

# **POLISH ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES**

## **NEWSLETTER NO. 8**

**DECEMBER 1995**

Editor: Elzbieta H.Oleksy

Assistant Editor: Tomasz Pludowski

North American Studies Center

University of Lodz

---

### **PAAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 1995**

5th Annual Polish Association  
American Studies Conference  
CANONS/REVISIONS/SUPPLEMENTS Poznań, October 26-28, 1995

Once again, the annual PAAS conference has proved to be a productive venue for scholarly exchange. The conference in Poznań gathered Americanists and Canadianists from major Polish university centers and from all around the world. It was the first PAAS conference which had a Canadian section, with speakers from Hungary, Canada, and Poland. In all, sixty scholars participated in the conference. Thirty five papers were delivered, dealing with various aspects of American and Canadian culture and literature, many of them discussing the validity of the concept of "canon."

The PAAS business meeting, which took place during the conference, apart from purely organizational matters, was centered around the issue of the popularization of American Studies in Poland, and the approaching conference in Warsaw.

During the business meeting of the Fifth Annual Conference of the PAAS Krzysztof Michalek, ASC, Warsaw, submitted the proposal that the journal American Studies, published by the ASC since 1976, change its status. From the 16th issue on, American Studies could be considered an official publication of the PAAS. Krzysztof Michalek encouraged other Americanists to participate in the ASC research project entitled: "The Reception of American Patterns and Values in Poland Since 1989," which is going to be launched at the beginning of the 1996.

PAAS Treasurer, Wieslaw Oleksy, NAS, Lodz, expressed concern about a decline of PAAS membership and suggested that PAAS Annual Conferences adopt a thematic formula that is broad enough to encourage participation of Americanists from outside American Literature and Culture Departments.

The Poznań conference would not have been possible without the intellectual and financial support of the American Embassy, for which we are truly grateful. Thanks to another sponsor, Wielkopolski Bank Kredytowy in Poznań, we will be able to publish the conference proceedings. Remember to send final versions of your papers delivered during the conference to Marek Wilczyński, UAM, Poznań, until December 15, 1995.

---

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Agnieszka Borkowska, NAS, Lodz, participated in a summer school "Gender - Body, Subject, Other" in Odense, Denmark, in August 1995. Two-week long lectures and workshops focused on women's studies.

As a recipient of a Fulbright scholarship, Jerzy Durczak, ESI, UMCS, Lublin is currently teaching at Michigan State University.

In May, Clifford Hallam AL&CD, Lodz, went to the British and American Studies Conference in Minsk to deliver two papers: "From Pearl Harbor to Hiroshima: the Bitter Taste of Victory" and "Identity and Death in the New York Setting: Bartleby the Scrivener."

In September 1995, Jerzy Kutnik and Pawel Frelik, ESI, UMCS, Lublin, took part in a week-long international seminar in Olomouc, Czech Republic, devoted to the 1960's in America and organized by UCLA and the local Palatsky University. At the seminar Jerzy Kutnik conducted a workshop "The Avant-garde and 'Counter' Culture in the 60's."

Jadwiga Maszewska, AL&CD, Lodz, went to two meetings organized during the vacation break: on August 9-13, in Oslo, she attended the conference of the Nordic Association of American Studies and on September 7-10, she participated in the Southern Studies Forum in Cambridge, UK. In Oslo, she delivered a paper "Ecofeminism in Marilynne Robinson's Housekeeping." Her Cambridge paper was on "Racism and Slavery in William Makepeace Thackeray's Novel The Virginians."

Zbigniew Maszewski, AL&CD, Lodz, participated in the conference on Southern Literature in Honor of Cleanth Brooks at Yale University in May.

Kszysztof Michalek, Piotr Skurowski and Bohdan Szklarski represented the ASC, Warsaw, at the PAAS Conference. Bohdan Szklarski presented a paper on "American Nationalism in the Age of Multiculturalism."

On October 11, Elzbieta H.Oleksy, NAS, Lodz took part in the Worldnet program "Women in Mass Media." The Worldnet was broadcast from the studio in Washington.

In September 1995, Elzbieta H.Oleksy took part in a conference organized by the Southern Studies Forum in Cambridge on the subject of the Configuration of Race in the South and read a paper: "Cross-racial Bonding in Contemporary Southern Fiction and Film" at the Southern Studies Forum, University of Cambridge.

Elzbieta H.Oleksy, Wieslaw Oleksy, John Koritansky, and Tomasz Pludowski represented NAS, Lodz, at the PAAS Conference in Poznań. E. H. Oleksy read a paper: "Cross-canon, Cross-discipline, Cross-race: Passion Fish and Can't Quit You, Baby and W.Oleksy read a paper: "American Studies Canon. Problems and Prospects."

During a two week stay in the United States Wieslaw Oleksy, NAS, Lodz, read a paper "American Studies in Post-comunist Poland" at the American Studies Association Conference, University of Pittsburgh, November 8-12, 1995. The paper was presented at the workshop In Search for America -- Perspectives from Central Europe. The workshop was coorganized by Emory Elliott, Perry Frank, and Wieslaw Oleksy. After the conference W.Oleksy gave a lecture on "Political Situation in Poland Before the Presidential Run off" at the University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh, and then visited the campus of William Paterson College, New Jersey, where he gave a lecture on "Minorities in Poland" for the faculty and students at the Department of Sociology.

Wieslaw Oleksy, NAS's staff, and Ph.D. students organized an American Studies Salzburg Seminar (NAS, September 17-23, 1995) which was conducted by eminent American Studies scholars. The Seminar was the first in what is expected to be an on-going series throughout Central Europe designed to help faculty and students interested in American Studies to initiate, develop, and enhance programs and courses in the various disciplines which constitute the field broadly defined. For this first Institute, the following consultant team from the International American Studies and Language Faculty, Center for the Study of American Culture and Language, Salzburg Seminar, was in residence at NAS, Lodz:

Emory Elliott, Professor of English, University of California, Riverside -- Team Leader,  
Liz Cohen, Professor of History, New York University;

Winfried Fluck, Director, J.F.Kennedy Institute of American Studies, Berlin;  
Leo Marx, Professor of Literature and American Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Vincent Parrillo, Professor of  
Sociology, William Paterson College.

Americanists from all Polish universities were invited to participate in a day long workshop featuring the following presentations each  
of which was followed by discussion:

Leo Marx: "The American Studies Movement"  
Liz Cohen: "Unity and Fragmentation: The Implications of the New History for the Future of American Studies"  
Vincent Parrillo: "Ethnic Diversity in the United States"  
Winfried Fluck: "Encounters of the Third Kind: American Culture Seen from Abroad"  
Emory Elliott: "Where Have All the Disciplines Gone?"

Ph.D. candidates in American Studies had an opportunity to consult with The Seminar faculty.

A workshop for mass media professionals, organized by Elzbieta H. Oleksy and NAS, was held at the University of Lodz, November  
3-4, 1996. The workshop, entitled "Mass Media in Civil Society" was sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme and  
was run by Karen Ross, Cheltenham & Gloucester, UK, Kathryn Ross, Brigham Young University, USA, and Elzbieta H. Oleksy,  
NAS, Lodz. The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness about gender issues in journalism and to sensitize participants to the  
way in which women and men are the subject of different reporting strategies and journalistic routines. About 40 journalists from the  
leading Polish magazines, TV and radio stations took part in the workshop.

Special addresses were delivered by  
Jolanta Banach - Government's Plenipotentiary for Family and Women  
Linda Jewell - Press Attaché of the American Embassy  
Matthew Kahane - the Resident Representative of the UN in Poland  
Susan Maingay - Deputy Director of the British Council  
Marek Markiewicz  
Marek Nowicki - the Helsinki Foundation  
Iwona Sledzińska-Katarasińska - member of the Polish Parliament.

Joanna Rydzewska, NAS, Lodz, visited the Women's Studies Department at the Roehampton Institute in London, November 5-12.  
The objective of the visit was to look at the administrative side of the university structure.

In August, Agnieszka Salska, AL&CD, Lodz, attended the conference of the Emily Dickinson International Society in Innsbruck  
entitled "Emily Dickinson Abroad" and delivered a paper "Emily Dickinson in Polish: Recent Translations."

In October, Agnieszka Salska participated in the "Literature and Communication: From the Letter to Autobiographical Novel"  
Conference in Lublin at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University and presented a paper on Emily Dickinson's letters called "Between  
Correspondence and Poetry."

Piotr Skurowski, ASC, Warsaw, visited the University of Mainz, Germany, where on November 10 he presented a paper on "American  
Perception of Europe in Progressive Era."

#### Abbreviations:

AL&CD - American Literature and Culture Department, University of Lodz,  
ASC - American Studies Center, Warsaw,  
ESI, UMCS - English Studies Institute, University of Maria Curie-Skłodowska, Lublin,  
NAS - North American Studies Center, Lodz

---

## **THE POLISH-U.S. FULBRIGHT COMMISSION**

The Polish - U.S. Fulbright Commission and its binational Board of Directors nominated three young scholars from Warsaw University for the 1996-1997 Fulbright grants in American Studies:

Ewa Luczak (American Literature), Malgorzata Durska (American business culture), Joanna Jastrzebska-Szklarska (Sociology).

The Commission submitted to USIA a proposal for a program to host in Poland a Distinguished American Fulbright Fellow in 1996 within the framework of FULBRIGHT 50TH ANNIVERSARY DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN FELLOW PROGRAM.

The Commission is pleased to inform you that the proposal has been approved and that an official invitation has already been sent to David Halberstam, Pulitzer Prize winner, to participate in the program.

---

## **THE POLISH FULBRIGHT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

PFAA held its second General meeting at the Marriott Hotel in Warsaw on December 8, 1995. Wojciech Katner, a professor of law at the University of Lodz was elected president of PFAA for the second term. Elzbieta H. Oleksy was elected the first Vice-President, Adam Barcz, the second Vice-President.

The special speakers of the meeting were U.S. Ambassador Nicholas A. Rey, Deputy Speaker of the Polish Parliament Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, and Director of the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission Andrzej Dakowski. It is anticipated that cooperation between the Polish Fulbright Alumni Association and Polish Association for American Studies will be set up in the future.

---

## **GUEST LECTURERS**

Raymond Federman, an American writer, visited the Department of English at Maria Curie-Sklodowska University in May, where he gave a series of lectures to students and faculty, and conducted M.A. 1 seminar devoted to his writing.

On June 4, 1995, Philip Meeks, Creighton University, USA gave a lecture on "American Perception of Central Europe and the Future of the European Union" at NAS, Lodz.

On October 3, 1995, Peter V.Croft, President of the Wateguard Cable Products, Inc., a company from Texas (USA) visited the ASC, Warsaw and discussed the potential forms of cooperation between his company and the Center.

On October 5, 1995, Richard Quandt from the Mellon Foundation visited the ASC. He was informed about progress in the computerization of the ASC's Library which has been recently supported by the \$36,000 grant from the Foundation.

---

## **NEW COURSES**

**Donna Groot**

teaches a new proseminar for the 3rd year students on American Social History of the Post-Reconstruction period. This course covers the ideological influences, religious movements, ethnicity and social programs from the late 19th century to the present.

**Adam Janiszewski**

has taught M.A. seminar "Contemporary American Drama" and a proseminar for the 3rd-year students "American Drama 1930-80."

**Jadwiga Maszewska**

teaches a proseminar on ethnic American women writers. The aim of this course is to present to the students the currently writing non-white women authors: Toni Morrison and Alice Walker, Leslie Marmon Silko and Louise Erdrich, Maxine Hong Kingston and Amy Tan, and to trace the process as result of which fiction traditionally regarded as marginal becomes part of the mainstream literary tradition.

**Jerzy Kutnik**

has taught a monograph lecture "The 20th century American Painting" as well as a specialized seminar "American Society and Culture in the 60's."

**Jerzy Kutnik and Pawel Frelik**

organize weekly department film screenings devoted to modern America and American science-fiction cinema respectively. The screenings are usually accompanied by a discussion.

**Zbigniew Mazur** has taught an M.A. seminar "American Popular Culture."

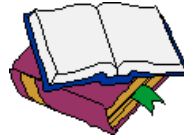
The Extramural M.A. Program in International Economic and Political Relations -- American Specialization (EMA-AM) which was launched at NAS, Lodz in October, 1995 (46 students were admitted into the program) offers the following new courses:

1. M.A. Seminar: „American Marketing" - E.Guzek
2. M.A. Seminar: „Canadian Welfare System" - J.Krzyszowski
3. American Film - E.Oleksy
4. American Government - J.Koritansky
5. Public Administration in the USA - J.Koritansky
6. American Public Policy - J.Koritansky
7. American Firms in Poland - J.Koritansky, W.Oleksy

Next semester the University of Poznań is starting the Canadian Program which is going to consist of two proseminars.

The decision to launch the summer school at the University of Warsaw was taken at the beginning of this year. With 95 participants the courses were held from June 26-31 and July 31-August 4. The great interest shown on the part of the students and the first experiences of the 1995 summer school affected the decision on the expansion of the ACS's activities. In the nearest future the International Summer School in American Studies will be organized. This year the summer school offered nine courses, which are as follows:

1. The Time of Untouchables and the "Stars": The Social History of the 1920's  
- Krzysztof Michalek
2. History of the Arts after 1945 - Joseph Polit
3. Across America - Landscape and Regions - Geography of the USA  
- Bohdan Szklarski
4. Crossfire - Debating Current Controversies in American Politics  
- Bohdan Szklarski
5. Crime in American Society - Joanna Jastrzebska-Szklarska
6. Life in a Big City - Joanna Jastrzebska-Szklarska
7. American and Global Capital Markets - Joe Mann
8. US Business Law - William Carr III
9. Jimmy Carter's Presidency - Marek Jannasz



## PUBLICATIONS

**Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska**, *Polska Isaaca Bashevisa Singera - rozstanie i powrót*, Lublin: Maria Curie-Skłodowska University Press, 1995.

**Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska**, "The Reception of I.B.Singer's Fiction in Poland," *Proceedings of the 11th World Congress of Jewish Studies*, Division C, Vol.III, Jerusalem 1994.

**Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska**, "I.B.Singer's Works in English and Yiddish: The Language and the Addressee," *Proceedings of the I.B.Singer Conference*, London, March 1993, Wayne University Press.

**Joanna Durczak**, "The Didactic Impulse In Contemporary American Poetry," *Literatur in Wissenschaft und Unterricht* 28, 1995.

**Adam Janiszewski**, *The Idea of the American Absurd in the American Drama of the 60's*, Lublin: Maria Curie-Skłodowska University Press, 1995.

**Adam Janiszewski**, "Morality, Absurdity and Democracy in The Brig by Kenneth Brown," *Conference Proceedings*, Pulawy X 1994.

**Krzysztof Jankowiak**, "Polish Nobility and the United States in the first half of the 20th century: The Potockis of Lańcut", in: *Polish-Anglo-Saxon Studies*, vol.5, UAM Poznań, 1994, pp 41-61

**Marek Jedliński**, "Allen Ginsberg-Człowiek z Nortona" in *Łódzki Kalejdoskop Literacki*, Łódź 1994, pp 27-30.

**Jerzy Kutnik, Larry McCaffery**, "'I Follow My Eyes': An Interview with Clarence Major," *African American Review* 28, No.1.

**Zbigniew Mazur**, *Transformation of English Culture in Colonial Virginia*, Lublin: Maria Curie-Skłodowska University Press, 1995.

**Krzysztof Michalek** published in November the postwar history of the United States. The book, entitled *Mocarstwo. Historia Stanów Zjednoczonych Ameryki, 1945-1992* (A Great Power. History of the United States of America, 1945-1992) is considered to be the second volume of Krzysztof Michalek's best-selling work *Na drodze ku potędze. Historia Stanów Zjednoczonych Ameryki, 1861-1945* (The Road to Power. History of the United States of America, 1861-1945) which had two editions in the past two years.

The Journal of American History (vol.82, No.2, September 1995) published **Krzysztof Michalek's** review of Martin Walker's book *The Cold War*, New York 1994.

**Elzbieta H.Oleksy**, ed., *American Cultures: Assimilation and Multiculturalism*, San Francisco, London: International Scholars Publications, 1995.

**Elzbieta E.Oleksy**, "Eudora Welty's Rondo," in *American Cultures: Assimilation and Multiculturalism*, San Francisco, London: International Scholars Publications, 1995, pp. 75-86.

**Elzbieta H.Oleksy and Lewis A.Lawson**, eds. *Walker Percy's Feminine Characters*, Troy, New York: The Whitston Publishing Company, 1995.

**Elzbieta H.Oleksy**, "From Silence and Madness to the Exchange that Multiplies: Walker Percy and the Woman Question," in *Walker Percy's Feminine Characters*, Troy, New York: The Whitston Publishing Company, 1995, pp. 122-133.

**Elzbieta H.Oleksy and Andrea Bernard**, "Sophie's Choice: The Depiction of Poles in the American Popular Imagination" in *Images of Central Europe in Travelogues and Fiction by North American Writers*, ed. Waldemar Zacharasiewicz, Stauffenburg Verlag, 1995.

**Elzbieta H.Oleksy**, "Det nye Polen: Patriarhatet slor til igen," *Europa*, December, 1995.

**Agnieszka Salska**, "Literature and the Sense of Community: Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*", *Literature, Politics, and Society in America*. Fifth Annual Fulbright Conference on American Literature and Culture, Poznań, 1995, pp. 75-81.

**Agnieszka Salska**, "The Functioning of the Journey Motif in Tim O'Brien's *Going After Cacciato*," *British and American Studies in Toruń. American Studies. Home Thoughts from Abroad*, Toruń, 1995, pp. 251-264.

**Agnieszka Salska**, „Struktury Pamięci w Johna Updike'a tetralogii o „Króliku”, *Odra* 3, 1995.

**Agnieszka Salska**, „Wielkie miasto romantyczne: Nowy York Walta Whitmana", *Wielkie miasto. Czynniki integrujące i dezintegrujące*, Wydawnictwo UL, Łódź, 1995.

**Jerzy Sobieraj**, "Wolność a prawa człowieka. John Locke na gruncie amerykańskim", *Prawa Człowieka - Humanistyczne Zeszyty Naukowe* 2, 1995.

**Jerzy Sobieraj**, Wielość i różnorodność propozycji interpretowania tekstów Conrada, „*Informacje Polskiego Klubu Conradowskiego*”, 1995.

#### **Irmina Wawrzyczek**

co-edited with Michał Rozbicki the first volume and with Bernard Sheehan the second volume of the five-volume full history of the USA as well as contributed „System niewolniczy Ameryki Brytyjskiej” to the first volume.

**Donald Wesling and Tadeusz Ślawek**, *The Calling of Jonah Literary Voice*, State University of New York Press, Albany 1995

A five-volume synthesis of American History prepared by the team of Polish and American historians led by two General Editors - **Andrzej Bartnicki** (Warsaw University) and **Donald Critchlow** (St.Louis University, USA) was published in October. The ASC contributed significantly to this project in various forms. Krzysztof Michalek and Zbigniew Kwiecień served as co-editors of the 4th and 5th volume. The former director of the ASC - Michał J.Rozbicki - served as co-editor of the 1st volume. A few members of the ASC faculty were the authors of many chapters of the book. They were: M.Rozbicki (6), K.Michalek (4), P.Skurowski (1), and P.Ostaszewski (1).

Ostaszewski's contribution included the selection of historical maps and a chronology of the most significant events of the US history. The publication heavily used the rich collection of ASC's slides and photographs. At the final stage of the project the ASC offered financial support for the project.

**In print:**

**Krzysztof Andrzejczak**, *The Writer in the Writing: Author as Hero in Postwar American Fiction.*, Lodz University Press

**Wieslaw Oleksy's** chapter (55p) "Polish universities in transition" will be included in a collection of articles entitled *The Impact of Post-communism on Central European Universities*, to be published by Garland Press.

**Agnieszka Salska**, "Letters", a chapter about Emily Dickinson's correspondence in *The Emily Dickinson Critical Handbook*, eds. Gudrun Grabber, Roland Hagebuehle, Cristanne Miller, University of Amherst Press.

**Agnieszka Salska**, "Dickinson in Polish. Recent Translations", *The Emily Dickinson Journal*.

**Tadeusz Slawek**, "Jacques Deville and the Path of Spirit" in: *The Proceedings of the Conference of Northwestern American Association of the Eighteen Century Studies*, Boise, Idaho.

**Piotr Skurowski** has just finished his book entitled: *A Model and a Warning: The American Reform Mind and the Image of Europe, 1890-1918*. This publication is considered as his post-Ph.D. dissertation (habilitacja).

**Jerzy Sobieraj**, *Seriousness of Colors: The Southern Writer and Race*, to be published as part of *Culture and Identity* volume in 1996 by University of Silesia Print.

**Jerzy Sobieraj**, *Sexual Duality: Search for Identity in the Works of Carson McCullers*, to be published in the volume *Representations of the Erotic* by University of Silesia Print in 1996.

---

#### *American Studies*

is an official publication of American Studies Center, Warsaw University. Volume XIV has just been published and is available exclusively at Warsaw University Press Bookstore on the main campus (look for Archiwum UW), or at ORPAN bookstores throughout Poland.

---

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **Melville "Among the nations"**


Papers and proposals (20-min. reading-time max.) are being sought for an international conference on the life and writing of Herman Melville to be held in Volos, Greece: July 2 -6, 1997. Only submissions with an international perspective upon Melville and his work will be considered. Fields from which topics may be drawn include, but are not limited to: Melville's biography and travels, the fine arts, comparative literary relationships, worldwide social and cultural matters related to Melville, history, philosophy, religion, European critical theory, ethnic and gender issues, and language.

Complete papers or proposals of 250-500 words should be sent to: Prof. Sanford E. Marovitz, Dept. of English, Kent State Univ., Kent, Ohio 44242. All submissions must be received by August 1, 1996. Presenters must expect to cover their own expenses.

---



Please send your items for the next PAAS NEWSLETTER to the address below BEFORE APRIL 30, 1996.

PAAS NEWSLETTER   
North American Studies Center  
University of Lodz  
Narutowicza 54  
90-136 Lodz, Poland

fax: (48 42) 31 95 82  
e-mail: [eloleksy@kryisia.uni.lodz.pl](mailto:eloleksy@kryisia.uni.lodz.pl)

**Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year**

**Editor & Assistant Editor**

---

[◀ home](#)