

POLISH ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

NEWSLETTER NO. 14

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Editor: Jadwiga Maszewska

Assistant Editor: Dorota J. Wisniewska

American Literature and Culture Department

University of Lodz

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

News from the American Literature Section, University of Warsaw

The American Literature Section of the Institute of English Studies in Warsaw has just begun a new and very busy academic year. This semester we are covering 12 courses, including advanced courses on American postmodern literature (prose and poetry), American modernist poetry, gay/lesbian writing, and the problematics of gender in American fiction. Because of the growing number of students choosing American Studies as their specialization, for the third year running we have had to invite Americanists from outside our university to conduct classes: Jadwiga Maszewska from the University of Lodz is offering two advanced courses - on the American Renaissance and on environmental issues in American literature, while Jerzy Sobieraj from the University of Silesia is teaching two advanced courses - on "conflict, contrast, and dichotomy in American literature of the South".

One of our young colleagues, Tomasz Basiuk, obtained his Ph.D. degree in December 1997, having completed his dissertation on narrative techniques in the novels of William Gaddis.

Another young teacher from the Section, Ewa Luczak, has taken leave for 1 semester to complete her doctoral thesis on the role of memory in the writing of Toni Morrison.

At the moment 4 postgraduate students are preparing their Ph.D. dissertations in our Section., working on a variety of subjects - from early 20th - century American autobiography, through motifs of madness in the 19th - century American prose, the multiethnicity of the female voice in American literature, and modernist women poets.

As a follow-up to the last year's PAAS conference in Serock organized by our Section, a publication containing the conference materials is being prepared by Agata Preis-Smith, together with Piotr Skurowski. We have received financial assistance from the Scientific Research Committee (KBN), which has provided 15,000 zloties towards the cost of the publication, as well as support from Ms. Kate Delaney, the U.S. Cultural Attaché.

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

Conference "Teaching American Studies in Central and Eastern Europe"

Between 24 and 26 September 1998 Department of American Literature and Culture in Lublin organized a conference "Teaching American Studies in Central and Eastern Europe" in Pulawy. 40 participants from Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Czech Republik, Hungary, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Holland, Germany and the United States attended 3 days of plenary lectures and workshops presented and led by European and American scholars, including Heinz Ickstadt, the presiding officer of EAAS, Rob Kroes, former EAAS president, Jay Mechling (UC, Davis), Norman Yetman (University of Kansas), Agnieszka Salska (University of Lodz), Kate Delaney (US Cultural Attaché, Warsaw), Jerzy Durczak (Maria Curie-Sklodowska University), and Jerzy Kutnik (Maria Curie-Sklodowska University). The conference was made possible by generous grants from USIS in Warsaw and Maria Curie-Sklodowska University. The majority of both participants and organizers agreed that the conference was a success and that there was a continuing need for such events. A similar conference is planned for the next year.

Guest Lecturers

Prof. Marshall Toman - "Current Native American Issues" and "Multicultural Art in the U.S".

Prof. James Deutsch - "Folklore in the Academy and Hollywood Film Genres"

Prof. Anthony J. Graybosch - "The Americanization of Media: The Impact of the Digital Revolution on Filtering the News"
and "Visions of Heaven and Hell in Delta Blues"

Prof. Karal Ann Marling - "The Discourse of American Advertisements in the 50s"

New Specialized Courses

Jerzy Durczak - American Short Story Revival

Joanna Durczak - The White Man Speaks of the Red Man. The Red Man Speaks of Himself: American Literature of Contact

Jerzy Kutnik - History of American Art (lecture), Social Issues in the 50s and the 60s and the U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

Pawel Frelik - American Science Fiction: History and Main Issues

Events

Joanna Durczak, Jerzy Durczak, Dorota Janowska and Pawel Frelik presented papers at the biennial conference of European Association for American Studies in Lisbon in April 1998.

Monika Adamczyk- Garbowska is currently a Senior Fulbright Fellow at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Malgorzata Siwek took part in the 7th Annual PASE Conference in Szczyrk in May 1998 as well as in the "Evidence of Literature" conference in Kazimierz in September 1998 where she presented a paper.

In June and July 1998 Pawel Frelik took part in a 2-month Summer Institute for American Literature at University of California at Santa Barbara.

Department of American Literature and Culture in Lublin is preparing a conference on teaching American studies in teacher training colleges in Poland. The tentative date is February 1999.

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

On April 23 Thomas F. Connolly, Fulbright Professor at the University of Ostrava and Review Editor of The Theatre Research International, delivered a lecture on 19th - century American melodrama. The lecture was illustrated with a play entitled "Little Innocence or The Daughter of an Engineer," written by Prof. Connolly and performed by the English Language Theatre of Ostrava.

Kate Delaney, the Cultural Attaché at the American Embassy in Warsaw, paid a visit to the University of Silesia on May 20, 1998. She met with the Rector, prof. Tadeusz Slawek, the head of the Department of American Literature and Culture, prof. Teresa Pyzik and other staff members. During her visit Ms Delaney expressed her wish to participate in the October PAAS Conference in Ustron and to present a paper entitled "What Do We Talk About When We Talk About

News from American Literature and Culture Department, University of Lodz

A conference on Native American Literature, organized by Jadwiga Maszewska, took place on 26-29 April, 1998. Speakers from the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany and Finland, as well as Polish Americanists from Lublin, Sosnowiec, Poznan, Wroclaw and Lodz delivered papers on contemporary American Indian Prose and Poetry. Susan Castillo of Glasgow University, author of *Notes from the Periphery*, conducted four workshop sessions in which works by native American authors were read and discussed. The Conference, which was also attended by Ms Kate Delaney, the cultural Attaché from the American Embassy in Warsaw, received substantial financial support from the United States Information Service. The organizers wish to express their thanks to the American Embassy, and to Ms Delaney for her personal support of the conference.

New Courses

Krzysztof Andrzejczak and Zbigniew Maszewski - World Literature: Selection of the 19th and 20th - century fictions from Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia

Krzysztof Andrzejczak - “We Have to Invent New Games”: Postmodernist Transformations and Plays

Zbigniew Maszewski - The American Short Story Between the Wars

Jadwiga Maszewska - Environmental Issues in American Literature

David Francis (Fulbright) - Twentieth Century American Poetry - proseminar

- Twentieth Century American Literature Survey

- American Poetry & Time - Monograph Lecture

- Contemporary American Poetry and Poetics - Special Subject Seminar

- Contemporary American Poetry and Critical Theory

Richard Profozich - The course will explore historical, cultural, and literary aspects of the American Dream, compare and contrast American and Polish national visions/missions, and research an American author’s approach to some aspect of the American Dream.

Agnieszka Salska presented a paper at the conference organized by Department of American Literature and Culture at UMCS and USIS, Warsaw on “Teaching American Studies in Eastern Europe” and served as supervisor of the doctoral dissertation on “The Poetics and Poetry of Thomas Merton” successfully defended (at the Faculty of Languages University of Lodz) by Mr. Wacław Grzybowski of the English Department, University of Opole.

Magdalena Delicka received the Teaching Assistantship at the University of Toledo, Ohio.

News from the English Studies Institute, Gdansk University

Cheryl Alexander Malcolm (University of Gdansk) presented the paper "Through the Eye of the Needle: The Othering Process in Abraham Cahan's 'Yekl: A Tale of the New York Ghetto'" at the EAAS biennial conference in Lisbon in April.

At the annual conference for the International Society for Contemporary Literature and Theatre which took place in the Netherlands from July 20 to August 3 on the theme "The Representations of Landscape and the Natural World in Contemporary Literature and Theatre" she presented the paper "Mapping the Bodies/Borders of the Nation".

News from the Department of American Studies and Mass Media Institute of International Studies, University of Lodz

Events and Programs

Lecture series. ASM will continue the Guest Lecture Series that began three years ago. The first speaker will be Ted McGuire, professor of philosophy at the Center for the Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh. The lecture will be corresponded by ASM and the Institute of Philosophy, University of Lodz. The lectures in the Series are open to the general public and will be announced in the local media.

This year the faculty of ASM has been joined by David LaFrance who is Professor of History at Oregon State University. Prof. LaFrance will be teaching American History and Politics and conducting MA seminars.

Tomasz Pludowski spent the first six months of 1998 as a visiting scholar at New York University where he conducted research toward his doctoral dissertation entitled "Political Advertising in Two Cultures: A Comparative Content Analysis of the Presidential Campaign Television Broadcast in Poland and the U.S."

A five-semester MA Special Program in American Studies and Mass Media directed by Wieslaw Oleksy will begin this Fall. The program is targeted at the graduates of English Teacher Training Colleges. 50 students out of 120 candidates were admitted into the program which will offer the following MA seminars: "American Politics and History" (David LaFrance), "American Visual Cultures" (Elżbieta H. Oleksy), "American Economy" (Piotr Wajszczyk), "Mass Media and Public Relations in the USA and Canada" (Ewa Brzezinska and Wieslaw Oleksy). The graduates will receive MA Degree in International Relations and American Studies.

Visits at ASM

Bob Donnorumbo, (May 17-21, 1998) Associate Director of the University Center for International Studies (UCIS), University of Pittsburgh met with ASM's faculty and students and gave seminar on "American Approaches to Poland's NATO Membership".

Prof. Joe Atkins, (September 5-13, 1998) Department of Journalism, University of Mississippi.

Lauri Apple, (June 1-28, 1998) a graduate student at UCIS, University of Pittsburgh researched the situation of American and Polish women.

Presentations at Conferences

Elzbieta H. Oleksy gave a key-note address at the "Winds of Change. Women and the University Culture" International Conference organized by the University of Technology, Sydney, Australia, July 13-17, 1998. Her lecture was entitled "Plight in Common: Women's Studies in Poland and the US." On July 21 she gave a seminar at the University of Adelaide on "Teaching American Feminism to Polish Students of American Studies."

Elzbieta H. Oleksy "Akredytacja i doskonalenie jako?ci ksztaczenia w szkolnictwie wyzszym."

Wieslaw Oleksy "Fulbright-Heyes. Study Travel Abroad Program: do?wiadczenia i perspektywy."
Conference of the Polish Fulbright Alumni Association: "Wyzsze uczelnie stymulatorem przemian systemowych w Polsce; Rola stypendystow Fulbrighta: doswiadczenia - bariery - szanse", at Adam Mickiewicz University, Pozna?, January 9-10, 1998.

Wieslaw Oleksy "Canadian Studies in Poland," Conference of the German Association of Canadian Studies, Grainau, Germany, February 20-22, 1998.

Wieslaw Oleksy spent two weeks at the University of Granada, Spain (May 15-27, 1998). The purpose of the visit was the preparation of student and faculty exchange between ASM and the American Studies Program at the University of Granada.

James Deutsch "Diverse Divers: Contemporary Meanings and Metaphors in a Native American Creation Myth",
Conference on Native American Literature in Today's America, University of Lodz, 27 April 1998.

James Deutsch "Celebrating Capitalism, Consumerism, and Convenience at the 1958 World's Fair", European Association for American Studies Conference, Lisbon, 4 April 1998.

James Deutsch "The Jewish Voice in The Jazz Singer," Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Club, Lodz, 11 January 1998

Participation in Events

Ewa Brzezizska was invited to Zakopane (September, 22-24) to a conference "Profession - Businesswoman" organized by June Lavelle (Project Firm -2000, sponsored by USAID) gathering about 150 businesswomen from all over Poland. She gave three workshops on "Team Building".

In August 1998, Joanna Rydzewska attended an intensive advanced postgraduate summer school "Gendered Subjects: Rethinking Citizenship, Identity and Knowledge" in Turku, Finland.

On January 29, 1998 Tomasz Pludowski participated in a discussion of media professionals and theorists "Press Coverage of President Clinton in Crisis" organised by Media Studies Center at New York City.

On March 21, 1998 Tomasz Pludowski attended the second annual conference of the New Jersey Association of

Communication "Continuity and Change", Montclair State University, New Jersey.

On March 27-28, 1998 Tomasz Pludowski participated in "The Legacy of McLuhan: A Symposium" organized by the Department of Communication and Mass Media Studies, Fordham University, New York.

New Courses

In the academic year 1997/98 the Department of American Studies and Mass Media offered the following courses in English within the curriculum of the Institute of International Studies. 277 students took these courses and earned credits for them.

Fall semester

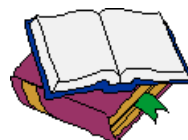
Elzbieta H. Oleksy "Film Adaptations of American Classics"
Wieslaw Oleksy "Language and Media"
Wieslaw Oleksy "Technology in American Culture"
Tomasz Pludowski "Mass Media and Democracy"
James Deutsch "Cultural History of American Cinema"
James Deutsch "American Western"
James Deutsch "American Folklore"
Robert Kirkland "Introduction to American Government"
Robert Kirkland "American Culture"
Robert Kirkland "American Civil Society"

Spring semester

Elzbieta H. Oleksy "Politics and Culture of the American South"
Wieslaw Oleksy "International Conflict Resolution - Internet Course"
James Deutsch "Introduction to Mass Media"
James Deutsch "Cultural History of American Cinema"
Robert Kirkland "Civil Society and the American Experience"
Robert Kirkland "Introduction to U.S. Foreign Policy"
Agnieszka Borkowska "American Short Fiction"

News from the ED , UMCS, Lublin

Irmina Wawrzyczek presented the paper "Secular Courts and Sexual Discipline in Early Tobacco Colonies" at the biannual EAAS Conference in Lisbon, April 1998.



PUBLICATIONS

Monika Adamczyk-Grabowska

"Paradoksy Diaspory. Singerowski bohater jako alter ego pisarza," (Literatura i Komunikacja, Lublin: Wydawnictwo UMCS, 1998, pp. 394-403)

Krzysztof Andrzejczak

The Writer in the Writing: Author as Hero in Postwar American Fiction, (International Scholars Publications, New York, 1998.)

"Zycie idzie w kierunku nieładu"; fascynacje i refleksje Philipa Roth, essay, (Tygiel, Lodz, 6-8, 1998)

James Deutsch

"I Was a Hollywood Agent: Cinematic Representations of the Office of Strategic Services in 1946, ", (Intelligence and National Security, 13 (Summer 1998), pp. 85-99.

"Diving in Primordial Waters: Motif and Metaphor in a Native American Creation Myth," in Sounding the Depths, eds. Christine Raguette-Bouvard and Gayle Wurst, (Liège, Université de Liège, 1998), pp.119-26

Dr. Strangelove's America: Society and Culture in the Atomic Age, by Margot Henricksen, (review) (American Studies International, 36 (June 1998), pp. 92-93

Westerns: Making the Man in Fiction and Film, by Lee Clark Mitchell, (review) (American Studies International, 36 (February 1998), pp. 98-99

Somewhere in the Night: Film Noir and the American City, by Nicholas Christopher, (review) (American Studies International, 36 (February 1998), pp. 99-100

Joanna Durczak

Sharon O'Brien, Willa Cather: The Emerging Voice (review), (EAAS Newsletter, February 1998, p.20)

"Indyjskie dlugi poezji amerykanskiej", (Kresy 1/1998, pp.112-121)

Louise Erdrich, "Saint Marie", (Kresy 1/1998, pp. 122-126 (translation)

Leslie Marmon Silko, "Dawno temu...", (Kresy 1/1998, pp.127-136 (translation)

Pawel Freluk

"Cyberpunk, " (Magazyn Sztuki 1/1998, pp.120-128)

Jerzy Kutnik

Eric T. Dean, Jr., Shook Over Hell. Post-Traumatic Stress, Vietnam, and the Civil War (review), (EAAS Newsletter, September 1998, pp. 27-18)

an entry in Federman: A to X-X-X-X, (San Diego: San Diego State UP, 1998)

Elzbieta H. Oleksy

"Wizerunek kobiet w amerykanskiej kulturze masowej," in Portrety kobiet i mezczyzn w ?rodkach masowego przekazu i podrecznikach szkolnych., ed. Renata Siemienska. (Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Naukowe "Scholar", 1997, pp. 63-67)

Kobieta w krainie Dixie. Literatura I film (Dixie's Women. Literature and Film), (Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu ?ódzkiego, 1998)

"Akredytacja po polsku i amerykansku" (Accreditation in Poland and the United States"), (Kronika. Pismo Uniwersytetu ?ódzkiego, May 1998)

Teresa Pyzik

Essays in American Literature, ed. Teresa Pyzik, (Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Slaskiego, Katowice, 1995)
Literatura w ksztalceniu i wychowaniu, ed. Teresa Pyzik, (Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Slaskiego, Katowice 1997)

Agnieszka Salska:

“Od korespondencji do poezji. Listy Emily Dickinson” , (Literatura i komunikacja: od listu do powiesci biograficznej.
Eds. Artur Blaim i Zbigniew Maciejewski, Wydawnictwo UMCS, Lublin 1998.)
among contributing authors in An Emily Dickinson Encyclopedia, edited by Jane Eberwein, (Greenwood Press,
Westport, Ct.:1998)

Irmina Wawrzyczek

Planting and Loving: Popular Sexual Mores in the Seventeenth-Century Chesapeake (Lublin: Wydawnictwo UMCS,
1998)

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference

Gender/Theatre/Cinema: A Cross-cultural and Inter-disciplinary Conference in Film and Theatre Studies

Dates: April 8-11, 1999

Place: The Conference Center, University of Lodz

Organizers: Departments of Film and Theatre, University of Lodz, the Department of American Studies and Mass Media, University of Lodz,
and the Department of Film and Drama, University of Reading (England).

The conference will address issues arising from the study of gender in film and theatre. It will be structured around keynote lectures, presentations and panel discussions. It will hopefully provide a unique opportunity for scholars and students of film and theatre from Europe and North America to meet and debate formally and informally.

The language of the conference is English.

If you would like to present a paper, to last approximately 20 minutes, please send an outline before November 30, 1998, to:

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90-136 Lodz
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or

Dr. Marta Kowalska
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Request for Submissions

Elzbieta H. Oleksy has completed a chapter an " American Literary Scholarship in Central Europe and the Baltics, 1989-1997" and submitted it for publication in American Literary Scholarship, an annual publication of the Duke University Press. In the chapter she included selected publications from the materials provided by Polish Americanists. She would like to invite colleagues working in the field of American Studies in Poland to submit their monographs/ edited collections/articles, etc. published in 1998 to be considered for review in the next edition of ALS.

Deadline for submission of materials to be considered for review in ALS: April 15, 1999.

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 March 1999. 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/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 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

c/o Pawel Frelik,

UMCS, Pl. Marii Curie-Sklodowskiej 4, Lublin 20-031.



The Newsletter editors wish to express their concerns about inadequate representation of the activities and achievements of Polish Americanists and PAAS members. While some colleagues have been very cooperative in supplying us with information, we have not heard from others in a long time.



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

[Back to the main page](#)

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