

american studies column

The judges for the 1986 *American Studies PRIZE* have reported in via their chair, James M. Skaggs. The best article in the 1986 volume according to their vote is the piece by Eugene E. Leach, "Mastering the Crowd: Collective Behavior and Mass Society in American Social Thought, 1918-1939" (XXVII, 1), and a cash prize of \$100 has been sent to Mr. Leach, along with the congratulations of the prize judges and the editors. The members of the committee were James Skaggs, American Studies and Economics, Wichita State University; Susan Rosowski, Department of English, University of Nebraska; and Edward M. Griffin, Program in American Studies, University of Minnesota—Twin Cities.

When MAASA has its next rally, April 28th-30th, 1989 in Omaha, it welcomes participation by American Studies GRADUATE STUDENTS. Dennis Mihelich, History, Creighton, says that while "MAASA does not have funds to subsidize student travel costs," he, Bryan Le Beau and members of their committee will be happy to work to coordinate student efforts to save a buck. We'd be happy to see panels comparing how the different graduate programs work, panels on graduate "work in progress," as well as regular conference papers, if proposals written by students are accepted. The phone for more information is 402-280-2884, or you can write; Creighton is in Omaha, Nebraska, and the zip is 68178.

FULBRIGHTS: The ground-rules have been changed somewhat for Fulbright scholars. If you're interested in research or teaching abroad, it might be worth your while to phone 202-939-5304 or to write to the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 11 Dupont Circle N. W., Washington, D.C., 20036-1257, even if you think that you are ineligible. Your Faithful Editor, for example, who holds the world indoor and outdoor records for number of Fulbright lectureships and was therefore richly ineligible for another one, is now eligible again. You may be, too.



About as old as MAASA is MVHC, the Missouri Valley History Conference. I think it always meets in Omaha, and over the years there's been a lot of communication between the two organizations. They used to share a certain number of members, and perhaps still do; MAASA and MVHC have generally tried to avoid stepping on one another's dates. Anyhow, if you get in touch with Jerold L. Simmons in
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History, University of Nebraska at Omaha, zip 68283, he'll tell you about the 1989 program, which runs March 9-11.

A second conference on New York State AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE is set for April 21 and 22, 1989, at the Chemung County Historical Society, Elmira, N.Y. 114901. Carol Sutherland, 607-734-4167, has information.

It has been fifty years since WORLD WAR II broke out, and when Siena College in Loudonville, New York, 12211, holds its fourth conference on the war on June 1-2, 1989, the topic will be 1939. A broad, interdisciplinary approach—Political and Military History, Women's Studies, Popular Culture, Film, Art, Literature, Spain, the War in Asia, Diplomatic History, Fascism and Naziism. Bounce ideas off Thomas O. Kelly II, in Siena's History Department, phone 518-783-2355.

Papers which "link NATIONALISM to the cultural, literary, and artistic development" of the period 1788-1830 are the subject of a conference October 14th-15th, 1988 in Salem, Massachusetts. You contact Patricia Parker, English, Salem State College, zip 01970.

Write to Mark Tucker, Music, Columbia University, New York 10027, and he will tell you about the joint meeting involving the Sonneck Society and the International Association for the Study of POPULAR MUSIC, American Chapter, on April 5-9, 1989 in Nashville, Tennessee.

WHIM, the humor conference, will do its funny business in Hawaii in 1989, April 1-4. You get information by calling Margaret Baker or Jesse Crisler, Communication, BYU-Hawaii, phones 808-293-3600 or 293-1552. There's a journal in the field, now, too, and they would like contributions; the editor is Victor Raskin, at Purdue University.

When slow production and printing schedules first produced a column in this journal which included conferences already over, Your Faithful Editor suggested dropping the column. "Don't do it," said the MASA (now MAASA) board, "for such announcements still show what is going on and help interested people get in touch." So instructed, he has gone on, occasionally stopping, however, to point out his awareness of the problem. It is likely, for instance, that the Tenth Annual North American LABOR HISTORY Conference will be History before you read this notice, but if that's a field of interest to you, contact Christopher H. Johnson, History, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan 48202, phone (313)-577-2525.

We know also about the Fifth American Studies Conference in Taipei, November 27-30 1988, on "United States POLICIES CONCERNING ASIA." The contact person is Thomas B. Lee, Director, Graduate Institute of American Studies,

Tamkang University, Kinhou Street, Taipei, Taiwan, 10606 R.O.C.

If you are interested in a conference on KURT VONNEGUT, contact Leslie Rasmus, Visiting Artists, Inc., Mississippi Hotel, 106 East 3rd Street, Davenport, Iowa, 52801. The symposium is scheduled for April 4-6, 1989, and is sponsored by a bunch of small colleges and by the Writer's Workshop at the University of Iowa.

"THE INTELLIGENCE REVOLUTION: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE": that's the topic of a Military History Symposium October 12th-14th at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. You can write Captain Mark Clodfelter at the Academy—he is in History, and the zip is 80840-5701, or you can phone him at 303-472-3230.



ATQ, the scholarly journal that used to specialize in the Transcendentalists, and now covers all New England writers, has been changing format in recent years, and looking good. Now it's changing policy, as well, I guess, and scouting out pieces for a special issue for March 1989 titled "American Utopias: Texts and Contexts." You contact Jean Pfaelzer, English, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware 19711.

We have a press release about a specialized NEW JOURNAL, *Military History of the Southwest*. You contact Richard Lowe or Ronald Marcello, History, University of North Texas, Denton, Tx. 76203-3735.

A new scholarly journal covers "Regional Perspectives on National Topics," but "National" does not mean just "American." The idea is to connect the local with the larger, to go from re-

gion or community to nation. It's called LOCUS, has what looks to be a solid board of editors, will come out annually, and sounds damn good. The locus is History, North Texas State University, P. O. Box 13735, Denton, Texas, 76303-3735, phone 817-565-3395.



A communication from the *Journal of Newspaper and Periodical History*, 62 Queen's Grove, London, NW8, 6ER, England tells us that the magazine plans a number of thematic issues on THE PRESS AND POPULAR CULTURE; the use of illustration in newspapers and magazines; the export of national cultures through the press; censorship and the control of information; women and the press; the theory and practice of newspaper and periodical history. Interdisciplinary stuff! Abstracts of work in progress as well as articles are welcomed; you get information from Michael Harris at the address above.

For those who did not make it to MAASA's Third ANNUAL MEETING in Columbia Missouri, April 15-17, 1988: the theme of the conference was "Looking Backward: Class, Gender, Technology, and the Making of Modern Culture." Steven Watts in History at Columbia was the organizer, and the program follows:

LOOKING BACKWARD: CLASS, GENDER, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE MAKING OF MODERN CULTURE"

Friday, April 15
2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

EDWARD BELLAMY AS VISIONARY CRITIC. David Roediger, University of Missouri-Columbia, Chair.

"*Looking Backward and Equality: Two Changes in the Thought of Edward Bellamy.*" Lyman Tower Sargent, University of Missouri-St. Louis.

"Bellamy's Industrial Future: Physical Comfort, Physical Regression?" Thomas Strawman, University of Kansas.

"Bellamy's *Looking Backward: From Utopian Praxis to Utopian Literature.*" Casaba Toth, University of Minnesota.

8:00 to 9:30 p.m.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: *Shifting Gears: Technology, Literature and Culture in Modernist America*, Cecelia Tichi, Boston University.

Saturday, April 16
8:30 to 10:15 a.m.

TOPIC A: PAINTING AND FIN-DE-SIECLE AMERICAN CULTURE. David Noble, University of Minnesota, Chair.

"Gender Roles in Tension: The Evidence of Thomas Eakins' Portraiture," William J. Clark, University of Wyoming.

"Artists Looking Backward: 1887-1687," Annette Stott, Winthrop College.

"Joseph Stella's *Battle of Lights, Coney Island* and the Emergence of American Modernity," Jane F. Healey, University of Minnesota.

TOPIC B: WOMEN'S CULTURE IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICA. Mina Carson, Northeastern Missouri State University, Chair.

"A World of their Own: Women's Culture in Antebellum America," Eleanor Simpson, St. Cloud State University.

"The English Actress and Her Female Slaves in Georgia, 1838-1839: Fanny Kemble's *Georgia Journal*," Cynthia M. Larson, University of Iowa.

10:30 to 12:15 p.m.

TOPIC A: THE SPACE BETWEEN: THE PLACE AND NO PLACE OF FEMINIST RESPONSES TO UTOPIA, Panel Discussion.

Cheryl Jacobsen, Wartburg College, on women's health and advice manuals of late 1800's and early 1900's.

Theodore Hovet, University of Northern Iowa, on the nineteenth-century view of the domestic sphere as feminine space.

Grace Ann Hovet, University of Northern Iowa, on *Little Women* as a feminist conception of utopian space.

Alice Swensen, University of Northern Iowa, on *The Handmaid's Tale* as a co-opting of women's space by the monolithic state.



TOPIC B: LITERARY RESPONSES TO AMERICAN MODERNITY. Nancy Walker, Stephens College, Chair.

"He Seemed to Have Fortunately Landed on His Head: Looking Back at Perceptions of Ethnocentrism in Harold Frederic's *In the Valley*," Norman Hostetler, University of Nebraska.

"Spiritual Regeneration and the Social Change: Some Literary Mystics of the 1920's," Leonora Woodman, Purdue University.

"Progress or Decay: Rationality and the Detective," James D. Smead, Indiana/Purdue at Fort Wayne.

"Toxic Leaks into Utopia: Don De Lillo's *White Noise*," Mark Allister, St. Olaf College.

1:30 to 3:15 p.m.

TOPIC A: SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL ISSUES FOR LATE VICTORIAN WOMEN, Mary Loeffelholz, University of Illinois, Chair.

"Looking Closer: The Domestic Economy and Social Change, 1870-1920," Nancy Page Fernandez, University of California-Irvine.

"On the Mammoth and the Puny, Sharp-Witted Elephant: Women's Higher Education and the Promise of Evolution," Sue Zschoche, Kansas State University.

"Charlotte Perkins Gilman: Feminist Utopian Thought and Social Reform," Jane Rose, Purdue University.

TOPIC B: FICTION AND HISTORICAL CONSCIOUSNESS, Eli Zaretsky, University of Missouri-Columbia, Chair.

"Julian West and Henry Adams: The Burden of History," Kenneth Cmiel, University of Iowa.

"Bellamy, Howells, and the Problem of History," Gerald Leonard, University of Michigan.

3:30 to 5:15 p.m.

TOPIC A: ENTREPRENEURIALISM, TECHNOLOGY AND THE MAKING OF MODERN AMERICA, Hamilton Cravens, Iowa State University, Chair.

"On Her Own Resources: The Feminizing Enterprise of Harriet Strong," Susan Albertine, St. Olaf College.

"Generational Tension and the Making of Modern Culture: John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and Walter Rauschenbusch," Susan Curtis Mernitz, Florida International University.

"The Problem of Self-Concept: Technology and Femininity," April Wilson, Purdue University.

TOPIC B: IMAGES OF AMERICAN WOMEN, Sr. Elizabeth Kolmer, St. Louis University, Chair.

"R.W.B. Lewis' *American Adam* Revisited: The Female Hero as American Adam," Margaret Young, Georgia Southern College, and Mary M. O'Brien, St. Louis Public Schools.

"A Different Voice: Women and the American Peace Movement," Janice Brandon-Valcone, St. Louis University.

"Women in Wartime: Images of American Women in Selected Magazine Advertisements of the World War II Era," Mary Waldron, St. Louis University.

7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

MAASA DINNER AND BUSINESS MEETING AND PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS: "Utopia, the Kingdom of God and Heaven," Elmer Suderman, Gustavus Adolphus College.

Sunday, April 17

8:30 to 10:15 a.m.

TOPIC A: THE MEDIA AND MODERN MASS CULTURE, Susan Waugh, Meramec Community College, Chair.

"The 'Machine' in Hollywood's 'Garden' A (Leo) Marxian Analysis of *Forbidden Planet*, *Westworld*, and *2001*," Susan Gray, Olivet College.

"To Look, at Times, on the Face of Reality: Genteel Hopes and the Rise of Television, 1937-1949," John R. Groch, University of Iowa.

"Maternal History and Edited Utopia: The Cinematizing of Identity in Joan Didion's *Play it as it Lays*," Alan Nadel, Purdue University.

TOPIC B: EDWARD BELLAMY AND PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIAL AMERICA, Rich Horwitz, University of Iowa, Chair.

"Edward Bellamy's Background in Chicopee, Mass.," Miriam Cavanaugh, American International College.

"Edward Bellamy and Mark Twain: Contrasting Responses to Victorian America," Ronald M. Johnson, Georgetown University.

"Imagining a 'Machine-Live': Bellamy, Morris and the American Arts and Crafts Movement," Bruce R. Kahler, Purdue University.



We are grateful, as always, to those scholars "behind the scenes" who have helped us out by reading manuscripts; OUR THANKS this time around go to Robert Berkhofer, University of Michigan; John C. Burnham, Ohio State University; Lewis Dabney, University of Wyoming; Roger Daniels, University of Cincinnati; Ron Dooley, University of Kansas; Warren French, Indiana University-Purdue University; Alan Hanson, University of Kansas; John Jansen, University of Kansas; Gordon Melton, University of California—Los Angeles; Phillip Paludan, University of Kansas; Harold Simonson, University of Washington.