

## masa bulletin

AT THE NATIONAL American Studies Association meetings in Memphis (October 29-November 1), the Council of the national organization, concerned about communication in an era of change and crisis for the organization, asked MASA whether it would undertake to draw the chapters together in dialogue. MASA had its board present; it asked for clarification, then acted quickly to help. One result is that this column is to be made available as a forum. The airing of concerns (in brief items) begins whenever the several chapters see fit to formulate some. A phone call to Your Faithful Editor to discuss proposed items would be helpful. The phone is (913) 864-4878.

GRATITUDE is directed at those scholars who have helped us in recent months by giving our Editorial Board a hand. Usually they commented on articles which touched on areas in which our Board members are not expert. They are Forrest Berghorn, University of Kansas; Nancy Denny, University of Kansas; Alan Gribben, University of Texas-Austin; John Higham, Johns Hopkins University; Bernard Hirsch, University of Kansas; Frances Horowitz, University of Kansas; Bruce Kuklick, University of Pennsylvania; Seth Scheiner, Rutgers University; Elizabeth Schultz, University of Kansas; Robert Sears, Stanford University; Robert Shelton, University of Kansas; James Shortridge, University of Kansas; Haskell Springer, University of Kansas.

HISTORIANS OF PLANNING plan a rally with the historians at the OAH meetings, Friday, April 2, 1982. Details from Mark H. Rose, Department of Social Sciences, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan 49931, 906-487-2115; or William H. Wilson, Department of History, North Texas State University, Denton, Texas, (817) 788-2034.

COMPARATIVE CIVILIZATIONS will be studied through a rich variety of themes in late May (27-30), 1982 at Pittsburgh University. Comparative histories of childhood, comparative urban cultures, religion, humor, patriarchy—it all sounds very rich and attractive. T. Kaori Kitao, Art, Swarthmore College,

Swarthmore, Pennsylvania 19081, has information.

EXPANDED INDEXING in the MLA International Bibliography is the goal of a project acronymed CIFT in which this journal participates. CIFT *es decir* Contextual Indexing and Faceted Taxonomic Access System. (Got that?) Details available from Eileen Mackesy, MLA, 62 Fifth Avenue, N.Y. 10011.

MONTREAL was where the Canadian Association for American Studies held its Seventeenth Annual. A rich and varied program on October 22-24, 1981 involved some *American Studies* regulars and some succulent-looking programs. The scale seemed cozy, too—not too many sessions.

INDIANA MONEY is available to those doing historical research concerning Indiana. Information from Gayle Thornbrough, Indiana Historical Society, 315 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202.

COMMERCIAL ARCHEOLOGY is what the Society for CA Studies is about. It holds conferences and welcomes participation by non-members. Its address is c/o Museum of Transportation, 300 Congress Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02210.

A NEW M.A. program in American Studies at the College of William and Mary starts up in fall, 1982. Although the program involves Colonial Williamsburg, it is not limited to the colonial era. Fellowships and assistantships are available; information from Scott Donaldson, English, William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185.

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK is YFE's hometown, so he is happy to puff a conference there next November 4-7. The topic is twentieth-century women writers; a broad range of approaches is welcome; the deadline for papers is March 1, 1982, and the folks to write for details are Natalie Datlof and Alexey Ugrinsky, UCCIS, Hofstra University. Hofstra's zip is 11550; ND or AU can be reached at (516) 560-3296.

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Checklist and Robert Reginald came out with his two-volume checklist, *Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature*; Neil Barron edited a revised edition of his *Anatomy of Wonder*; Peter Nichols and a group of English critics produced *The Science Fiction Encyclopedia*; L. W. Currey produced a bibliography of first printings, *Science Fiction and Fantasy Authors*; Magill published a five-volume *Survey of Science Fiction Literature* (and is preparing a matching set for fantasy), Marshall Tymn edited *The Science Fiction Reference Book*, and so on.

The set at hand is not duplicated—yet; more such collections of author essays are in the works. This one offers essays ranging from two to twenty pages by a variety of critics about the life and work of a selected 91 authors: I counted the Gs and Galouye, Garrett, Godwin, Goldin, Goulart, Green, and Gunn are omitted—comprehensiveness is not one of its virtues. But Gunn is one of four Gs included. In such cases, I've found that a good critical method is to check the accuracy of one's own entry: I don't agree with all the judgments in the article, which is not surprising, though the piece is generally favorable, but, more important, I noted three major errors, including confusing the film version of *The Immortals* with the novel that inspired it, *The Immortals*, and several minor mistakes. Since the entries have different authors, the accuracy of the other articles may be better.

Nevertheless, the volumes would be a useful addition to a university or personal library (but watch for similar volumes as possible sub-

stitutions). Interesting features of this book are reproductions of a manuscript page for most authors, a photograph, often book covers, and extensive and useful appendices (six appendices, 12 parts). One thing the book lacks that would be useful for cross-referencing is an index.

TWO NEW RESOURCES IN MUSIC are reported by Dick Wright and J. Bunker Clark. Wright writes about V-DISCS: A History and Discography, by Richard S. Sears (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1980, \$67.50.): "A monumental work detailing an era in American music almost completely ignored: the making of V-Discs for distribution to servicemen and women throughout the world between 1943 and 1949. Along with the history, the author offers an annotated discography of all issued Army and Navy V-Discs. This discography is set up alphabetically by artist and in chronological order according to recording dates. A most welcome addition to the body of literature concerning the music business in general and the recording industry in particular." And Clark, dealing with a more encyclopedic project, reports that RESOURCES OF AMERICAN MUSIC HISTORY: A Directory of Source Material from Colonial Times to World War II, by D.W. Krummel, Jean Geil, Doris J. Dyen and Deane L. Root (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1981, \$70.00), is "a major research tool, funded by NEH, covering all aspects of American music. Institutions great and small are represented, and the detailed index is invaluable."

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SEXIST DEADLINES make it impossible for us to run a call for papers for the special *American Transcendental Quarterly* issue on unrecognized women writers in nineteenth-century New England. The deadline was 1 December, 1981. But we can at least tell you of the project; you can learn more from Women's Issue *ATQ*, Department of English, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island, 02881.

INDUSTRIOUS WOMEN were studied in a conference so titled held in late September at the Hagley Museum, Wilmington, Delaware. The focus was on the Mid-Atlantic region in the early industrial period. Post-conference information from Box 3630, Wilmington, Delaware 19807.

SLAVE NARRATIVES: *Essays in Literature* proposes a volume of essays on literary approaches to Afro-American slave narratives.

The deadline is March 1, 1982; information comes from John Sekora, English, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois 61455.

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS in the spring of 1982 is where and when the Missouri Conference on History is planned. Information is available from Peter L. Viscusi, History, Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, Missouri 64093. The conference runs April 16 and 17.

A GREAT PLAINS SYMPOSIUM is planned for March 18-20, 1982 by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Great Plains Studies. Details from Frances W. Kaye, English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 68588.

CRISIS AND CULTURE in Midwest cities was the subject of a conference of related events—walks, exhibitions, readings—run by the University of Toledo. Guy Szuberla, a contributor to this journal, was in charge, and could put you in touch with papers or people. He's in the English department there; the zip is 43606.