

american studies column

Consisting of Dialogue Among the Chapters of The American Studies Association, and a Semi-Conducted Tour of Ideas, Conferences, Research Opportunities and Resources in Our Field

RINGERS are folks who aren't members of the team and who are sneaked in to add punch for the big game. You don't hear much about ringers any more in collegiate athletics; their use wasn't considered sporting. In music, ringers are not considered unethical. A regional symphony orchestra which lacks a regular professional-quality first oboist and could use a couple of extra viola players is considered fortunate if it has the funds to hire good ringers; such folks are generally paid to play one or two rehearsals and the performance. In the years when Your Faithful Editor supported himself by playing in a symphony orchestra, he sometimes worked as a ringer on free evenings. The experience was fun and the meagre pay looked good to a hungry graduate student. On scholarly journals, being a ringer is highly meritorious, commendable and moral, but, alas, unrewarded, except in this little note, in which we thank folks who are not members of our editorial ensemble, but who have nevertheless helped by sight-reading for us. Among the visiting fiddle players, French hornists, contrabassoonists and percussionists who have sat in with our contract players in the last several months are Allen Davis, Temple University; Claudine Ferrell, Kansas State University; Robert Fogarty, *The Antioch Review*; Robert T. Handy, Union Theological Seminary; Bernard Hirsch, University of Kansas; Leigh Holmes, Lawton, Oklahoma; Richard Lillard, California State University, Los Angeles (retired); August Meier, Kent State University; John Modell, Carnegie-Mellon University; Stow Persons, University of Iowa; Joel Porte, Harvard University; Stitt Robinson, University of Kansas; Samuel Shermis, Purdue University; and John Stilgoe, Harvard University.

THE ASA asks our help in rebuilding its membership. An invitation to join and membership application form appear elsewhere in this issue.

AMERICAN STUDIES PRIZE: *American Stud-*

ies is authorized to award the author of the outstanding article each year a prize of one hundred dollars. The prize committee consists of a group of scholars active in several aspects of American Studies and not associated with our editorial board.

GABRIEL PRIZE: the American Studies Association has a prize committee which acts once a year to lay a thousand dollars on the author of the book-length manuscript on an American Studies topic which looks best to its members. The \$1,000 is an advance against royalties; the prize manuscript gets published. Other manuscripts may also be recommended for publication. To enter you send three copies of your work to the ASA, 307 College Hall/CO, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia 19104. Judging is done during the fall semester each year.

THE IMAGE OF AMERICA IN OTHER CIVILIZATIONS: This is the subject of a special session at the 1984 meeting of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations, whose next annual meeting will be at Boone, in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, at Appalachian State University, June 14-16, 1984. The session was developed in response to correspondence between Your Faithful Editor and members of the Program Committee of the I.S.C.S.C. Michael Barkun of the I.S.C.S.C. has agreed also to keep his eye on scholarship by comparativists which might be of special interest to the readers of *American Studies*. Comparative culture scholarship has, of course, been a fruitful approach to the study of American culture and society; overlap and cooperation between scholars in the two fields strikes us as natural, promising, rewarding. Barkun also extended to Y.F.E. an invitation to help the Society organize a session from scratch on a topic which would be of interest to people in both areas. Be happy to take suggestions.

(continued on page 133)

\$13.95): This is basically a methodological handbook based on three axioms: material evidence should be confronted directly whenever possible; material culture data is important evidence; and there is need for methodological rigor in working with artifacts. The book consists of nine essays dealing equally with the themes of "Graphics as Artifacts," "Historic Sites as Artifacts" and "Landscapes as Artifacts." A tenth essay deals with fallacies and reflections, and with three appendices constitutes a "Coda." For those already persuaded, Professor Schlereth's book is useful as an aid in teaching or training. For those not accustomed to using artifacts as historical documents, the book is a practical introduction to a rapidly evolving practice, though probably more useful to the classroom teacher than anyone else.

Of related interest is this missive from Dickran Tashjian: EPITAPH AND ICON: A Field Guide to the Old Burying Grounds of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. By Diana Hume George and Malcolm A. Nelson. Orleans, Massachusetts: Parnassus Imprints. 1983. \$12.95. This excellent field guide will be appreciated by gravestone buffs and scholars alike, not to mention the summer visitor to the Cape and neighboring islands. It is clearly written and adequately illustrated. There is no map to the area but the authors provide clear directions to the graveyards once you are in town. They also provide a concise overview of the subject and proceed with town-by-town surveys

of graveyards and interesting markers. Although the authors apparently subscribe to the erroneous view of Puritan iconophobia and iconoclasm, they belie that notion throughout by concentrating on the artistry of epitaphs. A good contribution to gravestone scholarship in a neglected area of New England.

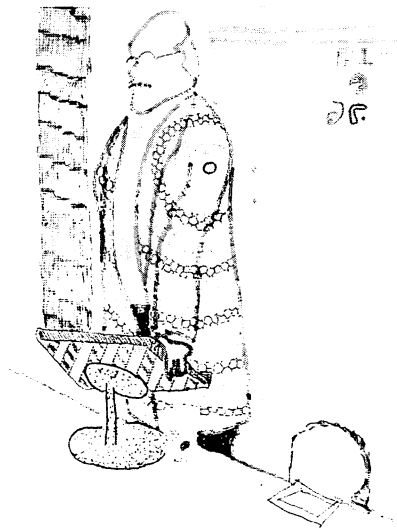
Here, from Jim Austin, is the word on THE MIRTH OF A NATION: America's Great Dialect Humor, edited by Walter Blair and Raven I. McDavid, Jr. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1983, cloth: \$35.00; paper: \$12.95). This is a sampler of works of the nineteenth-century crackerbox humorists and local color writers, "translated" for the modern reader who does not have the patience or the linguistic knowledge to worry out the cacography and eye-dialect of which those writers were often guilty. Nobody is better equipped to handle this, while retaining the flavor of the genuine dialect, than Blair and McDavid. But whether their efforts will gain a larger readership for these "unduly neglected" works seems questionable; most of the selections are already the best known works of the thirty-two authors represented, having been collected in Blair's classic *Native American Humor* (1937). Regardless of the good-humored popularizing approach, there is impeccable scholarship behind this edition. Blair's Introduction and headnotes, McDavid's Linguistic Note, a glossary and the very selective bibliography are models of conciseness.

american studies column

(continued from p. 4)

For further information about I.S.C.S.C., contact Barkun at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York 13210.

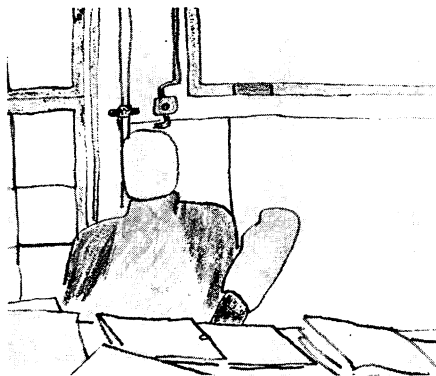
EUROPEAN INFLUENCES on the visual arts of the Plains—such is the subject of the rally March 15-16 sponsored by the Center For Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. You contact Jon Nelson, Love Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 68588-0475. Sponsors hope for proposals on such topics as "The influence of Géricault and Delacroix on the romantic view of the West; of German academic painting on the American view of the Rocky Mountains; of impressionism on Frederick Remington; or of cubism on the artists of the Southwest." And so on. They are game also for discussions of "western American influences on European art," which suggests perhaps there ought to be some ties between these folks and the I.S.C.S.C., with its convention on the image of America in other civilizations. Mr. Nelson, meet Mr. Barkun, if you're not already acquainted!



MARY DOUGLAS: if you're interested in what a workshop on the application of her work to our field came up with, write to Jay Mechling, American Studies, U. Cal.-Davis, 95616. Mechling writes us periodically to tell us about these unusual, informal and intensive sessions. The line on his flyer, "There will be some recreation and festivity in addition to the brainwork" is, I understand, no empty threat. Because of the rust in our publication process, we seem always to get news of such rallies too late to do readers who want to attend any good. You could do worse than to write to Mechling and ask him to stick your name on the mailing list.

You also might try to talk him out of abstracts of the session which the California ASA ran April 29-May 1, 1983 at Stanford. The subject there was "American Lives: Theoretical Perspectives." There were some very sharp people on the program.

CONFERENCE ON LEISURE: we have information about a meeting on January 26-28, 1984 sponsored by the University of South Florida at St. Petersburg Beach. The way our printing schedules have been running, we think it unlikely that this issue will reach you in time for you to attend. But if the topic "Transitions to Leisure: Impact of Technology, Work, Play and Retirement" would have moved you to get in touch, you might contact B. G. Gunter at USF, Tampa, Florida 33620. Past experience suggests that conference coordinators are happy to provide programs and sometimes abstracts after the fact, and to help interested parties get in touch with appropriate participants.



AMERICAN STUDIES PUBLISHING COMPANY, Joe Collier, chief cook and bottle-washer, strives earnestly to get good American Studies stuff written by first-class people, yet suitable for use in introductory courses, in print as inexpensively as possible. It's a shoestring operation, but has done some very useful things. Write Joe at 2130 Main Street, Suite 235, Huntington Beach, California 92648 for brochures describing what he has available. Joe has been using it successfully himself in a junior college situation. The field owes him a debt, but using some of the things he's put out is no act of charity or simple gratitude; they're good.

WESTERN POETRY AND FICTION: such is the subject of an October 1983 regional P.C.A./A.C.A. roundup in Lubbock, Texas. Ancient history by now because of our durned printing schedule, but you can get information about what transpired at the Ranching Heritage Center from John Samson, English, Texas Tech University. The zip in Lubbock is 79409.

IFTPNDC stands for the Institute on the Federal Theatre Project and New Deal Culture. NEH is funding it, and its directors want to be in touch with people who are in any way connected with relevant New Deal projects or who are studying them. An oral history collection and directory are involved. Contact Roy Rosenzweig or Lorraine Brown, IFTPNDC, Fenwick Library, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia 22030; (703) 323-2546.

NEW RESOURCES IN AMERICAN STUDIES XIV: At one point, the Land Mortgage Company owned by J. B. Watkins (1845-1921) owned, among other enormous holdings, 1.5 million acres of southwest Louisiana. Watkins' papers have survived at least one narrow brush with destruction, and now, handsomely housed at the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas, are available to scholars as the Jabez Bunting Watkins Collection. The collection is big and rich, certainly of use and interest to business historians as well as students of agriculture, westward migration, immigration, ecology, land use and regional history. Watkins' companies were active in a number of American and European cities, and developed land in Texas, Kansas and other states in addition to Louisiana. Further information from Tom Brown in the Kansas Collection at the Spencer. The zip in Lawrence is 66045.

1983 MASA MEETING: It was interesting and unusual, and made us look where some were not accustomed to look. The topic was "Communities and Community Studies." MASA met jointly with the North Central American Studies Association with sessions at a number of sites in and around Iowa City. Your Faithful Editor has been to Amana at least a dozen times, but never until this guided tour had anyone explained to him the relationship between architecture, community planning, theology and the social dynamics of this interesting series of settlements. The Coralville mentioned below is a commercial strip. Examination of the program documents that MASA and NCASA members were given good briefings before being taken out in the field.

A yeasty program of this sort results because of lively folks working hard. Albert Stone chaired the program committee; look who else was on it: Hamilton Cravens, Jack Filipiak, James Hippen, Richard Horwitz, Donald Irving, Alexander C. Kern, Joel Mickelson, John Raeburn and Elmer Suderman.

Here's the program:

COMMUNITIES AND
COMMUNITY STUDIES
FRIDAY, April 15
TEACHING AND FUNDING COMMU-

UNITY STUDIES, Thomas Hartig, Iowa Humanities Board, Moderator.

"Mississippi River Tours in 1900: Teaching Winona and Dubuque," William L. Crozier, St. Mary's College.

"Ethnic Communities and Higher Education: A Case Study for Student Research," J. B. Christianson, Luther College.

"Funding Student and Community Work on Communities," Eric Sandeen, University of Wyoming.

APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY AND COMMUNITY STUDIES, Stow Persons, University of Iowa, Moderator.

Plenary Session: Sidney Robinson, Iowa State University, Architect; Robert Fogarty, Antioch College, Historian; Jules Zanger, Southern Illinois University, Literary Critic.

PREVIEWS OF SATURDAY.

"Introduction to a Commercial Strip," Richard Horwitz, Karin Ohrn, University of Iowa.

"The Amanas and Community Studies," Jonathan Andelson, Grinnell; Wayne Franklin, University of Iowa; James Hippen, Luther College; Philip Webster, Central College.

"Introduction to *Middletown*," Dwight Hoover, Ball State University.

SATURDAY, April 16

SESSION A: INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES, Shelton Stromquist, University of Iowa, Moderator.

"Anachronism, Context, and Progress in XIX-century American Communitarianism," Michael Fellman, Simon Fraser University.

"Who Were the Communitarians? Membership in Three Utopian Experiments of the 1840s," Carl J. Guarneri, St. Mary's College of California.

"From Utopian Communities to Utopian Writings: Changes in Form, Content, and Purpose in XIX-century American Utopianism," Howard P. Segal, Eastern Michigan University.

SESSION B: CLASSIC COMMUNITIES, Donald Dunlop, Iowa State University, Moderator.

"*Middletown*, Community Studies, and 1920s American Social Science," Mark C. Smith, University of Texas-San Antonio.

"Psychoanalysis, Life History, and Community Studies: John Dollard's *Caste and Class in a Southern Town*," Steven Weiland, National Federation of State Humanities Councils.

"Levittown, L.I.: School for Disharmony," Joann P. Krieg, Hofstra University.

SESSION C: COMMUNITIES AS BUILT ENVIRONMENTS, Herbert Gottfried, Iowa State University, Moderator.

"Roles of the Built Environment in Community: Navaho, Pueblo, Yaqui Examples," David Saile, University of Kansas.

"Historic Preservation of Utopian Communities," David De Leon, Howard University.

"Urban Master Builders and Visions of the Democratic Community," Mark Abbott, Purdue University.

THE MIDDLETOWN FILM PROJECT, Robert Fogarty, Antioch College, Moderator.

"The History and Background of the Project," Dwight Hoover, Ball State University.

"Reflections from the Vantage Point of Hindsight," Warren Vander Hill, Ball State University.

LUNCHEON IN CORALVILLE with Coralville Community Members.

AMANA FIELD TRIP: The Museum, walking, driving, small group discussions.

SUNDAY, April 17

9:00 A.M.

SESSION A: COMMUNITIES OF THE IMAGINATION, Nancy Walker, Stephens College, Moderator.

"Community in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*," Elmer Suderman, Gustavus Adolphus College.

"The Drama of Survival: Television and Community," Thomas Zynda, Memphis State University.

SESSION B: IDEOLOGY AND COMMUNITY, Daniel Brantley, University of Iowa, Moderator.

"Giving Meaning to Emancipation: Black Charleston, S.C., 1860-1880," Bernard E. Powers, Jr., Northeastern Illinois University.

"From Boosterism to Community-Building: William Allen White's Community Journalism," Sally Griffith, Grinnell College.

"The Ideological Basis of an Activist Community: Race Relations Leaders in New Orleans, 1954-1976," Kim Lacy Rogers, University of Missouri-Columbia.

SESSION C: DESTRUCTION AND DEFENSE OF COMMUNITY, James Harris, University of Iowa, Moderator.

"The People of Youngstown, Ohio, and the Mills: Corporate America and the Destruction of Community," Michael Sheehan, University of Iowa.

"The Anti-Communitarian Response to Plant Closings: Garden City, Kansas, and Storm Lake, Iowa," David Osterberg, Iowa State Legislature.

"Worker Ownership as a Defense of Community: Rath Packing, Waterloo, Iowa," Labor Center Staff, University of Iowa.

11:00 A.M.

SESSION A: COMMUNITY AND THE ARTS, Stephen Ohrn, State Folklorist of Iowa, Moderator.

"The Architecture of Community in South Dakota," Carolyn Torma, South Dakota Historic Preservation Center.

"Quilt-Making as Individual Art and Collective Behavior," Peter Salter, Pennsylvania State University.

"The Chicago Gang: An Urban Jazz Community, 1920-1928," William Kenney, Kent State University.

SESSION B: POWER AND LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITY, Ruth Peterson, University of Iowa, Moderator.

"James J. Strang and the Community of Voree: A Schismatic 'Mormon' Community," Jack Filipiak, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

"Not Alone to Build This Pile of Brick: The Role of Women in Richmond's Black Community, 1890-1930," Elsa Brown, University of Virginia.

"Women in a Small Town: An Invisible Power Structure," Susan Stall, Iowa State University.

SESSION C: DEFINITIONS AND CONFIGURATIONS OF COMMUNITY, Norman Hostetler, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Moderator.

"Female Networks and Community Activism," Ardis Cameron, Boston College.

"The Vietnam Veteran: Obligations and Perceptions of a Community," Dian Gottlob, University of Iowa.

"Mark Twain's Hannibal Today: Voluntary Associations and Community Identity," Donald Irving, Grinnell College.

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES has done considerably better than one might have expected under current governmental practices; we still get encouraging announcements of fellowships for various purposes, many of them designed to lend a hand to people floundering beneath exceptionally heavy teaching responsibilities. Information comes from the Division of Fellowships and Seminars, Room 316, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C. 20506.

LOCAL HISTORY grants-in-aid up to \$3,000 apiece are available competitively to individuals or institutions. You get applications from James Gardner, American Association for State and Local History, 708 Berry Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37204.

ROCKEFELLER MONEY in portions of not more than \$1,500 can be had by scholars "of any discipline, usually graduate students or post-doctoral scholars" for research in the holdings of the Rockefeller Archive Center. You write to the Director, Pocantico Hills, North Tarrytown, New York 10591-1598.

THE SALOUTOS AWARD honors the late Theodore Saloutos and is for the best book on immigrant history. Details from Rudolph Vecoli, History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, 55455.

SIERRA CLUB oral history series now numbers 58 interviews and constitutes a valuable research tool. One can eat it there or have it put up to take home, so to speak: it is available and also acquirable. Write 486 Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, 94720 or phone (415) 642-7395.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS for historical topics which connect with Indiana or the regions of which Indiana is a part are available from the Indiana Historical Society, 315 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis 46202. Recipients get \$3,500 for doctoral dissertation expenses; the contact person is Gayle Thornbrough; the application deadline is March 15, 1984.

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE: American Studies folks at 225 Lind Hall, 207 Church Street, SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, write to tell us about a conference under their sponsorship April 20 and 21, 1984. The title is "New Directions: Rethinking Post-War America," by which they mean "the interaction of culture, politics and society from the 1930s through the 1950s." If you want to phone your questions, ask Lary May or Rosalind Moss at (612) 373-3667.

ARTS AND SOCIETY is the topic of a conference October 12 and 13, 1984, at Kent State. William Kenney, American Studies, KSU (Kent, Ohio 44242), writes to say that the deadline for 250-word proposals is February 15, 1984, and that there will be sessions on "literature, the media, illustration, performing arts, fashion design and feminist and ethnic perspectives on the arts." Given our problems with printing schedules, we fear that this announcement will reach readers after the deadline. On the other hand, our experience running conferences suggests that it's never too late to ask. Kenney's telephone number is (216) 672-7829.

LONG ON *l'amabilité* if short on cash, we are happy to respond to a polite request from D. Droixhe of the Université Libre de Bruxelles, who asks us, "*Auriez-vous l'amabilité d'insérer dans votre périodique l'annonce suivante?*" He is plugging a conference from 13-15 September, 1984, called "Images of the African from the Renaissance to the 20th Century," and goes on to explain that the studies to be presented pertain as much to Black American cultures as to literary images of Africa. You write M. Droixhe, rue d'Erquy 38, B-4480 Oupeye, Bruxelles.