POLISH ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER NO. 17

APRIL 2000

Editor: Jadwiga Maszewska Assistant Editor: Malgorzata Myk

Department of American Literature and Culture University of Lodz



"The Local Colors of Stars and Stripes"

Annual Conference of the Polish Association for American Studies Torun, November 19-22, 2000

The Conference is intended to attract scholars in the fields of American Studies, American history and literature, anthropology, sociology, and political science who are interested in various aspects of regionalism and local consciousness in the British colonies in North America and the United States from the 17th century up to the present. The list of suggested topics -- comprehensive and virtually expandable -- includes manifestations of regional identities in American culture(s) and art(s); local color literature of New England, the South, the Midwest and other regions; history and the present state of local government; theory and practice of regional separatism; local communities, ethnic minorities, and immigrant groups; religious denominations and sects, etc.

The time limit for presentations is 25 minutes.

Prospective participants are encouraged to submit topics and abstracts (200 words) by the end of June to:

 $Marta\ Wiszniowska\ (\underline{majchrzyk@supermedia.pl})$

or,

Dariusz Pestka (darjopes@post.pl)

at this address:

Department of English Nicolaus Copernicus University Fosa Staromiejska 3 87 100 Torun, Poland

First Circular

"The Local Colors of the Stars and Stripes" Annual Conference of the Polish Association for American Studies Torun, November 19th - 22nd, 2000

The Organizing Committee:
Department Of English, Nicholas Copernicus University
Ul. Fosa Staromiejska 3
87 100 Torun, Poland
tel./fax (+48-56) 622 77 10

e-mail: majchrzyk@supermedia.pl or darjopes@post.pl

Venue:

Zaklad Obslugi Osrodka Doradztwa Rolniczego w Przysieku, hotel "Daglezja" (about a ten-minute drive from the center of Torun).

Room and Board:

Hotel "Daglezja". Most rooms are double rooms; if you are travelling with a colleague and wish to share accommodation, please indicate it on the registration form. Please note that the hotel accommodates only 70 people - those who register earliest are most likely to be provided accommodation at "Daglezja".

Registration Fee:

The registration fee will cover the costs of administration, hotel and meals. Participants can register as one of the following:

* Polish PAAS members and foreign nationals living and working in Poland - 400 PLN if paid before 30 June 2000; 450 PLN for later registration; * foreign participants - 300 USD before 30 June 2000; 350 USD for later registration. * limited registration participants (accomodation/meals not included) - 100 PLN The fee will be non-refundable.

REPORT ON THE 1999 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF POLISH ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN STUDIES. "APOCALYPSE NOW. PROPHECY AND FULFILMENT"

HELD IN LODZ DECEMBER 5-8, 1999

The conference, which took place at the University of Lodz Conference Center, brought together many scholars and students from the United States, some European countries and numerous Polish universities. Altogether, 71 scholars participated in the event, 17 of whom were from outside Poland. 39 papers were delivered during the three days of the conference.

Thanks to the generosity of the USIA, conference organizers were able to invite two keynote speakers from the United States: Professor Sanford Marovitz from Kent State University and Professor Noel Polk from the University of Southern Mississippi. Another plenary speaker, Professor Anne Goodwyn Jones from the University of Florida, was a guest of the Department of American Literature and Culture in Lodz.

Conference organizers plan to publish the conference proceedings in the year 2000. Preliminary arrangements have already been made with the University of Lodz Press.

Conference organizers wish to express their thanks to Mrs. Kate Delaney, the Cultural Attaché at the American Embassy in Warsaw for her presence at the conference, and to the United States Information Agency, without whose financial commitment the conference would not have been possible.

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE AT POLISH UNIVERSITIES

News from the Institute of English Philology at the University of Bialystok

Halina Parafianowicz, Dean of the Department of History and Sociology at the University of Bialystok, teaches courses "America in Poland: the Myth and the Reality", and "The US Policy towards the Central-Eastern Europe during the Interwar Period" During the forthcoming 50th International Conference of Americanists at Warsaw University, July 10-14, 2000, she will chair the panel "Religion, Pluralism, and the Social and Political Order".

News from the Department of American Studies at the University of Gdansk

Cheryl Alexander Malcolm has received her doctorate in comparative American and British literature from the University of Gdansk. The title of her study was "Caravans of Watchfulness: Problems of Cultural Identity in the Fiction of Anita Brookner and Cynthia Ozick and Related Texts."

At the biennial meeting of the European Association for American Studies to be held in April in Graz, Austria, Cheryl A.

Malcolm is chairing the workshop "Eroticism and Nature."

With the support of the American Embassy in Warsaw, her poetry was recently published to coincide with an exhibition of photographs which was shown this winter in Sopot.

News from the Department of American Literature and Culture, University of Silesia, Katowice

The first volume of the 1998 PAAS conference proceedings Reflections on Ethical Values in Post(?)Modern American Literature (Katowice: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Slaskiego, 2000) will be available in spring. Volume II Reflections on Ethical Values in Post(?)Modern American Cultures and Societies has been reviewed and is now being prepared for publication.

In March, we submitted for publication a collection of essays on American literature and culture. Papers are written primarily by younger faculty members of our department, as well as by three young scholars from other Polish universities.

The volume is entitled *Szkice o literaturze i kulturze amerykanskiej*, and edited by Teresa Pyzik. We decided to write the articles in Polish, since the volume is addressed to a wide audience of people interested in American literature and culture, not all of whom may be able to read English.

In April, Dr Cristina Gonzalez, a Spanish Americanist from the University of Leon, visited our department. She gave lectures on the most recent developments in American fiction and literary theory.

News from the Department of American Literature and Culture, UMCS Lublin

Art Matters in Teaching American Studies -- Workshop/Seminar

On 11-13 February 2000, the Department of American Literature and Culture organized a workshop/seminar devoted to the presence of visual arts in teaching American Studies. The event was targeted to young educators from teacher training colleges and American Studies departments in Poland. 45 of them attended 3 days of workshops led by art scholars from the US and Poland: Craig Eliason (Rutgers University), Jerzy Kutnik (Maria Curie-Skladowska University), Tomasz Kitlinski (MCSU), and Pawel Leszkowicz (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan).

One of the presentations was delivered by Kate Delaney, the Cultural Attaché of US Embassy in Warsaw. Seminar sessions were supplemented by multimedia presentations, which gave the participants an opportunity to verify theoretical knowledge presented during workshop. The participants also received a specially designed CD-ROM containing extensive visual and textual art material.

The workshop was made possible by a generous grant from USIS in Warsaw.

Both participants and organizers agreed that the workshop was a success and that there was a continuing need for such events.

A similar event is planned for the next year.

Conferences

Joanna Durczak taught a seminar titled "Technology, Nature and the American Mind" at University of Joensuu, Finland.

Jerzy Durczak and Joanna Durczak spent one week at JFK Institute in Berlin collecting materials for the chapters they are going to contribute to *Historia Literatury Amerykanskiej XX wieku*, (ed) Agnieszka Salska, to be published by Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN.

Pawel Frelik spent several days researching for his dissertation in the University of Liverpool Library, which houses the biggest science fiction collection of primary sources and critical materials in Europe.

Dorota Janowska presented a paper at the "Great Sixties" conference held in Seville, Spain.

Malgorzata Siwek, Joanna Durczak, and Pawel Frelik presented papers at the PAAS conference in Lodz.



Jerzy Durczak

"Irish Boyz N the Hood: James T. Farrell's Studs Lonigan Trilogy" in Telling It Slant: Polish Insights Into American Culture and Literature, (ed.) M. Wilczynski, M. Zapedowska, Poznan: Wydawnictwo Naukowe UAM, 1999, 125-134.

Joanna Durczak

"'The Dover Bitch' on 'Dover Beach': Contemporary American Response Poems" in *Telling It Slant*, (ed.) M. Wilczynski and M. Zapedowska, Poznan: Wydawnictwo Naukowe UAM, 1999, 68-82.

"A Prophecy for the Yuppie: Vikram Seth's The Golden Gate"

American Studies (Warsaw), XVIII, 2000.

Pawel Frelik

"Return from the Implants: Cyberpunk's Schizophrenic Futures" *Simulacrum America*, New York: Camden House, 2000, 87-94.

Bianka Zarzycka

"Treading Through America: Malcolm X's Search for Identity" Lubelskie Materialy Neofilologiczne 23, 1999.

News from the Department of American Studies and Mass Media (AMS) University of Lódz

Honors:

In November 1999, Tomasz Pludowski received a Ph.D. degree from the Institute of Sociology, University of Lodz. His dissertation: "Political Advertising in Two Cultures: A Comparative Content Analysis of Presidential Campaign Television Broadcasts" examines the latest Polish presidential campaign and the 1992 US general elections in the light of communication theory.

Visits

On March 22, Andrzej Dakowski, the director of the Polish-American Fulbright Commission in Warsaw, visited ASM to meet with ASM's faculty and discuss plans for further cooperation between the Commission and ASM.

Between April 14-17, Vincent Parillo, a Professor from W. Paterson University of New Jersey, gave a series of lectures and seminars at ASM on the following topics:

Multiculturalism in the USA -- lecture.

US Population Diversity by the mid-21st Century -- lecture.
Promoting Tolerance and Intercultural Understanding -- seminar.
The visit at ASM is co-sponsored by the Polish-American Fulbright Comission.



Elzbieta H. Oleksy

"Monstrousness and Authorship. Willa Cather's Sapphira and the Slave Girl" in Telling It Slant: Polish Insights in American Culture and Literature. Essays in Honor of Professor Andrzej Kopcewicz on His 65th Birthday, Poznan: Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1999, 99-111. "Filmowe Wizerunki Kobiet Poludnia USA" ("Images of Women of the American South in Film") in E. Pakszys and W. Heller (eds.), *Humanistyka i Plec III: Publiczna Przestrzen Kobiet: Obrazy Dawne i Nowe (Humanities and Gender III: Women's Public Space: Images Old and New*), Poznan: Wydawnictwo Naukowe UAM, 1999, 141-172.

Conferences

On April 8-11, 1999, the Department of American Studies and Mass Media, University of Lodz, together with the Department of Film and Theater, University of Lodz, and the Department of Film and Drama, University of Reading (Great Britain), co-organized "Gender - Theatre - Cinema: A Cross-cultural and Interdisciplinary Conference in Film and Theatre Studies." The participants came from Poland and other Central and Eastern European countries as well as Western Europe and the United States. The conference addressed issues arising from the study of gender in film and theater. It evolved around topics like gender representation and gender theory, gender issues in national contexts, representation of genders in film and drama, and discussions of sexuality and identity.

Elzbieta H. Oleksy gave a keynote lecture "'A sparrow with a broken wing...and a shot of vodka': Constructions of Femininity in Polish Visual Culture." Other ASM's representatives at the conference were Agnieszka Borkowska, who delivered a paper: "The 'New Woman': Contemplating Women in Un-Womanly(?) Roles," and Jaroslaw Wojcieszek, a student of American Studies and Mass Media major, whose presentation was entitled "Woman as an Alien: Female Representation in Science-Fiction Film."

A selection of papers from this conference entitled "Gender in International film," edited by Elzbieta H. Oleksy, Elzbieta Ostrowska, and Mike Stevenson, has been submitted for publication in Peter Lang. A selection of papers in Polish will be published by Energeia, a publishing house in Warsaw.

Presentations

David LaFrance

"Historical Memory and United States-Mexican Relations: the Kidnapping of William Jenkins," a paper presented at 9th Annual PAAS Conference "Apocalypse Now: Prophecy and Fulfillment," organized by the University of Lodz, December 5-8, 1999.

Activities

On February 25-25, Joanna Rydzewska attended a seminar "Critical Perspectives on Teching Women's & Gender Studies" with E. H. Oleksy's paper on teaching women's and gender studies in Poland. The title of the presentation was "Emancipatory Pedagogy. The Case of Poland." The seminar was organized by ATHENA, an official network in the EU Socrates Program.

In November 1999, Joanna Rydzewska and Agnieszka Borkowska participated in a conference "Gender Studies: Institutionalization and Development of a New Discipline," organized by Gender Studies Department, University of Warsaw.

Elzbieta Durys is spending the spring semester 2000 at the University of Joensuu, Finland, within the Socrates/Erasmus Program.

Courses

Elzbieta H. Oleksy taught a module on visualization of women in American and Polish film at the University of Surrey, London, and the University of Tampere, Finland; and a module on cross-racial bonding in the US South at the University of Joensuu, Finland.

Those teaching assignments were performed within the Socrates/Erasmus Program.

On May 1-10, 2000, Wieslaw Oleksy will be teaching a mini-course on "Technology and US Society" at the University of Gdansk.

Call for papers

Polish Americanists are invited to submit books, monographs, edited collections, and articles published in 1998 and 1999 to be considered for review in the "Central European Contribution" of American Literary Scholarship.

An Annual 1999, Durham and London: Duke University Press. Deadline for submission of materials: December 15, 2000.

Please send your materials to:

Prof. dr hab. Elzbieta H. Oleksy Department of American Studies and Mass Media University of Lodz Narutowicza 54/11 90-136 Lodz Poland

News from the Department of American Literature and Culture, University of Lodz

New Courses

Stephen Tapscott (MIT), Distinguished Fulbright Professor, who joined our department for the spring semester of 1999/2000, is teaching courses on "The Image in American Literature" and "Voice in the Poetry of Robert Lowell, Sylvia Plath and Other Confessionals"

Visitors

Anne Goodwyn Jones (University of Florida, Gainsville) met with students on December 9, 1999 to discuss American attitudes at the end of the century. John Crust, who teaches at our department, conducted the discussion.

Russell Reising (University of Toledo, Ohio) visited the department between April 10 - 17, lecturing on aspects of American popular culture (some Walt Disney films and their cultural contexts, the language of American psychodelia, Transcendentalists and psychodelic revisions of the natural world) and the autobiographies of Frederick Douglass in the context of American Renaissance writings

Shelley Armitage (University of Texas, El Paso), Distinguished Fulbright Professor at Warsaw University presented a lecture on April 4, 2000: "Multiculturalism - Reading Across Minority Discourses"

Conferences

John Crust, Kacper Bartczak, and Grzegorz Kosc presented papers at the 1999 PAAS Conference "Apocalypse Now. Prophecy and Fulfillment."

John Crust spoke about: "A Contemporary Gangster Behind Gangsta Rap."

Kacper Bartczak presented a paper on "Landscapes of Radical Self-Knowledge in John Ashbery and Don DeLillo." Grzegorz Kosc presented a paper "Cyclonic Zero of the Word: Robert Lowell - Between Modernism and Postmodernism."



The following members of the department contributed to the volume *Telling It Slant. Polish Insights into American Culture and Literature*:

Agnieszka Salska - "Dickinson in the Elegiac Mode"

Jadwiga Maszewska - "Leslie Marmon Silko's Almanac of the Dead: A Voice in the Construction of the Modern American Nation"

Zbigniew Maszewski - "On the Margin of the Question of Literary Property in American Romanticism"

Jadwiga Maszewska's book Between Center and Margin. Contemporary Native American Women Writers: Leslie Marmon
Silko and Louise Erdrich was published
by Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Lodzkiego.

News form the American Literature Department Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan

On December 9, 1999 we received two distinguished visitors who delivered lectures attended by students and faculty members: Sanford Marovitz, Professor Emeritus at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, who spoke on "Melville in the Age

of the Changing Canon", and Noel Polk, Professor of the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS, who had a lecture on "Faulkner and History."



Telling It Slant: Polish Insights into American Culture and Literature.
Essays in Honor of Professor Andrzej Kopcewicz on His 65th Birthday,
(eds.) Marek Wilczynski and Magdalena Zapedowska (Poznan: Wydawnictwo Naukowe UAM, 1999).

The book includes the following essays by members of our department: Joseph Kuhn "A Mind of Stone, Plants and Autumn: Oswald Spengler's The Decline of the West in the work of Allen Tate"

Agnieszka Rzepa "Textual Androgyny? The Textuality of Gender and the Gender of Text"

Marcin Turski "John Barth's Sabbatical and Edgar Allan Poe's The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym: Cases of Midrashic Recontexting"

Marek Wilczynski "The Return of the Repressed Past: The Uncanny Houses of Mary E. Wilkins Freeman and Charlotte Perkins Gilman"

Magdalena Zapedowska "Mickiewicz's Circles: 'A Vision' in the light of Emerson's Early Essays"

Other publications

Agnieszka Rzepa

"Neither In Nor Out: A Lover of Witches. Androgyny in American Popular Culture.

A Case Study," *Studia Anglica Posnaniensia*, vol. 34, 1999.

Marek Wilczynski

"Maidens, Corpses, and Words: Edgar Allan Poe and the Failure of the Sublime, "
Studia Anglica Posnaniensia, vol. 34, 1999.

"Organic Chemistry: Body, Flesh, and the Limits of Transcendentalism," in *Organs, Organisms, Organicstions: Organic Form in Nineteenth-Century Discourse*, (eds.) Tadeusz Rachwal, Tadeusz Slawek (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2000)

"Praca melancholii, czyli o niemozności nudy. Melancholia w literaturze amerykanskiej polowy XIX wieku," in *Nuda w kulturze*, (eds.) Przemyslaw Czaplinski and Piotr Sliwinski, Poznan: Rebis, 1999.

Magdalena Zapedowska

"Spatial Relationship in Emily Dickinson's Poetry," Studia Anglica Posnaniensia, vol. 34, 1999.

"The Figure of the Tree in Nineteenth-Century Discourse," in *Organs, Organisms, Organisations: Organic Form in Nineteenth-Century Discourse*, eds. Tadeusz Rachwal, Tadeusz Slawek; Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2000.

"The Transparent and the Opaque: Reading Nature by Emerson, Mickiewicz, and Dickinson," *American Studies*, vol. 18, 1999.

News from the American Literature Department University of Warsaw

In December, Sanford E. Marovitz, a Professor from the Kent State University, and Noel Polk from the University of Southern Mississippi visited our institute.

Sanford E. Marovitz delivered a lecture on the life and work of Herman Melville, whereas the other guest was exploring the link between Faulkner's work and Mississippi.

In December, the faculty members (Tomasz Basiuk, Agnieszka Graff, Ewa Luczak, Jerzy Sobieraj), Marek Paryz, our Ph.D. student, and Agnieszka Ziemkiewicz, our MA student, presented papers at the PAAS conference held in Lodz.

On February 11-13, Agnieszka Graff and Heinz Ickstadt organized a Faulknerian seminar for the students of our Institute and of Freie University, Berlin.

Its participants met for an intense three-day "Jam Session" in Warsaw (February 18-20) where they presented papers followed by many hours of discussion.

The seminar turned out to be very successful, provided not only a platform for an exchange of academic ideas, but also initiated friendships between Polish and German students.

In February, Shelley Armitage, Distinguished Fulbright Professor from the University of Texas at El Paso, joined the faculty of our section for the spring semester. Shelley Armitage gave a series of lectures at various Polish Universities: In Lodz she talked about Multiculturalism, in Cracow about Women Writing Culture, and in Szczecin about Women in Popular Culture.

In Wroclaw she delivered a lecture "In Search of our Mother's Garden," and in Gdansk "Tigua Pueblo and the English Plus Argument."

Additionally, she ran a workshop for the teachers of English in Poznan.

On March 30, Paul Lauter, the editor of the Heath Anthology of American Literature, delivered a lecture "Civil Rights and American Literature: From Mississippi Summer to the Heath Anthology."

New Courses

Shelley Armitage Postmodernism and Native Identity,

20th Century Women Writing, Reading Across Minority Discourses

Tomasz Basiuk Idea of America

Nancy Burke American Detective Novel

Agnieszka Graff The Fiction of Vladimir Nabokov

Ewa Luczak

Apocalypse in American Literature



Marek Paryz

"The Ridiculed Reason: The Presentation of the Insane Asylum in N. Hawthorne's 'Egotism; or the Bosom Serpent' and E.A. Poe's 'The System of Doctor Tarr and Professor Fether' " *American Studies*, vol. 18, 1999, 87-104.

A review of Elzbieta H. Oleksy's *Kobieta w Krainie Dixie. Literatura i Film* (Lodz: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Lodzkiego 1998) in *American Studies*, vol. 18, 1999, 115-118.

"Odczytac Chorobe" (a review of the Polish edition of Susan Sontag's *Illness Metaphor and Aids and Its Metaphors*), *Literatura na swiecie*, 9/1999, 2333-240.

News from the Institute of English Philology, University of Wroclaw

Conferences

Dominika Ferens

- "Turning the Ethnographic Gaze in American Popular Fiction", American Literature Association Conference, Baltimore, USA, 1999.

"Orientalism with a Difference: Decoupling Race and Culture in Early Asian American Literature", Eighth Annual PASE Conference, Wroclaw, 1999.

"Winnifred Eaton/Onoto Watanna: Establishing Ethnographic Authority," Association of Asian American Studies Conference, Philadelphia, USA, 1999.

Piotr Zazula

"The Trickster's Return: the Contingent Self in Milan Kundera's and Kurt Vonnegut's Fiction" at the April Conference VIII in Cracow, Jagiellonian University, 07-09.04.1999: "Tradition and Postmodernity:

English and American Studies and the Challenge of the Future".

"The Trickster Motif in Contemporary Jewish American Fiction" at the Eighth Annual PASE Conference in Wroclaw, University of Wroclaw, 19-21.04.1999.



Dominika Ferens

"Tangled Kites: Sui Sin Far's Negotiations with Race and Readership." Amerasia Journal 25.2 (Summer 1999), 28 pages.

Piotr Zazula

"The Trickster's Return: Postmodern Shamanism in Gerald Vizenor's Bearheart: the Heirship Chronicles" in M. Post (ed.)

Anglica Wratislaviensia XXXV. Festschrift for Professor Jan Cygan on the Occasion of His 70th Birthday, Wroclaw: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Wroclawskiego, 1999. 275-293.

"The Contingent Self in Milan Kundera's and Kurt Vonnegut's Fiction" in T. Bela, Z. Mazur (eds.) *Tradition and Postmodernity: English and American Studies and the Challenge of the Future*, Krakow: Universitas, 1999, 581-594.

translation of Lukasz Nysler's "The Problem of the Self in Richard Rorty's Philosophy" in *Kwartalnik Pedagogiczny*. Rok XLII: 1997, 1-2 (163-164), Warszawa 1999, 97-121.

Courses and Seminars

Ethnography, Ethnicity, and Whiteness - MA. Seminar
The course explores the ways in which the practice of ethnography (understood as both literary and scientific writing about other cultures)
produces both "ethnicity" and "whiteness."

Passing into Modernism

This proseminar plays on the meanings of "passing", using this word as a pretext to rethink the work of canonical authors and to study others who never made it into the canon.

Elzbieta Klimek-Dominiak started teaching a new proseminar "Fiction and Film of the American West". The aim of the course is to present the concepts and genres associated with representation of the American West.

Dominika Ferens organized a 2-semester cycle of open lectures on translation for students of English Department. She also organized a group Gender in Culture/Gender Studies at English Department, including a 2-semester program of guest lectures and discussions.

FROM THE TREASURER:

FROM THE EDITOR:

The next issue of the PAAS Newsletter can be expected in October 2000. We warmly invite you to share with us any information

concerning your research and activities in the field of American Studies. You may use the following address to contact the Newsletter:



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PAAS WWW PAGE:

The Polish Association for American Studies WWW page is located at:

http://klio.umsc.lublin.pl./users/ptsazlka/

It features the general information concerning PAAS, the Board as well as the latest PAAS Newsletter.

The page is hosted by the Department of American Literature and Culture in Lublin and maintained by Pawel Frelik.

All centers in Poland are kindly requested to send in all relevant information to

ptszalka@klio.umcs.lublin.pl

or the snail mail address:

Department of American Literature and Culture

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