

masa bulletin

FIRST ANNUAL THANK-YOU: We would like to thank the following scholars, not members of our editorial board, who kindly consented to act as consultants on articles submitted to us during the current academic year: Michael Brodhead, University of Nevada; John Clark, University of Kansas; Robert A. Corrigan, University of Iowa; Eugene Ferguson, The Hagley Museum; John Flanagan, University of Illinois; Stephen Fox, University of Kansas; James Gilbert, University of Maryland; Robert Hemenway, University of Wyoming; Charles Masinton, University of Kansas; Keith Olson, University of Maryland; George Ritzer, University of Kansas; Elizabeth Schultz, University of Kansas; Carlyle S. Smith, University of Kansas; Elmer Suderman, Gustavus Adolphus College; Jeffrey Swanson, University of Illinois; William Tuttle, University of Kansas; George Worth, University of Kansas; and Alfred Young, Northern Illinois University.

HELLO AND GOODBYE or Hail and Farewell or some such thing: To Bob Schneider of Northern Illinois University we send thanks for four years of hard work along with congratulations for professional advancement. He leaves our staff to be replaced by Jimmie L. Franklin of Eastern Illinois University, to whom we say "Hi," or "Welcome aboard," or "Don't look back, they're liable to be gaining on you," or whatever should be said to a new editorial consultant. Our editors work hard; they try to offer useful advice even to authors of papers we're clearly not going to accept, and they try to treat all contributors' ideas with respect. These annual thank-you notes aren't enough; one ought to have a better way to show appreciation.

PEACE: Call to the attention of your colleagues the new Schocken paperback *Peace Movements in America*, edited by Charles Chatfield. It is a reprint, with a new preface by the editor, of our spring 1972 issue. Cheap enough for textbook use (\$3.95), it serves the dual purpose of introducing students to the complex patterns of pacifism in the United States and supporting our journal, to which the bulk of the royalties accrue. A hard-cover version was published simultaneously, and may be recommended to libraries.

CUZAK

*Looking like a humorous philosopher
Who had hitched up one shoulder
Under the burdens of life and gone on
his way*

*Having a good time when he could,
Cuzak, pulling on his pipe,
Dreams of theatres and Vienna
Of lighted streets, music and beer
And a game of dominoes after the days'
work.*

*He listens to the silence:
The grunting of the pigs,
An occasional squawking of the hens,
The wheeze of the pump.*

No, *American Studies* doesn't publish poetry. But Elmer Suderman read poems at the spring '72 MASA meeting, and dutifully mailed them along with some notes of explanation to us, because *American Studies* has rights of first refusal on papers read at MASA meetings. "Found poems," he claims them to be, centered on "the tides of feeling expressed by Jim Burden" in Willa Cather's *My Antonia*. "Found" is too modest; "discovered" must be closer to the truth.

"No," said our editors, "you shouldn't publish these, because we're a scholarly journal and these are poems." But several said they were moved by them, and I decided to sneak a sampling of the set—there are sixteen in all—into the MASA Bulletin, if not into our text proper. They may not be "found," but four of them may be found here.

THE WORLD IS FAR AWAY

*Crows loiter and gossip in the clear blue
And gold of the sky. The prairie swallows
The sound of milk purring into pails,
The grunts and squeals of pigs fighting over
Their supper, the windmill pumping lazily
In the light breeze. In the evening
The farmboy is lonely, engulfed in the
Strong smell of sunflowers and ironweed
In the dew. The chores seem everlastingly
The same, and the world so very far away.*

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THE SONG OF THE WINTER WIND

*Black Hawk is bleak and desolate
In the late afternoon. The pale
Cold light of the winter sunset
Does not beautify; it is like
The light of truth. The smoky clouds
Hang low in the West. The red sun
Goes down behind them leaving
A pink flush on snowy roofs and
On blue drifts in the streets.
Then the wind springs up
And sings its bitter song:
"Whether you like it or not
Winter is what is real.
The frivolities of summer,
The light and shadow,
The living mask of green
That trembled over everything—
They were lies,
And this is what was underneath.
This is the truth."*

MY ANTONIA

*After twenty years I saw Antonia again,
Stalwart, brown, flat-chested,
Her curly brown hair a little grizzled.
It was a shock of course. It always is
To meet people after long years,
Especially if they've lived as much
And worked as hard as Antonia.
We stood looking at each other,
Strangers at first,
And then I saw her eyes.
I had looked at thousands of faces
Since I had last looked at hers
But had seen no other eyes like Antonia's.
She was there, battered but not diminished,
Looking at me, speaking to me in the husky
Breathy voice I remembered so well.*

*Later, I was thinking, as I watched her,
How little it mattered—
About her teeth, for instance.
So many women had kept all that
She had lost, but lost much more that
Antonia had kept: the fire of life,
That rich mine of life, like the founders
Of early races.*

*A battered woman now, not a lovely girl,
She still fired my imagination,
Could still stop my breath for a moment
By a look or gesture that somehow
Revealed the meaning in common things.
Standing in the orchard and looking up at
the apples,
She made me feel the goodness of planting
and
Tending and harvesting.
She was like the smell of sagebrush
After rain; intangible but powerful.*

MIDWESTERN CULTURE is the province of a new periodical, *The Great Lakes Review*. The first issue will appear in December, 1973. Articles in literature and language, history, folklore—what have you—are solicited. Send to: Editors, *Great Lakes Review*, Northeastern Illinois University, St. Louis at Bryn Mawr, Chicago, Illinois 60625.

TEACHING IN FRANCE on a swap-your-job basis: the scheme involves French colleagues who, in return, come to your university. So says a press release from the Franco-American Commission for Educational Exchange. The advantages seem obvious; the main disadvantage outlined in the release is that you must live on the French professor's presumably more modest salary. More information is available from Madame Claude Taudin, Clearing House Service, Franco-American Commission for Educational Exchange, 9, rue Chardin, 75-PARIS 16e, FRANCE.

POPULAR CULTURE: A new popular culture group held its first meeting in April of 1973. Those within range and interested might want to contact Dr. John DiMeglio, Department of History, Box 007, Mankato State College, Mankato, Minnesota 56001. The outfit is called "The North Central Popular Culture Association."

COMMUNICATIONS STUDY: Sidney Kraus writes to tell us of a research project involving the effects of mass communication on public behavior. He wants "to conduct an inventory of accumulated knowledge" on the subject. Write him at the Department of Communication, Cleveland State University, 1983 East 24th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

CELLULAR TURNOVER was the submerged topic of MASA's annual convention in Amana, Iowa, April 6 and 7, 1973. One put down mighty quantities of Amana food; one listened to papers, one drank with friends. But unless one also used the swimming pool, the thermal bath and the sauna, one would not have fit into one's clothes by the end of the meeting. MASA meetings always produce a certain amount of spiritual renewal; I don't recall, however, a meeting at which there was as much accompanying physiological regeneration.

Some of the participants came to the meeting from places well beyond the midcontinent region. The glorified motel at which we convened is not in or even really near any of the Amana colonies; it sits just off the interstate in a mild landscape of rolling Iowa hills. There is nothing else in sight. Fifty-five

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scholars from all parts of the world converged, if you want to look at it that way, on an empty field a ten-dollar taxi ride from the nearest urban place.

Many of the papers and panels were very good, by the way, and those of us who were locked into long executive and editorial board meetings were unhappy at having to miss some of them. Next year's sessions are planned to avoid this extensive overlap. MASA is, happily, still small enough so that our conventions can be coherent social events. One can get to know not merely colleagues in the association, but, often, their students as well.

And yes, there was zither music.

The program follows:

Friday, April 6, 1973

LITERATURE AND CULTURE

CHAIRMAN: ROBERT A. CORRIGAN, THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

MARCO MILLIONS: EUGENE O'NEILL'S ROMANTIC TRANSCENDENCE

Frank R. Cunningham, Kansas State University

THE ETHICAL WORLD OF DASHIELL HAMMETT

Janellyn Staley, Iowa State University

LITERATURE AND FILM

Jeanne Thomas Allen, The University of Iowa

COMMUNITY

CHAIRMAN: STUART LEVINE, THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

ESCHATOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES IN AMERICA: OR, THE END OF THE WORLD REVISITED

James Arnquist, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

MENNONITE COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTHWEST

Elmer F. Suderman, Gustavus Adolphus College

NEW OBSERVATIONS ON THE COMPARATIVE STUDY

OF AMERICAN ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

Wayne Wheeler, University of Nebraska, Omaha

MINORITY CULTURES

CHAIRMAN: RICHARD HERRNSTADT, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

THE SPATIAL MOBILITY OF SKID ROW MEN

Richard M. Smith, Kearney State College

"BLACK" LITERARY SPEECH, RACE AND COLONIALISM

Jules Zanger, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

METHODS IN AMERICAN CIVILIZATION

CHAIRMAN: CHARLES CLEAVER, GRINNELL COLLEGE

EUROPEAN ORIGINS OF AMERICAN SECULARIZATION

David R. Stevenson, Kearney State College

COMPUTER STUDY OF LANGUAGE DATA

Boyd Keith Swigger, The University of Iowa

IMAGES OF THE ORIENT IN "LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE"

Gene E. Hamaker, Kearney State College

APPROACHES TO TEACHING AMERICAN CULTURE

CHAIRMAN: NORMAN HOSTETLER, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

BLACK AMERICAN CULTURE

Judith F. Kovisars, Oklahoma State University

JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES: A CROSS-CULTURAL COURSE

Charles G. Cleaver, Grinnell College

WILDERNESS AND THE AMERICAN MIND

Gerhard T. Alexis, Gustavus Adolphus College

Saturday, April 7, 1973

MINORITY AND MAJORITY

CHAIRMAN: JOSEPH KNAPP, ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY

THE HOMOPHILE COMMUNITY AS A CONCERN OF AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAMS

Warren French, University of Indiana-Purdue University, Indianapolis

PUBLISHING RESEARCH IN AMERICAN CIVILIZATION

CHAIRMAN: EDWARD F. GRIER, UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Panel Discussion led by Frank Lloyd, The University of Iowa

PANELISTS

Hennig Cohen, University of Pennsylvania—*American Quarterly*

Ray B. Browne, Bowling Green University—*Journal of Popular Culture*

Stuart Levine, University of Kansas—*American Studies*

Warren French, University of Indiana-Purdue University, Indianapolis

Stow Persons, University of Iowa

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

AMERICAN STUDIES: THEORY AND FAD

Jerzy Hauptmann, Park College

—SGL