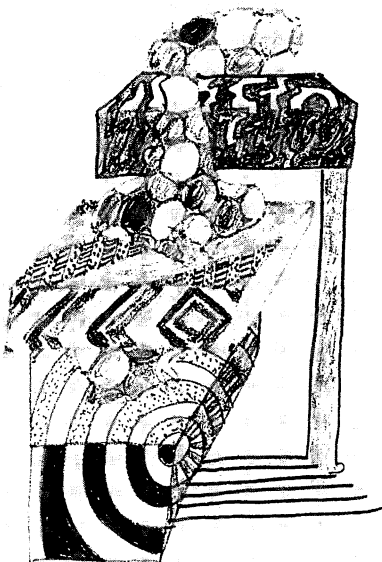


american studies column

Well, we are doing ANNUAL ASA MEETINGS nowadays. When the chapter that was called "Midcontinent" in that era suggested to the national American Studies Association that a national meeting was a good idea, the national responded, "But who would want to come to a national meeting of our association?" This went on annually for a number of years. All previous meetings had been held in conjunction with other scholarly organizations. MASA, then as now, had persuasive officers. They talked, shamed or bullied the ASA into a national meeting. Actually, MASA said it would organize a national meeting on its own if the ASA failed to do so. That finally produced action: MASA was authorized to organize a convention under the condition that the chapter run it and, presumably, lose all the money which would be lost, because, the national board insisted, nobody much would come. And so the first meeting took place in 1967 in



Kansas City. It was a neat conference: loads of people came, and the chapter actually did better than break even. That goes to show something, though it's not clear what.

The First National Meeting did prove that people would come and that the programs could be excellent, so national conventions were institutionalized: run by the chapters, held every other year. And now we're annual.

The 1988 meeting is somewhat specialized; the announcement blurb speaks of "decided preference" for sessions, workshops and proposals "which closely adhere" to the theme of the meeting, "Creativity in Difference: The Cultures of Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Class." Very useful topic, but one fears that such titles will scare away some American Studies practitioners who deal with other approaches to American culture and society. Perhaps MAASA's experience in such matters might be useful: it has run any number of meetings with special emphases, but always includes a statement in its announcement to the effect that American Studies folks who would like to submit talks, or propose sessions for consideration which do not bear on the central theme are also cordially invited to do so. One always hopes, of course, that people will wander into rooms where topics far from their own specialties are being discussed, learn new approaches, act like interdisciplinarians, but, given the nature of our field, it's nice to leave escape valves, openings, passageways. The prospectus as it reads sounds unnecessarily harsh and prescriptive. Miami Beach, October 27-30, 1988.

Our own conference dates for the MAASA SPRING MEETING are April 15-17, 1988, at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where Steven Watts, History, chairs a program called "Looking Backward: Class, Gender, Technology and the Making of Modern American Culture." As always at MAASA meetings, potential participants are invited to bend the topic to make it fit their interests.

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american studies column

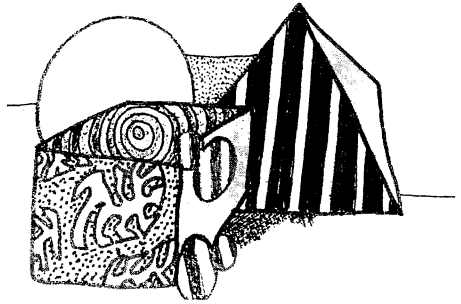
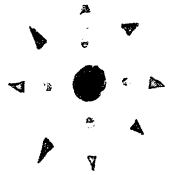
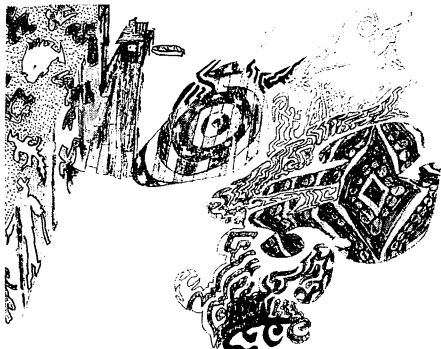
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Unusual topic for the February 26-27th 1988 New England ASA conference: "BODY AND SPIRIT in American Culture." A developing field, apparently: American Studies has received a number of manuscripts the past several years dealing with such topics as the history of recreation. Anyway, you can get information about the conference from Christopher Wilson, English, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts 02167, phone (617) 734-3761.

And from April 29th through May 1, 1988 the California ASA holds a camp-meeting on "RELIGION AND BELIEF in American Culture" at the Claremont graduate school. The announcement blurb said that presentations "on other American Studies topics" were also eligible; that is important for reasons discussed above. The definition of religion itself is appropriately broad, and knowing how imaginative CASA sessions have been in the past, Your Faithful Editor wishes he could go. Anyhow, you can get information from Ann Taves, who is at the School of Theology at Claremont, where the zip is 91711.

Early in its career (vol. 1 number 2) this journal was deeply involved in the MARK TWAIN centennial, producing a special issue which sold out, had to be reprinted, was adopted as text for classes and even sold across the counter in Hannibal, Missouri, where the Twain centennial conference was held. It is now time for the centennial of *A Connecticut Yankee*, and this is scheduled for August 10-12 1989 at another Twain site, the Quarry Farm Center for Mark Twain Studies and Elmira College. Louis J. Budd and Everett Emerson co-chair the project; participants contact Darryl Baskin at the college in Elmira, New York, 14901.

Boise State University (Boise, Idaho 83725) has a MIDWESTERN STUDIES program named after Ernest Hemingway. It wants books and projects for a general audience, and means to cover a wide range of fields. If you do western scholarship, the man to contact in Boise is Tom Trusky.



Anne Fraker, American Studies, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis has information about a research and publication program entitled "RELIGION AND THE INDEPENDENT SECTOR in American Culture." Reach her at 425 Agnes Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202, phone (317) 274-2170.

One of the very good places in the scholarly world is the JOHN CARTER BROWN library in Providence. It has some bucks available for short term and longer fellowships for scholars who have use for its great collection in early American history. Information and application forms come from the Director, Box 1894. The zip is 02912; the phone, (401) 863-2725.

The JCB also has two special awards with very substantial stipends for Latin American scholars able to lecture in English who would love to do research in the United States. TINKER FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIPS, these are called, and you use the same address as above.

The papers of Louis W. Hill cover the period from the 1890s to Hill's death in 1948; they cover an immense range of activities, and a notice from the James Jerome Hill Reference Library in St. Paul Minnesota (zip 55102; phone 612-227-9531) informs us that they are now open to scholars.

We have our annual reminder that there are SMALL GRANTS available for folks whose research requires the collections of the Rockefeller Archive Center, North Tarrytown, New York 10591-1598, phone (914) 631-4505. What's in the Center? Records of the Rockefeller Foundation, University, Family and Brothers Fund among other things. The records touch on a wide variety of American Studies areas.

Bill Graebner writes to tell us that the INDEX to 1984-86 omits his essay "The 'Containment' of Juvenile Delinquency: Social Engineering and American Youth Culture in the Postwar Period." Paul Rebein, the undergraduate Work-Study editorial assistant who compiled the list, is out doing laps in penance.

Readers who remember James Schellenberg's article "COUNTY SEAT WARS: Historical Observations" (Volume 22, number 2, 1981) will be pleased to learn that his book on the subject is now available; Paragon House is the publisher.

We have been corresponding with Robert H. Goepfert, who wants people to know about SPECTRUM which, as its title suggests, covers a broad range: it is a multidisciplinary review which favors contributions from people at small liberal arts colleges. You write the boss at Anna Maria College, P.O. Box 72, Paxton, Massachusetts 01612.

Oh, what an imaginative program they have scheduled at Hofstra on June 10th and 11th 1988: "ROBERT MOSES and the Planned Environment: Innovation in the American Tradition." We would guess that our man Stilgoe will be there, but so should a lot of other people, because the folks running it want breadth, broad perspective, insights from contiguous disciplines. YFE confesses that his childhood and adolescence were powerfully influenced by what Moses did, but you don't have to have been brought up in Hempstead, New York, where Hofstra lives, to go. Get information from Joann P. Krieg or Natalie A. Naylor; Hofstra's zip is 11550; the phones respectively are (516) 560-5456 and 5097.

Texas A & M is doing material culture things, too, and wants folks to donate archival materials—photos, drawings, maps, letters, artifacts, whatever "relating to the history of the BUILT ENVIRONMENT in Texas and beyond." You contact Joan Rabins at the College of Architecture and Environmental Design; the Aggies live at College Station, Texas 77843-3137; the phone is (409) 845-0384.

University of Cincinnati SOCIAL HISTORY: Nina Mjagkij chairs a conference on that topic, October 22, 1988. Address: History, 360 McMicken Hall, Mail Location 373, University of Cincinnati, OH 45221.

If you write Thomas O. Kelly II, he will send information about the April 14-15th, 1988 conference on history, literature, art and popular culture

of NEW YORK STATE. Siena is in Loudonville, New York 12211; Kelly is in History, and the phone is (518) 783-2300.

WORLD WAR II, especially 1938, is the subject of a multidisciplinary annual meeting June 2 and 3 1988, also at Siena. Mr. Kelly has details for that one, too.

In April 1988 the SONNECK SOCIETY meets for the 13th to the 17th at Shaker Village and Centre College, Danville, Kentucky 40422. The program is defined broadly and imaginatively. For information, contact Thomas Riis at the University of Georgia.

If you contact Joe Ann Lever, at Converse College, Spartanburg, South Carolina 29301, she'll give you details on a conference called THE FUTURE SOUTH, scheduled for October 20th, 1988. Cultural persistence, race, women, technology, urbanization and politics are on the agenda.

The Popular Culture Association and the American Culture Association have a number of awards available in different categories for studies of American FEMINIST TOPICS. Different folks to contact: For single-author volumes, Emily Toth, English, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802; published articles, Jane Bakerman, English, Indiana State University, Terre Haut, IN 47809; Anthology, Multiply-Authoring or Edited Work, Susan Koppelman, 6301 Washington, St. Louis, MO 63103; Unpublished articles, Kathleen G. Klein, English, IU-PU, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

Our grateful THANKS TO those unseen, but not unheard scholars not on our staff who have helped us out by reading manuscripts: Bruce Adams, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama; Robert Cobb, University of Kansas; Gail Coffler, University of Suffolk, Massachusetts; Robert Corrigan, University of Massachusetts; Allison Graham, Memphis State University; David Grimsted, Maryland—College Park; Robert Fairbanks, University of Texas—Arlington; Edward Folsom, University of Iowa; Richard Hermstadt, Iowa State University; N. Ray Hiner, University of Kansas; Charles Kahn, University of Kansas; Angel Kwolek-Folland, Kansas State University; Stanley Lombardo, University of Kansas; Michael Maher, University of Kansas; Robert Regan, University of Pennsylvania; Thelma Shinn, Arizona State University; Timothy Miller, University of Kansas; Osmund Overby, University of Missouri; Elmer Suderman, Gustavus Adolphus College; Allan M. Winkler, Miami University.