

# **POLISH ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES**

## **NEWSLETTER NO. 12**

**NOVEMBER 1997**

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Assistant Editor: Magdalena Delicka

American Literature and Culture Department

University of Lodz

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## **EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **News from the American Literature Section, University of Warsaw**

Two of our young colleagues, Ewa Luczak and Tomasz Basiuk, have recently returned from the USA: Ewa from Riverside, California, where she stayed for a year as a junior Fulbright scholar; and Tomasz from Santa Barbara, where he spent 6 weeks in summer participating in a program for young Americanists sponsored by the USIS. Andrzej Sosnowski, poet and translator, who teaches modern American poetry courses at our department, has won the prestigious Kościelski prize for young writers.

#### **NEW COURSES:**

In this academic year three teachers from outside the Institute have joined the department to help us offer a more varied selection of courses to our students.

Jadwiga Maszewska from Lodz University is teaching an advanced course on Native American writing, Cheryl A. Malcolm from Gdansk University is teaching a course on Jewish American authors, and Franciszek Lyra from the American Studies Center is offering a close reading of Melville's *Moby Dick*, and a Faulkner Centennial course on time and history in Faulkner's fiction.

### **News from Department of American Literature and Culture , UMSC, Lublin**

March 1997 marked the establishment of Department of American Literature and Culture at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. The Department headed by Jerzy Durczak consists of 8 scholars. The opening lecture on the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s was delivered by Kate Delaney, the Cultural Attache of the American Embassy in Warsaw.

The Polish Association for American Studies WWW page is up!  
Located at:

**<http://klio.umcs.lublin.pl/users/ptsazlka/paas.htm>**

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 Paweł Frelik. Needless to say, it is under permanent construction. All centers in Poland are kindly requested to send in all relevant information to

[ptszalka@klio.umcs.lublin.pl](mailto:ptszalka@klio.umcs.lublin.pl)

or the snail mail address:

Department of American Literature and Culture  
c/o Pawel Frelik  
UMCS  
Pl. Marii Curie-Sklodowskiej 4  
Lublin 20-03.

Jerzy Kutnik took part in the EAAS Board meeting in Dublin in late March.

Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska participated in the 2nd International Symposium: Lessons of the Holocaust and Contemporary Russia, Moscow, May 4-7, 1997 where she presented two papers. Both will be published in the proceedings. The symposium was well-attended by scholars from Russia, former Soviet Republics, the USA, Israel, France, Germany and Poland.

Jerzy Kutnik took part in the yearly conference of Romanian Society for English and American Studies in Timisoara, May 21-24.

#### **News from American Literature and Culture Department, University of Lodz**

Agnieszka Salska served as Program Chair of the annual conference of International Society for Contemporary Literature and Theatre. The 1997 convention gathered from July 31 to August 12 in Mayhooth College near Dublin around the theme 'The Past in the Present in Contemporary Literature and Theatre.'

Zbigniew Maszewski presented a paper titled 'The Motif of the Book in the work of Herman Melville and Bruno Schulz' at the International Melville Society Conference in Volos, Greece, July 2-6, 1997

Jadwiga Maszewska took part in a seminar on Native American Literature in Spello, Italy, September 1-5, 1997

The May 1997 issue of Tygiel Kultury (a literary-cultural magazine based in Lodz) focused on an American theme: the return of realism and the contemporary renaissance of the short story. Among the contributors are: Agnieszka Salska, David Pichaske, Marek Jedliński and Grzegorz Kosc.

#### **News from the North American Studies Center, University of Lodz**

The University of Lodz established the Department of American Studies and Mass Media (AS&MM), with E. H. Oleksy as Chair. AS&MM is an integral part of the Institute of International Studies and is the first department in Poland whose name formally includes the qualification 'Department of American Studies' (Zaklad Amerykanistyki). The NAS remains in the structure of the University of Lodz as an interdisciplinary center. W. Oleksy is now the Director of NAS.

E. H. Oleksy taught a 'Visual Culture' cluster at the Postgraduate Summer School in Women's Studies in Dortmund, Germany. She has also been elected member of the Executive Board of the Women's International Studies Europe (WISE) and represented Poland at the WISE meeting in Coimbra, Portugal, July 5-9, 1997.

On March 19-23 1997, E. Brzezinska participated in a conference 'Management and Executive Development',

Tarpen Springs, Florida. In August 1997, she took part in a conference 'Academy of Management' in Boston.

Acting as Assistant Coordinator of the TEMPUS program 'Modernization of Curriculum in International Studies', in December 1996, E. Brzezińska organized a meeting for the partners in the program and presented a report 'Teaching Communication at the University of Lodz'.

W. Oleksy spent two semesters at the Modern Languages and Literatures Department, SUNY at Buffalo as the Kościuszko Foundation Senior Research Scholar. In the Spring Term of 1997, he gave several invited lectures at the University of Pittsburgh, Canisius College, Buffalo, and the University of Maryland, College Park. During the Second Polish Studies in the U.S. Conference, April 12-14, 1997, SUNY at Buffalo, he read a paper on 'Polish Studies in the USA and American Studies in Poland'. His visit at the University of Maryland, College Park was connected with the 'International Cultural Metaphors Project' directed by Prof. M. Gannon who invited him as a consultant on Poland.

In October, T. Pludowski participated in a conference 'Images of Politics. History and Development of Political Communication on Television,' Amsterdam, the Netherlands where he read his paper 'Politics and Media in Poland after 1989: The Rise of the Peripheral Strategy of Persuasion in Political Campaigning on Television.'

The TEMPUS Joint European Project (JEP 11414-96) 'Modernization of Curriculum in International Studies' authored and coordinated by E. H. Oleksy concluded the activities scheduled for the academic year 1996/97. Seven undergraduate and postgraduate students majoring in Mass Media and American Studies participated in the student mobility scheme and spent a semester at the University of Joensuu, Finland, University of Granada, Spain, and Roehampton Institute, London. Three AS&MM faculty members and one administrative assistant participated in the faculty mobility scheme. Several faculty members and students from partner institutions (Granada, London, Joensuu) visited AS&MM.

On May 5, 1997, American Reading Room (ARR) was made available to the academic community at the University of Lodz and to general public. ARR contains a unique collection of books on broadly understood American Studies, the so-called "The American Studies Collection" (around 1300 volumes), which was created by an endowment fund established by the Congress of the United States in order to promote a thorough understanding of the USA abroad. NAS has been selected by USIA to receive the collection, as a result of an open competition among American Studies programs in Poland. NAS signed a formal agreement to house, maintain and promote open access to the collection. USIA created 58 sites worldwide for similar collections, the only one in Poland at NAS. It is very fitting now to express our thanks to all those at USIA in Warsaw and Washington, D.C. who have been involved in bringing the collection to NAS.

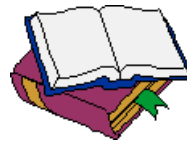
American Film Collection at AS&MM. In March 1996, USIS-Warsaw (Anna Wilbik-Switaj) and NAS (Wiesław Oleksy) organized a workshop on American Culture for English Language College teachers and Ph.D. students from all over Poland. The workshop leaders were James Deutsch, currently a visiting professor at NAS, and Perry Frank, a former Fulbright lecturer in Gdańsk. USIS-Warsaw agreed to purchase video copies of the first thirty two films, presumably the most significant American films that were named to the U.S. National Film Registry at the Library of Congress. USIS donation is gratefully appreciated as the collection is invaluable in AS&MM teaching. The video collection is deposited at NAS and can be available to anyone teaching American Film. Requests for borrowing up to two videos for two weeks should be addressed to: Department of American Studies and Mass Media, University of Lodz, 90-136 Lodz, ul. Narutowicza 54/11

Ambassador Nicolas A. Rey awarded. In response to NAS's initiative, UL Rector awarded US Ambassador Nicolas A. Rey with 50th Anniversary of the University of Lodz Medal for his outstanding contribution to the development of American Studies Program at NAS. On September 29, 1997, the medal was presented to Ambassador Rey by Pro-Rector for International Relations Professor M. Zirk-Sadowski and W. Oleksy at the American Embassy.

From May 30 through July 3, Prince George's Community College, Maryland conducted a five-week travel-study seminar in Poland called "And the walls come tumbling down" in cooperation with NAS. During the seminar faculty from Maryland traveled in areas of Poland selected to highlight Poland's history, society and culture, attended 22 lectures in area studies of the social science and humanities, and met with members of the NAS and other social science and humanities faculty from the University of Lodz. The group was received by A. Ceynowa, Pro-Rector for International Relations, University of Gdańsk and A. Dakowski, Executive Director of the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission. W. Katner, President of the Polish Fulbright Alumni Association participated in a panel discussion on 'Higher Education in Poland and the USA', which was jointly conducted by the Maryland group and NAS while J. Kutnik from the Polish Association for American Studies met with the group in Lublin. The visit was sponsored by the Fulbright -Hays Group Projects Abroad Program.

International Conference; November 14-17, 1997. The University in the Twenty-First Century: Challenges and Perspectives, University of Lodz Conference Center, Kopcinskiego 16/18. Conference Chair: W. Oleksy.

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## PUBLICATIONS

No. 2, 1997 of *Akcent*, a literary periodical published in Lublin is devoted to Polish Americans. It contains articles, fiction, poetry and interviews by American writers of Polish descent ( including two chapters from *Selling the Lite of Heaven* by Suzanne Strempek Shea and *The Chance of Snow* by Anthony Bukoski). A number of scholars and graduate students from Lublin (**Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska, Andrzej Antoszek, Pawel Frelik, Dorota Janowska, Andrzej Kowalczyk, Barbara Kowalik, Alina Szala, Agnieszka Ziajka**), Warsaw (**Marek Paryz**) and different universities in the US (**Thomas Gładsky, John Guzłowski, Thomas Napierkowski**) contributed to this issue as authors and translators. The publication of the issues was facilitated by a grant from the American Embassy in Warsaw.

**Joanna Durczak**, 'Rezerwy, kasyna i kojoty w trampkach albo indiańskie odrodzenie,'  
*Akcent* 4/1996  
plus translations of W. Penn, L. Erdrich and W. Lang.

**Pawel Frelik**, 'Avant-Pop - Where Do We Go From Postmodernism,' *Lubelskie Materiały Neofilologiczne* 20, 1996.

**Monika Adamczyk Garbowska** 'Związki literackie Isaaca Bashevisa Singera,'  
in: *Literackie portrety Żydów*, ed. Eugenia Loch, Wydawnictwo UMCS, 1996.

**Jerzy Kutnik**, *Gra Słów. Muzyka poezji Johna Cage'a*,  
Wydawnictwo UMCS 1997.

**Elzbieta H. Oleksy**, review article of Catherine Clinton's *Half Sisters of History*,  
*Women's Studies International Forum*, New York: Pergamon Press (Spring 1997).

**Wieslaw Oleksy and Henry Wasser**, 'Transformation of Higher Education in Poland,'  
*Transformation of Higher Education in Post-Communist Countries*,  
ed. P. Sabloff, Garland Press, (forthcoming).

**Halina Parafianowicz**, 'Czechosłowacja w polityce Stanów Zjednoczonych w latach 1918-1933,'  
Białystok 1996; praca habilitacyjna.

**Halina Parafianowicz**, 'Boss prezydenta i nieznana First lady,'  
*Studia Podlaskie*, +5, 1996.

**Tomasz Pludowski**, 'A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words - Political Campaigning in the Television Era,'  
forthcoming in the proceedings of the 1996 annual PAAS Conference.

**Halina Parafianowicz**, 'Sprawa czeska i slowacka w polityce administracji Woodrowa Wilsona w latach  
1916-1919,'  
*Dzieje najnowsze*, 1996 ; 3-4.

**Irena Przemecka**, *Dwiescie lat dramatu Amerykańskiego*,  
Universitas, Kraków, 1996.

*Jerzy Kosinski: Man and Work at the Crossroads of Cultures*,  
eds. Agnieszka Salska, Marek Jedlinski, Lodz UP 1997

*Jerzy Kosiński: Człowiek i dzieło na skrzyżowaniu kultur*,  
eds. Agnieszka Salska, Grzegorz Gazda, Da Capo, W-wa, 1997

**Irmia Wawrzyczek**, 'Studying Early America amid the Extended Epistemological Crisis in American  
Historiography,'  
*American Studies*, vol. XV, Warszawa, 1997, pp.23-30.

**Irmia Wawrzyczek**, 'The Women of Accomack versus Henry Smith: Gender, Legal Recourse, and the  
Social Order in Seventeenth-Century Virginia,'  
*Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 105, Winter 1997, pp. 1-21.

**Marek Wilczynski** ed., *Canons, Revisions, Supplements in American Literature and Culture*:  
Proceedings of the Conference of Polish Association for American Studies.  
Bene Nati, Poznań, 1996.

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

The Nathaniel Hawthorne Society Meeting in Rome, June 2-5, 1998 19th-Century Americans in Rome:  
Cultural Encounters

Submit papers, suggestions, or abstracts (750 words minimum) to:

Professor Robert K. Martin  
Departement d'études anglaises  
Université de Montréal  
C.P.6128,  
Succ. Centre-ville Montréal,  
Québeck H 3C 3J7  
Fax: (514) 343-6443  
E-mail: martinr@ere.umontreal.ca

Deadline for submission: January 30, 1998

International Conference and Workshop: Native American Literature in Today's America, April 26-29, 1998.  
Workshop sessions on American Indian poetry, fiction, autobiography, and critical approaches will be  
conducted by Susan Castillo of Glasgow University.

We also welcome papers on all topics related with Native American literature and its role in contemporary  
American mainstream culture.

The aim of the conference is to introduce Native American writing to students of American literature in Poland and establish contacts between Polish and other European scholars in the field. Deadline for submission of paper proposals (titles and short abstracts) is January 15, 1998.

Please, send them to the following address:

Jadwiga Maszewska  
American Literature & Culture Department  
University of Lodz  
Al. Kosciuszki 65  
90-514 Lodz  
fax: 4842366337  
e-mail: JAGAMASZ@Kryisia.uni.lodz.pl

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### **FROM THE TREASURER:**

The new number of PAAS bank account is: PKO bp XV O./ Warszawa Nr 10201156-424851-270-1

### **FROM THE EDITOR:**

The next issue of the PAAS Newsletter can be expected in April. 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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Abbreviations in the text:

AL&CD-American Literature and Culture Department, University of Lodz  
ALS-American Literature Section of the Institute of English Studies, University of Warsaw  
ASC-American Studies Center, Warsaw  
IU-Indiana University  
NAS-North American Studies Center, University of Lodz  
DAL&C-UMCS, Lublin-Department of American Literature & Culture, UMCS, Lublin

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