

POLISH ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

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Editor: Jadwiga Maszewska
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Department of American Literature and Culture
University of Lodz

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

[Department of American Studies, University of Gdansk](#)
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[Department of American Studies & Mass Media, University of Lodz](#)
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[Department of English, Nicholas Copernicus University, Torun](#)
[Department of American Literature, University of Warsaw](#)
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Department of American Studies at the University of Gdansk

Events and activities Cheryl Alexander Malcolm gave guest lectures at Marsaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic, February 2001 titled "My Demon Lover: Eros and the Jews" and "American Feminism". She also gave poetry readings at the University of Coimbra, Portugal, March 2001 and in Olomouc, Czech Republic, February 2001.

Conferences *Beata Williamson* presented the following papers:

- "Susan Warner: Regionalist of the 1850s," at the PAAS Conference, Toruń, November 2000.
- "The Language of Sentimental Fiction" at the conference "Paradigmatics, Syntagmatics and Language Functions" at Vilnius University, Lithuania, November 2000.

Cheryl Alexander Malcolm presented the following papers:

- "The Power of Seduction: (Re)writing Stereotypes in David Henry Hwang's *M. Butterfly*" APEAA Conference, University of the Algarve, Faro, Portugal, March 2001.
- "Regions of the Soul or Bad, Bad Boys?" Bruce Jay Friedman's *When You're Excused, You're Excused and Lady*" at PAAS Conference, Toruń, November 2000.

- "Jewish Faith and American Identity: A Literary Perspective" American Studies Colloquium, Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic, September 2000.

Guest lecturers Guest lecturers at the University of Gdańsk were: James Deutsch, Diane Negra, and Jody David Armour.

Publications **Beata Williamson**

"Teaching 19th-Century Domestic Fiction" in conference proceedings *Paradigmatics, Syntagmatics and Language Functions 1999*, Kaunas, Lithuania, 2000, 269-272.

The English Section at the School of Pedagogy and the Fine Arts, Adam Mickiewicz University, Kalisz

Publications **Magdalena Zapędowska**

"Reading the Face of the Earth: Traveling into Nature in Henry David Thoreau's A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers and Seweryn Goszczyński's Diary of a Journey to the Tatras," in *Rivers and the American Experience*, ed. Jerzy Durczak, Lublin: Maria Curie-Skłodowska University Press, 2000, 145-159.

Department of American Literature and Culture University of Silesia, Katowice

Events and activities Paweł Jędrzejko successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation in June 2000. He has received a grant from the Eastern Scholar program of the Civic Education Project for developing new courses and methods of teaching.

Conferences **Krzysztof Kowalczyk-Twarowski** delivered 4 papers concerning regionalism at conferences in Frankfurt am Main, Bergen, Helsinki, and Toruń.

Tomasz Sikora presented a paper titled "Wild as a Hawk's Dream": Towards an Ecology of Cyberspace" at the American Studies Association Conference, Detroit, October 2000.

Aleksandra Podgorniak presented a paper titled "Versions of Alchemical Realism in Ethnic American Fiction" at the MELUS Conference, Knoxville, March 2001.

Publications The second volume of the 1998 PAAS conference proceedings *New Shape of Ethics: Reflections on Ethical Values in Post(?)Modern American Cultures and Societies*, edited by Teresa Pyzik, has recently been published.

We invite colleagues from other American Studies centers to submit article proposals (in Polish) to be considered for publication in a new book series project that we currently working on, entitled "Wielkie Tematy Literatury Amerykańskiej." The subject of the first volume is "Bóg, Wiara, Religia."

Department of American Literature and Culture UMCS Lublin

American Icons - Workshop/Seminar

Between 9 and 11 February 2001 Department of American Literature and Culture in Lublin organized a workshop/seminar devoted to American Icons. The third in the series, the event was attended by 51 young educators from teacher training colleges and American Studies departments in Poland.

The main guests and lecturers of the seminar were Sinda Gregory and Larry McCaffery (both San Diego State University); Joanna Durczak and Jerzy Kutnik (both Maria Curie-Skłodowska University) also delivered three lectures. Traditionally, the seminar sessions were supplemented by multimedia presentations, which gave the participants an opportunity to verify theoretical knowledge presented in the workshops. The participants again received a specially designed CD-ROM containing extensive visual and textual material related to such American icons as The Alien, the Cowboy, the Indian, the Car, the Detective, and the Flag. The workshop was made possible by a generous grant from USIS in Warsaw.

A similar event is planned for the next year.

Frankfurt-Lublin Co-Teaching Seminar and Student Conference

In the winter semester of 2000/2001 a co-teaching seminar in American Literature was organized by Christa Buschendorf from the Zentrum für Nordamerika-Forschung at Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität in Frankfurt am Main and Joanna Durczak from the Department of American Literature and Culture at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University. The seminar, titled "Walking in the Wilderness" devoted to American attitudes to nature as they have changed over time, culminated with a three-day student conference organized by Christa Buschendorf in Frankfurt and sponsored by Goethe University.

The meeting gave all the participants an opportunity to read their papers to an international audience and to exchange views on the authors, painters, and the problems they had studied during classes.

Council of International American Studies Association.

- In March 2001, Jerzy Kutnik took part in the meeting of national representatives to the European Association for American Studies in Izmir, Turkey.

- Bianka Zarzycka took part in the CAAR Conference "Crossroutes: The Meanings of 'Race' for the 21st Century" in Caligari, Italy, where she presented a paper titled "Shackles of the Past. Contemporary American South and the Confederate Flag."

The Department WWW page is up! Please visit us at:
<http://klio.umcs.lublin.pl/~ptsazlka/dalc/dalc.htm>

Guest lecturers Jody David Armour (University of Southern California, Los Angeles) presented a lecture titled "Hip hop-race-law."

Publications Jerzy Durczak

Rivers and the American Experience, ed., Lublin: Maria Curie-Skłodowska University Press, 2000.

"The Third Way: Gloria Anzaldua's Autobiographical Manifesto" in Alfred Hornung, William Boelhower, eds., *Multiculturalism and the American Self*, Heidelberg: C. Winter, 2000, 273-282.

Review of Neil Campbell, *The Cultures of the American New West*, AMERICAN STUDIES IN EUROPE, 45, September 2000, 30.

Department of American Studies and Mass Media (AMS) University of Łódź

New Faculty *Piotr Skurowski* has joined the ASM faculty. This semester he is teaching courses 'Violence in American Culture' and 'Transatlantic Encounters'.

Visiting Professors *Robin Larsen* from California State University at San Bernardino is spending the spring semester at ASM as a Fulbright Scholar. She is a professor in communication studies and specializes in journalism and film. She is teaching courses in 'The Literature and Documentary of American Journalism, Race, Class, Gender in US Media', 'American Film History.'

Yanick Farmer, a Sorbonne University Ph.D., has been with the Center for Canadian Studies at ASM since November 2000.

Guest lecturers Janice Weiner, Deputy Political Counselor, and Michael Dodman, Deputy Economic Counselor from the American Embassy in Warsaw visited ASM on March 8, 2001. They participated in a debate "US-Polish Relations in the Context of the European Union Enlargement."

Events and activities- *Ewa Brzezińska* participated in an "Annual Meeting of International Leadership Association" in Toronto, Canada, on November 3-5, 2000.

- *Wiesław Oleksy* presented papers "Managing Academic Correspondence" and "American Credit Systems vis a vis ECTS" at an international conference "Managing International Cooperation" organized by the Jagiellonian University in Krynica on November 6-10, 2000.

- *Agnieszka Borkowska* presented a paper "'How Do We Deal with the Other?': Los Angeles in Falling Down and Grand Canyon" at the 10th Annual Polish Association of American Studies Conference: "The Local Colors of the Stars and Stripes", organized by Nicholas Copernicus University in Toruń on November 19-22, 2000.

- *Piotr Wajszczyk and Jarosław Wojcieszek* participated in a Multilateral Workshop "EU-Enlargement and Social Policy" organized by the University of Applied Sciences Merseburg in Magdeburg, Germany, on November 27 - December 1, 2000.

- *Elżbieta H. Oleksy* presented a paper titled "Postmodernist International Studies" at a conference on research in and teaching of international relations at Polish universities, organized by the Polish Institute of International Relations (PISM) in Warsaw in December 2000.

- *Elżbieta H. Oleksy* visited the University of California at Berkeley, February 4-19. She gave lectures to faculty and students of the Departments of: History, Film Studies, Slavic Studies, and Women's Studies.

- *Elżbieta Durys* participated in a Final Dissemination Conference "Tools for Quality Assurance in Polish Universities," organized by the University of Wrocław in Jelenia Góra on February 15-17, 2001.

- *Agnieszka Borkowska* participated in a workshop/seminar "American Icons" in Puławy organized by the American Embassy in Warsaw and Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin on February 9-11, 2001.

- *Ewa Brzezińska* participated in a conference "Human Resources Management" organized by Polish Human Resources Management Association in Warsaw on March 1-2, 2001.

Special programs 70 students are continuing the second semester of the MA Special Program in American Studies and Mass Media directed by Wiesław Oleksy.

Publications *Ewa Brzezińska and Anna Paszkowska-Rogacz* *Kształtowanie Relacji Pracowniczych* (Organizational Behavior), Łódź: PAM Center, 2001.

Elżbieta H. Oleksy "American Feminism and Pedagogy," *American Studies*

International, George Washington University, Washington, DC, Vol XXXVIII, No 3, October 2000.

"Gender-Theatre-Cinema," *The European Journal of Women's Studies*, London: SAGE Publications, Vol. 6, 2000, 501-502.

"Towards an Evaluation of Women's Studies Teaching Manuals in Europe," in Rosi Braidotti and Esther Vonk, eds., *The making of European Women's Studies*, ATHENA, 2000.

Wiesław Oleksy

"The Role of Higher Education in the Development of Poland's Democracy and Market Economy," in Matthew S. McMullen, James E. Mauch, Bob Donnorummo, eds., *The Emerging Markets and Higher Education: Development and Sustainability*, New York and London: Routledge/Falmer, 2000, 75-96.

Perspectives and Challenges of Higher Education, ZAMM Press, University of Łódź: 2000.

"Polish Higher Education in Transition," in *Perspectives and Challenges of Higher Education*, 75-87.

"Interdisciplinary American Studies at the University of Łódź" in *Perspectives and Challenges of Higher Education*, 183-189.

Department of American Literature and Culture, University of Lodz

New Deegress *Jadwiga Maszewska's* degree of doktor habilitowany has been confirmed by CKK. Her book titled *Between Center and Margin. Contemporary Native American Novelists Leslie Marmon Silko and Louise Erdrich* can still be obtained from Łódź University Publishers (Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego).

Grzegorz Kość has successfully defended his Ph.D. Dissertation on Robert Lowell titled *An Uncomfortable Epigone of the Grands Maitres: Robert Lowell between Modernism and Postmodernism*. Readers of the dissertation (Maria Edelson UL, Joanna Durczak UMCS, Stephen Tapscott MIT) have unanimously recommended it for publication.

Conferences John Crust, Karolina Kwasik, Izabella Penier and Agnieszka Salska presented papers at the November PAAS Conference in Toruń.

Activities - Following the example of Warsaw, from the 15th to 17th of May the city of Łódź is featuring a Festival of Scholarship (Festival Nauki) to which members of our Department are contributing presentations on ethnic and regional writing and on the interplay between poetry and the visual arts in the US.

- John Crust and Steward McKinley, in coordination with

the Department of the Institute of English Studies, organized a team of students and faculty that took part in Łódź clean-up effort to paint over anti-Semitic graffiti. On March 21, more than 50 students and instructors armed with paint brushes and paint, took to the streets in sub-zero temperature to participate in the city's second annual Day of Tolerance (Dzień Kolorowej Tolerancji). The event included discussion, concerts, as well as a photo and film exhibition. Day of Tolerance, sponsored by the Municipal Government and the Local Media, began last year in response to a published letter written by the Union of Former Łódź Residents in Israel concerning the swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans graffitied on the city walls.

- Kacper Bartczak is spending the current academic year as a Fulbright Fellow at Stanford University.

- Grażyna Zygałło participated in an exchange program with the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho where she spent the fall semester of the academic year 2000/2001. She took courses in Introduction to US Ethnic Literature, Ethnic and Minority Literature, Contemporary Northwest Writers, and History of Women in American Society. She was also doing research for her doctoral dissertation on the works of Sandra Cisneros.

- Małgorzata Myk participated in a workshop/seminar "American Icons" in Puławy organized by the American Embassy in Warsaw and Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, February 9-11, 2001.

Publications The Łódź Conference volume *Apocalypse Now. Prophecy and Fulfilment* is in the Press and the editors (Agnieszka Salska and Zbigniew Maszewski) are hoping that it will come out in 2001.

American Literature Department Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan

Conferences *Paulina Ambroży* and *Joseph Kuhn* presented papers at the PAAS Conference in November 2000. Paulina Ambroży's presentation was titled "Description without Place? - New England in the Poetry of Wallace Stevens," while Joseph Kuhn spoke on "The Upturned Face: Stephen Crane's 'The Monster' and the Phenomenology of Emmanuel Levinas."

Events *Paulina Ambroży* has received a research grant from John F. Kennedy Institute, Free University, Berlin. She will spend four weeks in April and May at the Institute's Library researching for her Ph.D. dissertation on the poetry of Wallace Stevens.

On April 5, 2001 *Marek Wilczyński*, who is currently Senior Fulbright Fellow at Harvard University, delivered a lecture in the American Literature and Culture Program of the Harvard Humanities Center. The lecture was titled "Emerson, R.H. Dana, Sr., and the Suppressed American Romanticism."

Department of English Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torun

- Guest lecturers** On March 27, William J. Sullivan (Professor at the University of Florida, Gainesville; currently a Fulbright Professor in Wrocław) visited the Department and gave two lectures: "Structuring Narrative in Polish" and "Logic and Relational Networks."
- Conferences & Workshops** *Jakub Wójcik*, assistant to the organizers of two Toruń conferences; the PAAS Conference in November 2000 and the upcoming Canadian Conference 2001, attended the seminar/workshop "American Icons" in Puławy, February 2001.
- Research** Mirosława Ziaja-Buchholtz conducted research at the International Youth Library, Germany.

American Literature Department University of Warsaw

- Events and activities** - *Krystyna Mazur* and *Tomasz Basiuk* are co-teaching a course on gay/lesbian writing and queer theory at the American Studies Center in the Spring 2001 semester.
- In January 2001, *Marek Paryż* defended his doctoral dissertation entitled "Social and Cultural Aspects of Madness in American Literature, 1798 - 1860." The dissertation was supervised by Agata Preis-Smith, and reviewed by Jerzy Durczak and Piotr Skurowski.
- American Literature Sections and the Section of Culture are participating in an American Embassy project "The Civil Rights Movement in the United States." Faculty members proposed courses which are devoted to the civil rights and black arts movements. Thanks to the generous support of the Cultural Attaché, Tania Chomiak-Salvi, they also invited eminent speakers from such diverse disciplines as law, history, and literature to speak on topics related to the civil rights and culture.
- Conferences & speeches** *Tomasz Basiuk* gave a paper on the relationship between fiction and autobiography in Edmund White's gay short story "Skinned Alive" at the PAAS Conference in Toruń in November 2000.
- Tomasz Basiuk* together with *Małgorzata Grzegorzewska* visited the English Institute at Hamburg University, where they gave talks at a faculty seminar. Tomasz Basiuk spoke on William Gaddis' *A Frolic of His Own*.
- Jerzy Sobieraj* gave a paper on regionalism and the South at the PAAS Conference in Toruń in November 2000.
- Ewa Łuczak* presented a paper at the biennial conference of

Collegium for African American Research in Caligari, Italy in March 2001.

Visits

Jody David Armour, the author of *Negrophobia and Reasonable Racism. The Hidden Cost of Being Black in America* talked about "Stereotypes, Prejudice and Political Correctness" at the Institute of English, University of Warsaw.

Shelley Armitage of the University of Texas at El Paso will teach two intensive courses in the last three weeks of spring semester (May 7 - 26) :

- "Woman's Literature"
- "Reading Across Minority Discourses"

Publications

Marek Paryż

"'Bez Przebaczenia' Clint Eastwood," *Tygiel Kultury*, 10-12 (2000).

"The Domain of Discourse: Madness and American Writing in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century" in *American, British and Canadian Studies*, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, vol. 3, 2000, 5-23.

Jerzy Sobieraj

"Civil Rights, Politics, and Freedmen in the Literature of Reconstruction," *Prawa Człowieka*, 7 (2000).

Nancy Burke

Mirrors of Memory, Łódź: Wydawnictwo Biblioteka, 2000.

Selected Poetry of Nancy Burke (in English with Russian Translations), Voronezh: 2000.

"Urban Space: the City as Depicted in American and Canadian Literatures," in *Aspects of Interculturality*, Vienna: University of Vienna Press, 2000.

The Institute of English Philology University of Wrocław

Activities

Since the Fall of 1999, **Dominika Ferens** and **Agnieszka Zembrzuska**, a doctoral student at the Department of Philosophy, have been coordinating the Interdisciplinary Gender Studies Group at the University of Wrocław. The group came together around an open lecture series on gender and sexuality. Its goals are to promote and legitimate gender studies, gay and lesbian studies and queer theory, to encourage interdisciplinary research, and to integrate students and teachers. During the past three semesters the group hosted 24 lecturers from various departments at the University of Wrocław, as well as other universities in Poland and abroad. This year's guests include: Tomasz Basiuk (English Philology, Warsaw), Chris Caes (Slavic Studies and Film, U.C. Berkeley), Bożena Chołuj (German Philology and Gender Studies, Warsaw), Dobrochna Kałwa (History, Cracow), Joanna Mizelińska (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, PAN, Warsaw), Elżbieta Pakszys (Philosophy, Poznań), Shana Penn (Open Society Institute, Oakland, California), Anna Plotnicka (performance artist, Wrocław), Agnieszka Rzepa (English Philology,

Poznań), Agata Żylińska (Polish Philology, Szczecin).

Research Projects Since February 2000, **Dominika Ferens** has been working with a team of postcolonial scholars headed by Theo D'haen of the University of Leiden, Netherlands, on a COTEPRAs project funded by the EU. The team is designing a colonial and postcolonial literature syllabus to be used across the EU, and editing an anthology of primary texts on which the course will be based. In addition, Dominika Ferens has contributed an essay on Tarzan of the Apes to a collection on popular fiction characters also edited by COTEPRAs.

Conferences **Dominika Ferens**

"Fit, Fitter, Fittest: Tarzan and the Romance of Eugenics," at "The Local Colors of the Stars and Stripes": International Conference of the Polish Association for American Studies, Toruń, November 2000.

"Passing Into Academia: Attempts to Teach Queer Texts in Wrocław," at the conference "Queer Perspectives: The Growing Pains and Prospects of Queer Studies in Poland and Central/Eastern Europe," Szczyrk, June 2000.

"Winnifred Eaton's 'Japanese' Novels as a Field Experiment," "17th National Association of Asian American Studies Conference," Scottsdale, Arizona, May 2000.

"Staking Claims: Henryk Sienkiewicz and the Chinese in California," "9th International PASE Conference," Gdańsk, March 2000.

Justyna Kociatkiewicz

"Saul Bellow and the Concept of the Antibildungsroman," "European Literature(s), World Literature(s) and Globalization: International Seminar", Leiden, June 19-23, 2000

"Saul Bellow's Early Novels as Antibildungsroman." PAAS Conference, Toruń, November 19-22, 2000.

FROM THE TREASURER:

The PAAS bank account is:
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FROM THE EDITOR:

The next issue of the PAAS Newsletter can be expected in November 2001. 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 address of the PAAS WWW page has changed!

It is now:

<http://klio.umcs.lublin.pl/~ptszalka/>

The old address is still valid though, and will continue to re-direct the visitors to the new page

The page features the general information concerning PAAS,
the Board as well as the archive with PAAS Newsletters.
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:

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