

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

A SMALL CHANGE in editorial policy proposed by Hamilton Cravens was approved at the Fall 1982 joint meeting of the MASA executive board and the *American Studies* editorial board. Since the founding of the journal in 1959, *American Studies* has had rights of first refusal of papers delivered at MASA's annual spring meeting. We've decided to drop that requirement. Participants at future conferences will be told that we would be happy to consider their papers for publication and happy also to look over papers which are still in that less-formal style which many of us use when making oral presentations. In the cases of such informal pieces—we've been doing this for years—we instruct our editorial consultants not to apply the usual criteria, but rather to respond to the general question, "Might the author develop a suitable article for us out of this talk?" If the answers are favorable, such papers go back to the authors along with suggestions for ways in which their presentations could be turned into articles useful to as broad a spectrum of our readers as possible.

SOUND, LIVELY, BROADLY-USEFUL articles from whatever source are always welcome, and we would urge officers and members of other chapters as well to cock an ear at scholarly meetings for papers which serve to move our field forward. *American Studies* has always been willing to put an unusual amount of energy and editorial attention into service to contributors. Good studies too specialized for our magazine we have often helped authors place in more appropriate periodicals; good specialized work which we feel could have broad implications we have often helped the author broaden by putting him or her into contact with one or more members of our editorial board. Practically nothing in these pages is published as first submitted; we like dialogue. A fuller statement of our editorial policies appeared in Volume 21, Number 2.

AMERICAN STUDIES PRIZE for the best article of the year in *American Studies* was discussed at the fall 1982 Executive Committee/

Editorial Board meeting of the Midcontinent American Studies Association in Columbia, Missouri. The matter is now in the hands of the Editorial Board, which will decide, and, should the decision be favorable, define rules and establish procedures.

ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY has been dealt with increasingly in these pages in recent years. Happy to report, in that connection, that the Great Lakes chapter of the ASA held a joint session, April 8-10, with the American Society for Environmental History. The topics listed were broad, and intended to "provide a good cross-section of the many approaches and interests" in the field. Thomas Dunlap, History, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061 was in charge.

RELATED ITEM: the journal *Environmental Review* has changed addresses; it's now in History, University of Denver, 80208; J. Donald Hughes now edits.

COMPARATIVE CIVILIZATIONS is a field, I would think, of prime interest to American Studies, especially since some American Studies degree programs require training in comparative culture. I am not aware of active contact between the two fields, though it probably exists. Be happy to receive accounts of interaction between the two interdisciplines. The International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations, at any rate, listed interesting topics for its May 26-28, 1983, soiree at SUNY, Buffalo. Program info from Burkart Holzner, Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260.

SIA stands for the Society for Industrial Archaeology, which held its twelfth annual do in the Twin Cities, May 12-15, 1983. Robert M. Frame III was program chair; you write him at Hill Reference Library, 80 W. 4th Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102.

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sis of rhythms and patterns of language. It is a method that fuses literary analysis with historical research. Hampsten is a genius of showing us "how a complex life can be revealed, how strong a presence can be felt in a strict adherence to the unmetaphorical style. . . ." *Read This Only To Yourself* makes the ordinary exciting.

David Katzman examined a volume in an ongoing Yale project: Yale University Press has issued the second volume in the projected 14-volume, authoritative edition of *The Frederick Douglass Papers* (New Haven. 1982. \$45.00). Under editor John W. Blasingame, the editorial notes are excellent yet non-intrusive, and the volume has an exhaustively thorough index. The project will be divided into three series: One: Speeches, debates and interviews; Two: editorials, essays and poems; and Three: Correspondence. Volume 2 of Series One reprints 59 of approximately 650 speeches the abolitionist orator and journalist delivered from 1847 to 1854. Douglass, who started in the 1840s as a speaker recounting his experiences as a slave, matured into a political spokesman, black leader

and reformer. Of the 59 speeches reprinted here, 25 are also found in Philip S. Foner, ed., *The Life and Writings of Frederick Douglass*, 5 vols., N. Y., 1950-1975.

Joe Gray Taylor is our authority on booze; he has belled up to *THE SILVER BULLET: The Martini in American Civilization* (Contributions in American Studies, No. 52), by Lowell Edmunds (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1981. \$19.95.), and has this to say of it: This is a delightful little book, witty, urbane and yet an adequately documented history of the martini and its place in American culture. The author is a professor of classics, not a historian, which may help explain the grace of his prose. His study of the origin and development of the cocktail is more than adequate, and his analysis of its place in twentieth-century American society is better. His documentation appropriately leans heavily on literature, but ranges from bar keepers' guides through registers of trademarks to *The Liquor Handbook*. This book will be useful for specialized research, and it is strongly recommended for pleasant reading.

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JOURNAL OF THE EARLY REPUBLIC, edited by James Broussard, History, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware 19711, sent us a release about prizes. Anne Rose picked up \$250 for her book *Transcendentalism as a Social Movement, 1830-1850*; Joseph Tregle, Jr., is \$100 richer because of his article "Andrew Johnson and the Continuing Battle of New Orleans" from last year's winter issue of *JER*.

GREAT PLAINS Studies go on at Emporia State University and at the Canadian Plains Research Center, Regina, Saskatchewan; the two are affiliated and cooperate. They want to know who is working in the field; if you are, write to Tamsen Emerson at Emporia State, Emporia, Kansas 66801, for a form to fill in.

NEH sent us a thick packet with news about Summer Seminars for College Teachers for the summer of 1983. Those in American Studies or which list American Studies as a "cross listing" are as follows:

Modernity Versus Tradition in Twentieth-Century American Architecture/Rosemarie Haag Bleter, Columbia University, June 13-August 5

Two Social Movements of Contemporary America: Feminism and Anti-Feminism/William Chafe and Jane Mathews, Duke University, June 13-August 5

Minorities in the Southwest/Leonard Dinnerstein, University of Arizona, June 13-August 5

Studies in New England Transcendentalism/Walter Harding, Thoreau Lyceum, June 27-August 20

Religion and Cultural Change in American History/William R. Hutchinson, Harvard University, June 20-August 12

American Urban History: Cities and Neighborhoods/Kenneth T. Jackson, Columbia University, June 13-August 5

Approaches to Nineteenth-Century American Social History/Carl F. Kaestle, University of Wisconsin, June 20-August 12

Individualism and the Republican Tradition: Anglo-American Social Thought in the Age of Revolution/Isaac Kramnick, Cornell University, June 20-August 12

Alain Locke and Afro-American Culture/Richard A. Long, Atlanta University, June 13-August 5

New Perspectives in American Studies/Murray G. Murphey, University of Pennsylvania, June 20-August 12

The Forms of Autobiography/James Olney, University of North Carolina, June 13-August 5

A Generation of American Foreign Policy/Thomas G. Paterson, University of Connecticut, June 12-August 5

The Comparative Study of Slavery/Orlando Patterson, Harvard University, June 20-August 12

The Long Poem in America: Text, Context and Textuality/Roy Harvey Pearce, University of California, San Diego, June 27-August 19

Democratic Culture in America, 1770-1870/Lewis C. Perry, Indiana University, June 20-August 12

Continuity and Change in Southern Culture/John Shelton Reed, University of North Carolina, June 13-August 5

Rank and Caste in Southern Literature/Louis D. Rubin, Jr., University of North Carolina, June 13-August 5

American Indian Literatures: Oral and Written/A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff, University of Illinois at Chicago and Newberry Library, June 20-August 12

American Indian-White Relations: From Columbus to Removal/Bernard W. Sheehan, Indiana University, June 20-August 12

Comparative Ideals and the Quest for Utopia/Mulford Q. Sibley, University of Minnesota, June 20-August 12

The Political Mythology of Race/Leonard M. Thompson, Yale University, June 20-August 12

The American South as Myth and Symbol/George B. Tindall, University of North Carolina, June 13-August 5

Ethnicity in Twentieth-Century America: An Interdisciplinary and Comparative Approach/Rudolph J. Vecoli, University of Minnesota, June 20-August 12

Playwriting, Performance and Politics/Albert Wertheim, Indiana University, June 20-August 12

AMERICAN MUSIC: The Sonneck Society struck twice in 1983, first at a March 4-6 meeting in Philadelphia in conjunction with the Music Library Association. Special attention was given to music in Pennsylvania, but a wide range of other subjects were discussed, too. Thomas Warner, Music, Bucknell, Lewis, Pennsylvania 17837, conducted the proceedings. Sonneck's second session was in Staffordshire, at the University of Keele, England, July 1-4; the topic was "British-American Interactions in Music"; copies of the score come from Kate Van Winkle Keller, 8102 Thoreau Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20817.

Then, in the spring of '84, Sonneck will perform in Boston, with sessions on "music in and around Boston during the late 19th and early 20th centuries." Steven Ledbetter, 65 Stearns Street, Newton Center, Massachusetts 02159, is in charge.

CHARITY AND WELFARE is the title for the two-year-long (1984-85 and 1985-86) seminar at the Shelby Cullofn Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton. Scholars from fields other than history are encouraged to participate. There are some research fellowships for one or two semesters. Inquire: 129 Dickinson Hall, Princeton, New Jersey 08544.

EARL WARREN is the subject of a large oral history project, now complete and available at

several California libraries. You can phone (415) 642-7395 or write the Regional Oral History Office, 486 Bancroft Library, University of California-Berkeley 94720, for info.

FAIRBANKS IN APRIL would have been interesting to visit had travel money still been available, and the conference on the 27th, 28th and 29th in 1983 sounded excellent, too: "The U. S. Frontier: Early America and Present-Day Alaska." Michael Schuldiner, English, University of Alaska, Fairbanks 97701, can answer questions.

LAGUARDIA ARCHIVES and Museum open on the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Fiorello LaGuardia; they are housed at LaGuardia Community College, 31-10 Thomson Avenue, Long Island City, New York 11101.

GRANTS-IN-AID for research in state and local history, fifty of them, of up to \$3,000 for the academic years 1983 and 1984, are administered by the American Association for State and Local History. NEH money is behind it; for information, contact James Gardner, AASLH, 708 Berry Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37204. Phone (615) 383-5991.



CANADIAN INTELLIGENCE gleaned from the February 1983 *Newsletter* of the Canadian Association for American Studies: first, their good journal, the *Canadian Review of American Studies*, is becoming a quarterly; second, the 1983 conference theme is "Into the Third Century: Utopia, Distopia—Futurology and Prophetic Fictions." The dates, already announced in these pages, are October 27-29; contact John Stephen Martin, English, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, T2N 1N4. They hope to feature speakers from all disciplines. Third, they have a 1984 convention titled and chaired: Virginia Rock of York University will run it, and the title will be "Women, Gender, and Family." Fourth, they even have their 1985 conference planned: Gordon Martel, Royal Roads Military College, will be in charge, and the topic

might be "Popular Culture, the Pacific, Europe and America." Place: somewhere in Victoria.

WESTERN HISTORY ASSOCIATION has an October 10-13, 1984, session scheduled for St. Paul, Minnesota. The chair is Robert Carriker; he's in History at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington 99258.

SCIENCE FICTION: if you work in it, you may want to know about a session called "Science Fiction: Arts and Sciences," run by the Science Fiction Research Association in Midland, Michigan, June 9-12, 1983. The time capsule was commanded by Joseph W. DeBolt, Sociology, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48859; phone 517-774-3422 or 773-9764.

LANDSCAPE: if you don't know what the study of landscape has to do with American culture, start with Poe's "The Domain of Arnheim," and then, in the same era, read discussions in the New York press about Central Park. There is, at any rate, going to be a small conference on "Gardens, Landscape and Literature" at Trinity College, Toronto, Canada M5S 1H8; the dates are August 28-31; information comes from either Patricia Brückman or Douglas Chambers at that address.

PLANNING HISTORY: when the OAH held its spring '83 meetings in Cincinnati, the Planning History Group lunched and listened to papers. You can get more information from Blaine A. Brownell, The Graduate School, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, 35294, phone 205-934-7110.

INDIA has a journal in our field about which you may not have known; the title is *The Indian Journal of American Studies*; the editor is Robert

Crunden; the address, the American Studies Research Centre, Hyderabad 500 007, A.P., India.

SCHOLARS not on our board who came on board for editorial gams in recent months include the following, whom we thank, warmly: Karlyn K. Campbell, University of Kansas; Bunker Clark, University of Kansas; Patrick Dooley, St. Bonaventure; Alan Gribben, University of Texas-Austin; Earl N. Harbert, Northeastern University; Grace Ann Hovet, University of Northern Iowa; Joel Porte, Harvard University; Moses Rischin, San Francisco State University; James Scott, St. Louis University; Robert L. Shelton, University of Kansas; Bruce Sinclair, University of Toronto; John Stilgoe, Harvard University; John Swomley, St. Paul School of Theology; Sandra Zimdars-Swartz, University of Kansas.

MIGHTY MISSOURI MASA MEET April 27-29, 1984 at Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri 65215, with Nancy Walker as chair! She wants the conference to be open to "all topics of interest" to people who work in "the interdisciplinary study of American culture." She will, however, show special partiality to ideas connected with Mark Twain (because 1984 is the Huck Finn Centennial); Kate Chopin and other Missouri authors; regional studies, such as "folk-life and material culture of the Ozarks and other Missouri areas"; and relationships in methodology and content between women's studies and American Studies.

Nancy would like to see abstracts and panel suggestions no later than November 15, 1983; completed papers have to be in by March 1, 1984.