

POLISH ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

NEWSLETTER NO. 16

DECEMBER 1999

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American Literature and Culture Department

University of Lodz

Telling It Slant. Polish Insights Into American Culture and Literature
– The Jubilee Book for Professor Andrzej Kopcewicz,
edited by Marek Wilczyński and Magdalena Zapędowska,
has just been published by Wydawnictwo Naukowe UAM in Poznań.
It contains seventeen articles by Polish Americanists of three generations
whose literary scholarship has been inspired by Professor Kopcewicz.

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

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

Visiting lecturers:

- * Nancy Burke (Warsaw University) "Canadian Literature in English"
- * Stephen Nissenbaum (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) "Sexuality and Prudery in 19th Century America"
- * Ronald Libertus (University of Minnesota, Minneapolis) "Native American Art of the Northwest"
- * Dana Heller (Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia) "Afro-American Writers and the Literature of Mobility"
- * Mary C. Segers (Rutgers University) "The Roman Catholic Church in American Politics: Progress & Regress"
- * Victor Greene (University of Wisconsin) "Is America Still A Heaven for Immigrants: The Multiculturalist Debate"
- * Diane Negra (University of North Texas) "Failed Polonization of Hollywood - the case of Pola Negri"

* In March/April Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska presented a series of lectures on Polish and American literature on the Holocaust at a number of universities, including Princeton, Reed College (Portland, OR), University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, and University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

* Joanna Durczak, Małgorzata Siwek, Bianka Zarzycka, John Leo, and Paweł Frelik have had their papers accepted for different workshops at European Association for American Studies Conference in Graz in April 2000; Jerzy Durczak will chair a workshop at the same conference.

Nationhood and Citizenship Conference

Organizing September workshop-conferences for young scholars from former Eastern Block countries has become tradition

at American Literature and Culture Department of Maria Curie-Skłodowska University. This year meeting, entitled "Nationhood and Citizenship", masterminded by Jerzy Durczak (the department chair), and invaluable supported by American Embassy's USIS, again took place in Puławy between 22 and 25 of September. The conference organizers were honored to host Heinz Ickstadt (J.F. Kennedy Institute, Berlin) and Rob Kroes (University of Amsterdam), the current and former executive officers of European Association for American Studies, whose lectures enjoyed such popularity last year. This time, both speakers discussed various concepts of national identity in contemporary

American literature and culture. The guest lecturers from the United States, Eric Sandeen (University of Wyoming) and Roy Rosenzweig (George Mason University), considered perceptions of space and history in American culture. Piotr Skurowski (University of Warsaw), the only Polish lecturer, analyzed the national identity of Afro-Americans in Europe.

The conference participants represented universities and colleges from Belarus, Ukraine, Estonia, Russia, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, and Hungary. Additionally, we hosted a few young scholars from Germany and Poland.

New Courses:

John Leo

- * Topics in Film Studies: The Road Movie
- * Topics in Film Studies: The Western
- * Topics in Film Studies: The Cold War

Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska

- * Responses to the Holocaust in American Literature

Paweł Frelik

- * Postmodern Science-Fiction

Joanna Durczak

- * American Literature of Contact
- * Nature, Technology and the American Mind
- * Contemporary Native American Literature

Jerzy Durczak

- * The 1960s: Ideas, Literature, Film, Music
- * American Short-Story in the 1980s and 1990s

Jerzy Kutnik

- * Contemporary Social Issues in US Supreme Court Decisions

John Archer

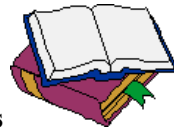
- * History of American Architecture

Roy Goldblatt

- * American Literature of the 30s

Conferences and Fellowships:

- Jerzy Durczak taught a seminar titled "Raymond Carver's Fiction" at University of Joensuu
- Bianka Zarzycka presented a paper at the PASE conference in Wrocław
- Dorota Janowska and Bianka Zarzycka presented papers at the Black Studies conference in Munster in March 1999.
- Małgorzata Siwek spent 3 months at Karlstad University, Sweden, researching for her doctoral dissertation.
- Pawel Frelik presented a paper at the annual conference of the Netherlands American Studies Association in Middleburg in June 1999.



Publications

Jerzy Durczak

"Mixed Blessings of Freedom: American Literature in Poland Under and After Communism," *American Studies* (Kansas) 40:2, 1999.

Pawel Frelik

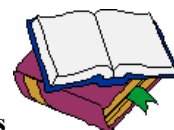
"Raymonda Federmana żywot encyklopedyczny" (a review of FEDERMAN: A to X-X-X-X. Recyclopedic Narrative, ed. Larry McCaffery, Thomas Hartl, Doug Rice), *Akcent* 2/99.

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

Honors:

On August 16, 1999, Elzbieta H. Oleksy received the Title of Professor from the President of Poland. Following Professor Andrzej Kopcewicz, she is the second Full Professor of American Studies in Poland.

In October 1999 Elzbieta H. Oleksy received an award for research (for her book on women's culture in the US South Dixie's Women. Literature and Film) from the Rector of Łódź University.



Publications

Elzbieta H. Oleksy (ed.) *Mass Media w Społeczeństwie Obywatelskim*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego.

Elzbieta H. Oleksy, and Zoltan Abadi-Nagy "Central European Contribution" in Gary Scharnhorst (ed.) *American Literary Scholarship. An Annual 1997*, Durham and London: Duke University Press, 1999, pp. 476-490.

Elzbieta H. Oleksy "Plight in Common? Women's Studies in the New Democracies" in *Winds of Change: Women and the University Culture - Conference Proceedings Vol. 2*, Cohen, Dinah et al. (eds), Sydney: University of Technology, 1999, pp. 549-552.

Elzbieta H. Oleksy "Akredytacja i Doskonalenie Jakosci Kształcenia w Szkolnictwie Wyzszym" in *Wyzsze Uczelnie Stymulatorem Przemian Systemowych w Polsce; Rola Stypendystów Fulbrighta: Doswiadczenia - Bariery - Szanse*, Bronisław Marciniak, Elżbieta Pakszys, Kuliusz Tyszka (eds), Poznan: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Adama Mickiewicza, 1999, pp. 47-55.

David LaFrance, and Guy P.C. Thomson *Patriotism, Politics and Popular Liberalism in Nineteenth-Century Mexico: Juan Francisco Lucas and the Puebla Sierra*, Wilmington: SR Books, 1999.

Wieslaw Oleksy, and Henry Wasser "Poland. Transformation of Higher Education in Poland after 1989" in P. Sabloff (ed.) *Higher Education in the Post-Communist World*, New York: Garland, 1999, pp. 97-137.

Wieslaw Oleksy "Fulbright-Heyes. Study Travel Abroad Program: Doswiadczenia i perspektywy" in *Wyzsze Uczelnie Stymulatorem Przemian Systemowych w Polsce; Rola Stypendystów Fulbrighta: Doswiadczenia - Bariery - Szanse*, Bronisław Marciniak, Elżbieta Pakszys, Kuliusz Tyszka (eds), Poznań: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Adama Mickiewicza, 1999, pp. 16-23.

Wieslaw Oleksy *Mass Media. Podręcznik akademicki*, ZAMM Press, Uniwersytet Lodzki, 1999.

Wieslaw Oleksy "The Development of a Democratic and Market Economy Society in Poland", New York: In press: Garland.

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 "The Mexican Revolution Viewed from the Central State of Puebla: The nonmilitary Role of the Military," at International Federation of Caribbean and Latin American Studies, Tel Aviv, April 1999.

Wieslaw Oleksy spent 2 weeks (October 8-23, 1999) in Australia at the invitation of the Institute for International Studies, University of Technology, Sydney, teaching seminars on a new canon of American Studies at ASM, and the transformation of higher education in Poland.

Activities

In May 1999, Peter Bischoff from the University of Ottawa visited ASM and gave a 6 hour seminar on "The Canadian-US Economic Cooperation."

In July 1999, a group of students and faculty from the University of Pittsburgh spent a week at ASM studying Polish economic and social transition. Wieslaw Oleksy was the organizer of the program and one of the lecturers. The group met with Kate Delaney at the American Embassy in Warsaw who organized a briefing on Poland-USA economic and political relations by the Embassy staff.

In July 1999, Tomasz Pludowski was awarded a scholarship supported by the Social Transition Programme

in Central and Eastern Europe (MATRA) of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs to participate in the Amsterdam-Maastricht Summer University course on TV news.

In August/September 1999, Elzbieta H. Oleksy participated in an exchange project between the University of Lodz and the University of Pittsburgh, sponsored by the Polish Research Committee (KBN).

She involved herself in research on: a) the quality assessment procedures in place at the University of Pittsburgh and b) her articles on action heroines in US and Polish film.

Wieslaw Oleksy visited the University of Pittsburgh and William Paterson University of New Jersey (12 August - 10 September 1999). The visits were supported by a grant from the Polish Research Committee (KBN). The visits were connected with a research project on the implications of American accreditation systems for Polish higher education.

Ewa Brzezinska was invited to Jurata (September 28-30, 1999) to a conference "Profession - Businesswomen" organized by the Polish Association of Women Entrepreneurs and June Lavelle (Project Firm-2000, sponsored by USAID)

gathering about 200 businesswomen from all over Poland. She provided three workshops on "Team Building".

From September 30 till October 3, 1999, Tomasz Pludowski participated in a conference on regional media in Europe and the role of journalists, organized in Chania, Crete by the University of Athens.

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: April 15, 2000.

Please send your materials to:

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News from the American Literature Department Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan

On June 18, 1999, Marcin Turski defended a doctoral dissertation titled "Intertextual Elements in John Barth's Fiction." The dissertation was written under the supervision of Andrzej Kopcewicz, and reviewed by Jerzy Durczak and Marek Wilczynski.

Magdalena Zapędowska presented a paper "The Figure of the Tree in 19th Century Discourse" at the Ustron conference "Organs, Organisms, Organisations: Organic Form in 19th Century Discourse," May 25 - 27, 1999.

Agnieszka Rzepa will soon publish two articles: "Znikajaca kobieta albo androgynia we współczesnym feminizmie: Reperkusje debaty w kobiecej prozie amerykańskiej" in Pakszys, E. and W. Heller. *Humanistyka i Plec (III). Miejsce kobiet w sferze publicznej: historia-literatura-polityka*, Poznan: UAM; and "Textual Androgyny? The textuality of gender and the gender of text," *Festschrift for Prof. Andrzej Kopcewicz*, Poznań.

In 1998/1999 Agnieszka Rzepa received a research scholarship which she spent at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI.

Magdalena Zapędowska spent two months (Sept-Oct 1999) on a research stipend at the John Kennedy Institute, Free University, Berlin.

News from the American Literature Section at the Institute of English Studies University of Warsaw

Events

In June and July, Tomasz Basiuk participated in the 23rd session of the School of Criticism and Theory, hosted by Cornell University at Ithaca, New York. As part of the SCT program, he attended a six-week seminar on "Democracy's Others," conducted by Sheila Benhabib, and mini-seminars and lectures offered by such eminent scholars as Houston Baker, Stanley Fish, Fredric Jameson, Dominic LaCapra, and others.

In March, Nancy Burke gave a series of lectures on Canadian Literature:
- at the Institute of English studies - UMCS Lublin (where she also read her poetry):
"Canadian Literature - Other Voices/Another Space,"
- at the department of English Philology, the University of Bratislava, Slovakia: "Narratives of Self and Space in Canadian Literature," and "Women Writers - at the Centre of the Canadian Canon."
- She presented papers at the 8th Annual PASE Conference organized in April by the University of Wrocław and the conference of Russian Association of English Philologists, Pushkinskie Gory, Russia, which was held on September 20-26. She was invited participant at the conference "The Many Souths: Class in Southern Culture" organized by the University of Vienna, Vienna on April 8-11.
On May 11 she delivered an inauguratory lecture at the opening of Canadian Resources Center at Nicholas Copernicus University, Toruń.

In May Agnieszka Graff obtained her Ph.D. at the English Institute and in October she completed her four-year studies at the Graduate School for Social Research at the Polish Academy of Sciences.
In July she took part in the Summer School "New Private Spheres" on Gender Studies organized by the Central European University, Budapest.

Julia Fiedorczuk took part in the 8th PASE Conference, Wrocław, where she presented a paper.

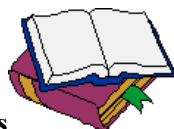
In July, Marek Paryż received a research grant to the JFK Institute for American Studies. He also took part in the 8th Annual PASE Conference in Wrocław in April 1999 where he presented a paper.

Agata Preis-Smith is currently a Senior Fulbright Fellow at University of California, Riverside.

In October Jerzy Sobieraj joined the faculty of our section. In May he took part in the "America" conference organized in Szczyrk by the Institute of British and American Literature and Culture of the University of Silesia where he presented a paper.

New Courses

Nancy Burke - American Drama
Agnieszka Graff - American Feminist Criticism



Publications

Nancy Burke

Travel Broadens the Mind, co-author with Leon Leszek Szkutnik, Warszawa: Wiedza Powszechna, 1999.

Julia Fiedorczuk

"Time as a Source of Irony in Selected Poems by John Ashbery," *American Studies* 18, 1999.

Agnieszka Graff

"The Polish Woolf," *Virginia Woolf Miscellany*, Fall 1999 (issue on translation).

"Poetyka Polskiego Patriarchatu," Proceedings of the Conference "Feministyczna Teoria Literatry" IBL PAN.

Ewa Luczak

"Rethinking History: Toni Morrison's Versions of the Past," *American Studies* 17, 1999.

"Choreographing Fiction: Toni Morrison's Body Politics," Proceedings of the 7th Annual PASE Conference. Wrocław: Wydawnictwo Slask, 1999.

Marek Paryz

Marek Wilczynski (ed.) *Canons, Reviews, Supplements in American Literature and Culture* (review), *American Studies* 17, 1999.

John White and Brian Holden Reich (eds) *Americana. Essays in Memory of Marcus Canliffe* (review), *American Studies in Europe* 43, September 1999.

Jerzy Sobieraj

"Albion Tourgee and the Ku Klux Klan," *American Studies* 17, 1999.

"The Old South and the Emergence of the New in Thomas Page's Red Rock," *American Studies* 18, 1999.

"Digging through the Past, Introducing the Novel of Reconstruction," in *Memory and Forgetfulness*, Wojciech Kalaga and Tadeusz Rachwał (eds), Katowice: University of Silesia Press, 1999.

Iłona Zawadzka

"Parnasian Elements in Gertrude Stein's Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas," Proceedings of the 7th Annual PASE Conference. Wrocław: Wydawnictwo Slask, 1999.

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

The 1998 PAAS conference proceedings have been submitted to the publisher (Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego): *Reflections on Ethical Values in Post(?)Modern American Literature (Part I)* and *Reflections on Ethical Values in Post(/)Modern American Cultures and Societies (Part II)*. We hope the book will be available at the beginning of the year 2000.

John Leo from the University of Rhode Island visited our Department in March 1999. Professor Leo gave two lectures on "Punk Aesthetics: Jack Kerouac, Kathy Acker, and 'Beat' Postmodernity"; and "Punk Aesthetics: Oliver Stone's Natural Born Killers as Political Commentary."

In June Paweł Jędrzejko presented a paper "The Book, the Chart and the Quadrant: Objects at Melvillean Sea" at The Annual Melville Society Conference on "Melville and the Sea" held in Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic, CT. (The conference web site is: <http://www.mysticseaport.org/williams-mystic/melvilleconf.html>). He is now finalizing his doctoral dissertation focusing on Herman Melville's fiction.

In the academic year 1999/2000 Teresa Pyzik is on leave to complete her book on the history and development of American dramatic theory (from the Colonial times to the 20th century).

In the first week of November the Department of American Literature and Culture hosted Professor Douglass J. Robillard, an authority on Herman Melville's fiction and poetry. Professor Robillard delivered two lectures: "Selected Aspects of Herman Melville's Poetry" and "Melville and Visual Arts: Moby Dick, Bartleby and Ekphrasis." He also gave consultations to doctoral students and faculty members on the works of Melville.

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

Halina Parafianowicz is a dean of the Department of History and Sociology at the University of Bialystok. She teaches Modern World History at the History Department, University of Bialystok, and American History at the American Studies Center at the University of Warsaw. The result of her research as a Fulbright Scholar is the forthcoming book titled *In the Shadow of the Great Husband: The Life and Work of Eleanor Anna Roosevelt*.

News from the English Department of the Jagiellonian University, Cracow

Grazyna Branny presented a paper at the 8th International April Conference organized by IFA in Cracow, titled "Delayed Repercussions of Conrad in Faulkner's Absalom, Absalom."
The paper will be published shortly.

Grazyna Branny is also the author of an article titled "Arthurian Echoes in Walker Percy's Lancelot," published by the University of Regensburg in the Jubilee Book for Prof. Karl Heinz Goller.
In August 1999, Irena Przemecka presented a paper at the conference "Society for Contemporary Literature and Theatre" organized in Todmoos, Germany, titled "Myth and Role Playing in Sam Shepard's Work."

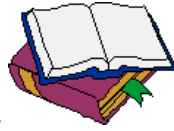
Alice Kinman is teaching at the English Department of the Jagiellonian University as a Fulbright Lecturer.

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

Conferences

In June 19-21, 1999, Jadwiga Maszewska i Zbigniew Maszewski participated in the conference "Minority Identities Today" organized by the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. Jadwiga Maszewska presented a paper titled "Emergence of a New Native American Identity As Presented in Louise Erdrich's Novel The Bingo Palace." Zbigniew Maszewski presented a paper titled "New Approaches to Jewish Identities in the Works of Bruno Schulz."

Kacper Bartczak received the Junior Fulbright Scholarship. He will spend the academic year 2000-2001 at the University of Stamford (Connecticut), working with Professor Richard Rorty.



Publications

Agnieszka Salska "Galway Kinnell i Potęga Formy," with translations of several poems from *Imperfect Thirst* (1994),
Akcent 1:75, 1999.

Krzysztof Andrzejczak "Troche Inny Arthur Miller," *Tygiel Kultury*, Lodz 1:3, 1999.

Krzysztof Andrzejczak "Skora Starego Lwa" (True at First Light by Ernest Hemingway),
Rzeczpospolita, dodatek kulturalny "Plus Minus", 5 Nov, 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 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/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 Frelík.

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