

american studies column

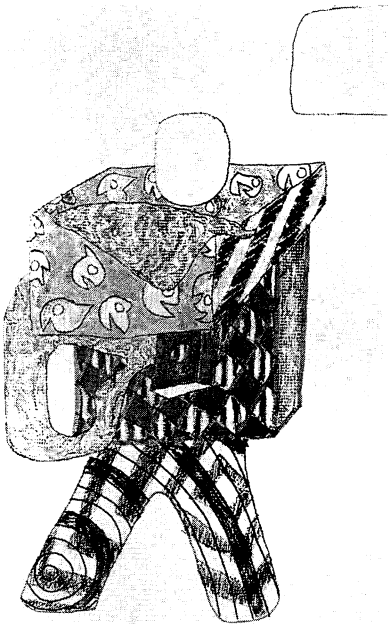
FRIDAY, April 12

1:15-3:00

MAASA IN ILLINOIS: Here's the scoop on the April 12-14, 1985 meeting of the Mid-America American Studies Association at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana:

THE SHAPING OF AMERICAN CULTURE

POLITICS, RELIGION, SCIENCE,
LITERATURE, MUSIC,
AND THE FINE ARTS



SESSION 1-A: POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC TURMOIL IN JEFFERSON'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION, Richard J. Hargrove, Jr., Western Illinois University, Chair.

"The Monroe-Pinkney Treaty of 1806: A Reappraisal," Donald R. Hickey, Wayne State College.

"Randolph of Roanoke: Neurotic Nay-Sayer or Principled Opponent?" Robert McColley, University of Illinois-Urbana.

Comment: Rodney O. Davis, Knox College.

SESSION 1-B: LITERATURE AND RELIGION, John R. Howe, University of Minnesota, Chair.

"Fear and Loathing in the Early Republic: Charles Brockden Brown and the Origins of Victorian Culture," Steven A. Watts, University of Missouri-Columbia.

"Beating the Devil: Art and Life in Peter Cartwright's *Autobiography*," Robert Bray, Illinois Wesleyan University.

Comment: Arthur Zilversmit, Lake Forest College.

3:15-5:00

SESSION 2-A: THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AND THE ARTS, Ann Lee Morgan, St. James Press, Chicago, Chair.

"The Unknown Lorado Taft," Allen S. Weller, University of Illinois-Urbana.

"Art Patronage at the University of Illinois," Muriel Scheinman, University of Illinois-Urbana.

Comment: George Ehrlich, University of Missouri-Kansas City.

SESSION 2-B: WOMEN IN AMERICAN CULTURE, Barbara Lawrence, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, Chair.

"Natural Rights and Women's Suffrage in the Eastern State, 1815-1830," Gregory G. Schmidt, Winona State University.

"Hidden Sexual Ideologies in Nineteenth-Century 'Replicant Romances,'" JoAnn Castagna, University of Iowa.

Comment: L. Moody Simms, Jr., Illinois State University.

(continued on page 49)

COURT: New Deal to Watergate (No. 3); James T. Patterson, *THE WELFARE STATE IN AMERICA, 1930-1980* (No. 7); and Edward Countryman, *THE PEOPLE'S AMERICAN REVOLUTION* (No. 13). One is uncertain of the intended audience. On the one hand, specialists will not find much that is new. On the other, most undergraduates will lack the requisite background knowledge presupposed by the authors. Copies are available from: B.A.A.S. (Pamphlets Dept.), University of Durham, Elvet Riverside, Durham, DH1 3JT, England.

Speaking of pamphlets, Albert Stone looked at the latest in a series of fifty-page essays on significant (and obscure) Western writers: *WILLIAM SAROYAN*. By Edward Halsey Foster; *WESTERN AMERICAN LITERARY CRITICISM*. By Martin Bucco; *MARI SANDOZ*. By Helen Winter Stauffer; *BARRY LOPEZ*. By Peter Wild; *TILLIE OLSEN*. By Abigail Martin. (Boise, Idaho: Boise State University Western Writers Series Nos. 61-65, 1984, \$2.00 each.) They offer, in addition to comprehensive essays, useful bibliographies. An exception is No. 62,

which is itself a running bibliography of writers on and of the West from Crèvecoeur to Etulain. However, Bucco's limitation of literary criticism in a scope to "description, interpretation, and judgment of individual works" (50) is too narrowly traditional and leads to some obtuse judgments and sniping comments on theoretical critics. Thus Leslie Fiedler and Max Westbrook are arraigned for "playing ring-around-the-text with the shades of Kant and Jung" (Westbrook) or following "in the wide wake of Freud and Frye" (Fiedler). A similar penchant for the straightforward biographical sketch and chronological summary of major works characterizes the essays on Sandoz, Lopez and Olsen. Somewhat more ambitious is Foster's *William Saroyan*. Organized thematically, this essay is a balanced and wide-ranging survey of the Fresno writer who taught the Beats how to "achieve a unique individual voice rather than a style based on respected literary antecedents" (46). Tillie Olsen, too, is properly presented by Abigail Martin as a catalyst and inspiration for present-day feminist writers and critics.

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SATURDAY, April 13

8:30-10:15

SESSION 3-A: ROMANTICISM AND SCIENCE, Bryan Le Beau, Creighton University, Chair.

"The Romantic Tradition and the Shaping of American Culture," John A. Hague, Stetson University.

"Emerson's Uniformitarian Geology," James R. Saucerman, Northwest Missouri State University.

Comment: Richard L. Herrnstadt, Iowa State University.

SESSION 3-B: ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE, Kathryn H. Anthony, University of Illinois-Urbana, Chair.

"The Ideal Suburb in the Midwest," Walter Creese, University of Illinois-Urbana.

"Jens Jensen's *Siftings*," Tom Scanlan, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Comment: Joan E. Draper, University of Illinois-Chicago.

10:30-12:15

SESSION 4-A: THE LIBRARY IN AMERICAN CULTURE, Joe W. Kraus, Illinois State University, Chair.

"Azariah Smith Root: The Librarian as Spokesman for American Ideals," Mark Tucker, Purdue University.

"American Public Libraries During World War I," Wayne A. Wiegand, University of Kentucky.

Comment: David Kaser, Indiana University.
SESSION 4-B: WOMEN, TRADE UNIONS, AND SOCIAL REFORM, Jan Reiff, Northwestern University, Chair.

"Women's Work, Family Economy, and Trade Union Militancy: The Case of Chicago's Packinghouse Workers, 1900-1922," James R. Barrett, University of Illinois-Urbana.

"Women, Reform Unionism, and the American Federation of Labor," Elizabeth Payne, Northwestern University.
Comment: David Roediger, Northwestern University.

SESSION 4-C: TUNING IN THE GOSPEL, Roland A. Delattre, University of Minnesota, Chair.

"Experiment in Fundamentalist Broadcasting: Paul Rader and the Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, 1922-1933," Larry Eskridge, University of Maryland.

"Fundamentalist Radio Broadcasting and the Revival of Mass Evangelism, 1930-1945," Joel A. Carpenter, Wheaton College.

Comment: Anne Klejment, College of St. Thomas.

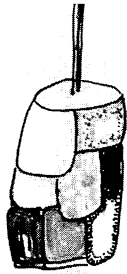
1:30-3:15

SESSION 5-A: LITERATURE AND CULTURE, Howard Kerr, University of Illinois-Chicago, Chair.

"William Cullen Bryant's 'The Prairies' as Political Poem," Jules Zanger, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

"The Forgotten French Connection: Novels in the 1840s," Nina Baym, University of Illinois-Urbana.

Comment: W. Gordon Milne, Lake Forest College.



SESSION 5-B: POLITICS, CULTURE, AND RELIGION IN THE PROGRESSIVE ERA, J. Leonard Bates, University of Illinois-Urbana, Chair.

"Programs of Reform in Late Nineteenth-Century Social Gospel Novels," Elmer Suderman, Gustavus Adolphus College.

"Sovereign Individuals and Organic Networks: Political Cultures in Conflict during the Progressive Era," John D. Buenker, University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

"Charles M. Sheldon and the Shaping of American Religion," Timothy Miller, University of Kansas.

Comment: Burton J. Bledstein, University of Illinois-Chicago.

3:30-5:15

SESSION 6-A: MUSIC, THEATER, ART, AND THE DANCE, Alice M. Hanson, St. Olaf College, Chair.

"Music and the General Periodical Press, 1800-1850," Anne Minko, University of Illinois-Urbana.

"Greasepaint to Oil Paint: Thomas Sully, His Art, and the American Stage," Steven Bronson, University of Illinois-Urbana.

"The Military, Dance, and Their Music in the American Experience," Pauline Norton, University of Michigan.

Comment: Dena Epstein, University of Chicago.

SESSION 6-B: YOUTH CULTURE AND SOCIAL CONTROL AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, Lyman Tower Sargent, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Chair.

"Clubs, Codes, and Ceremonies: Democratic Social Engineering and American Youth Culture in the Postwar Era," William Graebner, State University College-Fredonia.

"Worried Parents: Mass Culture, Politics, and the Control of Youth," James Gilbert, University of Maryland.

Comment: Jeff Mirel, Northern Illinois University.

7:00

MAASA DINNER AND BUSINESS MEETING

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS: "American Studies and Women's Studies: A Natural Partnership," Nancy Walker, Stephens College.

SUNDAY, April 14

8:30-10:15

SESSION 7-A: AMERICAN BUSINESS CULTURE, Frederic C. Jaher, University of Illinois-Urbana, Chair.

"Changing Time, Changing Culture: Time Standardization as a Reflection of a National American Culture," Orville R. Butler, Iowa State University.

"Shaping a Business Culture: Business Textbooks, *Fortune* Magazine, and Capitalism's Myth of Origin," Robert Gremore, Metropolitan State University (Minnesota).

Comment: Joseph Wall, Grinnell College.

SESSION 7-B: INTELLECTUAL CURRENTS IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, John Raeburn, University of Iowa, Chair.

"Bergson in America," Tom Quirk, University of Missouri-Columbia.

"The Contemporary Conservative Intellectual Movement: Is There a Philosophical Consensus?" David Hoever, Jr., University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Comment: Paul S. Boyer, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

SESSION 7-C: EUGENICS AND IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION, Jerry Hirsch, University of Illinois-Urbana, Chair.

"The American Eugenics Society: A Case Study in the Institutionalization of Scientific Racism," Barry Mehler, University of Illinois-Urbana.

"Mental Testers, Race, and the Immigration Act of 1924," Steven A. Gelb, University of Illinois-Urbana.

Comment: Hamilton Cravens, Iowa State University.

10:30-12:15

SESSION 8-A: THOUGHT AND CULTURE IN THE 1930s, John H. Cordulack, Richland Community College, Chair.

"Socio-Political Values in Aaron Copland's Life and Music, 1930-1945," Joel C. Mickelson, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

"Darkness at the *New Republic*: Malcolm Cowley, America, and the Moscow Trials," Nicholas Natanson, University of Iowa.

Comment: Henry Dan Piper, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

SESSION 8-B: ART AND THE THEATER, Jerrold Ziff, University of Illinois-Urbana, Chair.

"Nuclear Art," James J. Farrell, St. Olaf College.

"David Mamet and the American Idiom," Steve Polansky, St. Olaf College.

Comment: Judith Russi Kirshner, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Robert Graves, University of Illinois-Urbana.

SESSION 8-C: THE AMERICAN NATIVE PRESS IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, Barbara F. Luebke, University of Hartford, Chair.

"Native American Press Association: The Working Press and American Indian Studies," William L. Dulany, Pennsylvania State University.

"The Role of the Press in Historical Scholarship," Harold Iron Shield, *Smoke Signals*, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"American Indian and Alaska Native Newspapers and Periodicals: A Survey of Recent Scholarship," James W. Parins, University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

BUSINESS MEETING: American Native Press Research Association.

Winton Solberg, formerly of our Editorial Board, chaired the program committee; the other workers were James Farrell, J. David Hoever, Jr., John R. Howe, Barbara Lawrence, Bryan Le Beau, Robert M. McColley (also a former Board member), Elizabeth Payne and Elmer Suderman.


CASA: Jay Mechling sends word on the last two of those excellent CASA workshops. The one in early November 1984 was called "Subculture: Theoretical, Ethnographic, and Historical Approaches." Information about what transpired is available from Karen Lystra or Wayne Hobson, American Studies, California State University-Fullerton. Then there was a program May 3-5, 1985, at San Jose State University, called "Mutatis Mutandis: Change and Continuity in American Diversity." You get the word on that one from Carol Burr, English, California State University, Chico 95929-830.

ILLINOIS HISTORY SYMPOSIUM, November 29-30, 1985, in Springfield. The State Historical Society, which is running it, is trying to generate papers on a broad range of topics—"history, literature, art and culture, politics, geography, archeology, anthropology." Get in touch with Roger Bridges at the State Historical Library, Old State Capitol, Springfield, 62706.

IRVING LOWENS died in late 1983. He's being honored by a national prize which the Sonneck Society will award each year for a "book, article, musical edition, recording, or other work of scholarship devoted to an aspect of American music or music in America."

FIORIELLO means "little flower," and a little flower is what LaGuardia Community College uses as its seal. I am here to tell you that its PR department must employ some of the most talented flaks in the industry. Each December,

TIPPECANOE



CLUB!!

A Special Meeting of the
Tippecanoe Club
Of the City of Alton, will be held at the
OLD COURT ROOM
THIS EVENING!
At 7 o'clock. A general attendance is requested. By order,
July 8, 1840. J. HALL, Sec'y.

1840 Broadside Courtesy of Illinois State Historical Library

for instance, LaGuardia sends out a calendar crammed with information about some aspect of the great man's life; the one this year has to do with his career in aviation. Fascinating stuff and interestingly presented. Now they write to tell us that their college has a Ford Foundation Grant to collect and house LaGuardia's papers. Great! The phone number if you want to work on LaGuardia or to help with the gathering-in is (718) 626-8732.

COMPARATIVE CIVILIZATIONS: The International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations schedules its annual meeting at Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio. Get information from Carroll Bourg, Sociology, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee 37203.

POPULAR CULTURE Association in the South plans a "do" in Charleston, South Carolina, September 19-21, 1985. Jeanne F. Bedell, English, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia 23284-0001 is the chair.

THE CANADIAN-AMERICAN FRONTIER provides focus for a symposium and associated meetings run by the Forest History Society, October 9-11, 1986, in Vancouver, British Columbia. Graeme Wynn, Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1W5 is running it and will respond to queries.

THE PLAINS INDIAN PAST: Its meaning for present Plains culture is the subject of a March 20- 22, 1986 conference at the Center for Great Plains Studies. Contact Paul Olson, 1213 Oldfather Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, zip 68588-0314.

TRANSMISSION OF CULTURE is the seminar topic for two years, 1986-1988, at the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies at Princeton: "The seminar hopes," according to the blurb sent to us, "to explore the historical causes of the movement of genres across social groups; the means by which books and other cultural artifacts first acquire and later lose authority; the ways in which specific cultural interpretations gain or lose acceptance with different publics; the rise and fall of castes of professional interpreters; the sociology of intellectual producers; the means and efficacy of censorship; and the authorship and diffusion of

underground, oppositional, heretical, or subversive texts." There are some Research Fellowships, and scholars interested in delivering single papers are also invited to get in touch. Write Lawrence Stone, History; the zip in Princeton is 08544. Deadlines for applications are December 1, 1985 and December 1, 1986.

FANNIE HURST: When the Midwest Modern Language Association meets November 7-9, 1985 in her home town, it will sponsor a forum on Hurst. Get news from Susan Koppelman, 6301 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63130.

PREMIER ISSUE OF SAGE, a journal on black women, came out Spring 1984. The second issue is coming out December 1985. For more information, contact Beverly Guy-Sheftall, P.O. Box 42741, Atlanta, Georgia 30311-0741.

HUMOUR is how they spell it in the title "Workshop Library on World Humour." They leave out the 'u' in "Western Humor and Irony Membership." Both groups will meet April Fool's weekend, 1987, in Phoenix. WHIM meets every year on that weekend in the Phoenix area. Information from Don Nilsen, English, Arizona State University, Tempe 85287.

A GREAT BIG THANKS to those people not on our staff who helped us out recently as editorial consultants. They are: Leonard Arrington, Brigham Young University; Jay Gates, University of Kansas; Alan Gribben, University of Texas-Austin; Chadwick Hansen, University of Illinois-Chicago; Maureen Honey, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Grace Ann Hovet, University of Northern Iowa; Richard Howard, Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints Headquarters, Independence, Missouri; Carl Jackson, University of Texas-El Paso; Paul Lockman, Eastern New Mexico University; Michael McGiffert, *William & Mary Quarterly*; A. Michal McMahon, Philadelphia; J. Gordon Melton, Institute for Study of American Religion, Evanston, Illinois; Robert Minor, University of Kansas; James G. Moseley, New College; Ron Neufeldt, University of Calgary; Jill Quadagno, University of Kansas; Dickson Tashjian, University of California-Irvine; Gerald Thorson, St. Olaf College; Eldon Turner, University of Florida-Gainesville.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

The Departments of Romance Languages and Afro-American Studies seek applications for a possible joint appointment of an Assistant Professor for the Fall of 1986. We are looking for someone with a comparative approach whose major fields are African (especially French-speaking), and Afro-American literature. Ph.D. by June 1986. Send dossiers and publications or dissertation to: Werner Sollors, Chairman, Harvard University, 77 Dunster Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. Harvard University is an Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer.