

## masa bulletin

**TITLES:** With Volume XII (1971), our journal changes names. The note on the inside front cover reviews the changes in title. But it omits the journal's predecessor, and this seems an appropriate time to include, if not a six-inch epitaph, at least a one-inch monument: the title of the present column, MASA Bulletin, was selected to perpetuate the name of the *Bulletin of the Central Mississippi Valley American Studies Association*. When the executive board of the CMVASA decided to found the journal and approached your editor in hopes of luring him into the job of producing it, it was decided to give the column of American Studies news and gossip the title of the chapter's prior publication. And so in Volume 1, Number 1, this column first appeared as "CMVASA Bulletin." CMVASA changed its name with the title change of the journal, at which time the column picked up its present title. And that's why we use the word "bulletin."

**1971 MEETING:** MASA's fall, 1970, Executive Board meeting legislated mightily, growled about ASA provinciality, consumed impressive quantities of scholarly soul-food (Anne Yetman's good cooking and bourbon), and made imaginative plans for a festive spring, 1971 meeting devoted to the topic "Women in America."

Scholarly papers on aspects of the general topic "Women in America" are therefore invited for consideration for inclusion in the program of the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Midcontinent American Studies Association. The meeting will take place at the University of Kansas on the 26-27 of March, 1971. Professor Norman R. Yetman of the Departments of American Studies and Sociology at the University of Kansas is chairman; papers should be sent to him at the Department of Sociology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

Prospective participants are urged to contact Professor Yetman in the near future. Scholars interested in the subject

should write to Professor Jerzy Hauptmann, Department of Political Science, Park College, Parkville, Missouri 64152, so that their names may be added to the mailing list to receive detailed announcements, registration forms and programs.

**PEACE MOVEMENT ISSUE:** Charles Chatfield (Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio 45501) is serving as guest editorial consultant for a special issue on American Peace Movements, tentatively scheduled for the fall of 1971. We invite manuscripts for consideration. Articles should relate some facet of the *organized* peace movement (or its leaders or membership) to the character and quality of American society and culture in this century. Criteria of selection will include: (a) quality of writing and research. (b) the degree to which the article relates to others submitted in suggesting broad patterns; and (c) innovation in approach. Quantitative studies or essays in political iconography as well as traditional approaches are desired. *Two* copies of each manuscript for consideration should be sent by May 1, 1971, to *American Studies*, 1135 Maine Street, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

**PUFFERY:** We have been encouraging MASA members and other journal regulars for years to send us blurbs about their own scholarly activities because it seems to us important that we communicate with one another about our areas of research, and also because it is fun to puff one's friends books. Since this is not the review section of the journal, puffery is legal here. Invincible apathy or ineffusive modesty seem, however, to have restrained most of the journal's circle of reader-scholars. Such forces hardly operate within the American Studies Department at Kansas, and we proceed unblushing to puff the year's contributions of our department to the world of scholarship.

Norman R. Yetman, our Associate Editor, is the author-editor of *Life Under the*  
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*Peculiar Institution*, a paperback published this summer by Holt, Rinehart and Winston. The volume represents the most extensive edition published to date of "slave narratives"—accounts of what it was like to live under slavery, written or dictated by men and women who had lives as slaves.

The early reception of the book has been exceedingly favorable, and Holt is now producing a hardcover "trade" edition under the title, *Voices from Slavery*.

Mr. Yetman is also the co-editor of a volume slated for publication in March, 1971 by Allyn & Bacon, *Majority and Minority: The Dynamics of Racial and Ethnic Relations*. This involves a basically institutional and structural approach to majority-minority relations in the United States. It is comprised of forty articles. Yetman's co-editor in this work is Hoy Steele, an advanced graduate student in the American Studies doctoral program.

Your editor is involved in two further works, both published, quite by accident, on the same day in mid-August. He returned to the university from a trip to ancient Indian sites in the Southwest to find them waiting on his desk. A very pleasant surprise; he only wishes that he would return from class someday to find that an issue of the journal had appeared with as little editorial and productional fuss on his part.

The first is the Penguin-Pelican paperback of *The American Indian Today*, which he co-edited with Nancy O. Lurie. The paperback is a somewhat revised version of material most of which had appeared in this journal. Authors' and editors' royalties for the paperback edition have been assigned to the journal, which, in these tight times, needs all the help it can get.

The second is Levine's study of the turn-of-the-century art critic Charles H. Caffin, which is coupled with a reprint of Caffin's book, *The Story of American Painting*. The publisher is Johnson Reprint Corporation.

The department has also produced a number of recent articles; perhaps the one of most general interest is by another graduate student, Tim Miller. It is called, "Whither Unity? A Case Study," and appeared in the July 22, 1970 issue of *Christian Century*. This is a case study of the movement toward consolidation among many American Protestant

churches, with speculations about why the movement seems to be failing to take hold. Miller is a good scholar; he also has first-hand experience as a minister. Many of the factors he discusses in the article are observable among his own parishioners in the Bethany Park Christian Church.

**JOBS:** The Placement service which MASA and the feds established at the First National ASA Meeting in Kansas City three years ago was notably successful, from all reports. That at the Second National Meeting in Toledo seemed, from what we heard, less well-organized and less effective. American Studies placement poses special problems, and it would probably be wise for all of us to get in closer touch than we have heretofore on job opportunities for advanced graduate students and recent Ph.D.'s. Like departments of all sorts all over the country, we in American Studies at Kansas have been feeling the pinch of the tight market. We have compared notes with colleagues in other fields, and find, somewhat surprisingly, that we seem to be doing a little better than our friends in the conventional disciplines. Although the jobs our students have found are not as attractive as we would have hoped in more favorable years, all have been able to latch on to respectable and sometimes exciting teaching, administrative and research appointments. It is too early to tell how they will fare this year, but I would say that the mood in the department is one of, to borrow one of those terrible phrases, "guarded optimism." May we have a general comparison of notes on this score? We would be happy to discuss them in future Bulletins.

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DOCUMENTS AND COMMENTARIES

*Edited by J. R. Pole*

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