 13-16, 1978 meeting at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; information comes from Vytautas Kavolis, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013.

IMMIGRATION INFORMATION: If you have some of the right sort, you can be very helpful to Nicholas V. Montalto and his associates at the Immigration History Research Center. It seems that the YWCA was involved in something called the International Institute Movement, running programs to help immigrants.

If you know of records of Institute operations, get in touch with Mr. Montalto, at 221 68th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11220.

350TH ANNIVERSEARY [SIC]: That's what it says on the missive from the Boston University News Bureau describing an ambitious hunt for seventeenth century New England artifacts. These will go into a gala show at the BMFA in 1980, at which time Massachusetts will be celebrating 350 years since its founding. The searchers are a clutch of graduate students in B.U.'s American and New England Studies Program; if you know of ways to help them, contact Jonathan L. Fairbanks, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts 02115.

FOLKLORE INDEX: *American Folklore Films and Videotapes—An Index* is a new reference aid underwritten by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Moreover, plans call for updating it annually.

A TIP OF THE HATLO HAT (if I were Hatlo, and if I wore a hat) to the following good folks who, in the past months, helped *American Studies* by reading submitted manuscripts and commenting thereon: Bruce Adams, Tuskegee Institute; Robert Carringer, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign; Bunker Clark, University of Kansas; Joe Collier, El Camino Junior College; George Ehrlich, University of Missouri-Kansas City; Paul Finkelman, Washington University-St. Louis; Warren French, I.U.P.U.-Indianapolis; Louis G. Geiger, Iowa State University-Ames; Russel Getter, University of Kansas; Edward F. Grier, University of Kansas; Alan Gribben, University of Texas-Austin; John L. Hancock, University of Washington; Grace O'Neill Hovet, University of Northern Iowa; Sydney V. James, University of Iowa; Richard G. Lillard, California State University-Los Angeles; Roy Lubove, University of Pittsburgh; Jerry Masinton, University of Kansas; Robert McColley, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign; Bernard Mergen, George Washington University; Regina Morantz, University of Kansas; Ann Lee Morgan, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign; William Nichols, Denison University; Harold Orel, University of Kansas; Lyall H. Powers, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Edward O. Purcell, Jr., University of Missouri-Columbia; Don C. Rawson, Iowa State University-Ames; Donald Ringe, University of Kentucky-Lexington; Janet Sharistanian, University of Kansas; Geoffrey Steere, University of Kansas; Evelyn Swartz, University of Kansas; James Woelfel, University of Kansas.