

# **POLISH ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES**

## **NEWSLETTER NO. 9**

**JULY 1996**

Editor: Wieslaw Oleksy

Assistant Editor: Tomasz Pludowski

North American Studies Center,

University of Lodz

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### **EAAS CONFERENCE, 1996**

The ASC was proud to serve as a local organizer of the European Association for American Studies conference on American Culture and Its Impact, 1946-1996. The conference was held in Warsaw on March 21-24, 1996. The proposal that Warsaw host the biennial conference was accepted in 1993 and the ASC became the official local organizer of the conference. The important task was undertaken by a group of faculty, staff, and the students from the Center. In a common opinion of more than 300 participants of the conference, both the program and the way the conference was organized made it a very successful event in the history of EAAS.

The following American Studies scholars (among others) participated in the conference and read their papers:

Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska, ESI, Lublin, chaired the workshop "America: Visions from East Central Europe." Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska, Zbigniew Mazur and Pawel Frelik presented papers at the conference. The Lublin American Studies Center was also represented by Irmina Wawrzyczek and Jerzy Kutnik.

Tomasz Basiuk, ESI, Warsaw, read a paper on "The Narrative Politics of William Gaddis: an Inquiry into the Realities of Pleasure."

Ron Carter, Visiting Professor affiliated with the ASC, " Fifty Years of Polish Academic Writing on American Literature, 1946-1996, MA Theses and Habilitacje."

Franciszek Lyra, ASC, served as a chairman of the workshop entitled "The Reception of American Literature in Europe Since World War II."

Jadwiga Maszewska , AL&CD, Lodz, delivered a paper "Search for Identity in Toni Morrison's Sula."

Wieslaw Oleksy represented NAS, Lodz.

Piotr Ostaszewski, ASC, "First Secretaries of the Polish United Workers Party  
in the American Press."

Agata Preis-Smith, ESI, Warsaw, presented a paper on "Genre and the Idea of Open Form. Implications of the  
Poetic Use of Camp in Frank O'Hara."

Agnieszka Salska, AL&CD, Lodz, was the co-organizer and co-chair of the "Freedom and Form: American  
Poetry, 1946-1996" workshop.

Joseph Wagner, Visiting Professor from Kent State University, affiliated with the ASC, focused on "Bringing  
the War Home: John Updike and Bobbie Mason."

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## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Between June 16 and August 2, Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska, ESI, Lublin, is going to attend the National  
Endowment for Humanities seminar at Brandeis University on "Cultural Responses to the Holocaust in  
America and Abroad."

Tomasz Basiuk, ESI, Warsaw, has been awarded a grant from the John F. Kennedy Institut fur  
Nordamerikastudien in Berlin, and is going to spend six weeks there in April and May, continuing work on his  
Ph.D. thesis on the narrative techniques of William Gaddis.

Jerzy Durczak, ESI, Lublin, held a series of lectures on the reception of American literature in Poland at San  
Diego State University, Santa Clara University, California State University in Bakersfield, CA, and Indiana  
University in Bloomington, IN.

On January 4-7, 1996, Malgorzata Durska, ASC, Warsaw, participated in a seminar in Nidzica on Business  
Ethics and Culture organized by the Economic Academy in Kraków.

In January and February, Pawel Frelik, ESI, Lublin, spent six weeks at University of London researching for  
his doctoral dissertation.

At the PASE 5th annual conference, Clifford Hallam, AL&CD, Lodz, delivered his paper called "No Brother  
of Mine. Denial and Death in William Wilson."

Last February, Jerzy Kutnik, ESI, Lublin, spent two weeks at San Diego State University researching towards  
his post-doctoral dissertation.

Ewa Luczak, ESI, Warsaw, is going to Riverside, California, on a junior Fulbright scholarship for the academic year 1996-7, to study Toni Morrison's fiction.

At the invitation of "Radio Bis" and the Polish Section of "BBC," Krzysztof Michalek, ASC, Warsaw, talked on the following topics: "John Rockefeller - King of Oil," "Exceptionalism of American History," "Henry Ford - Founding Father of American Car Civilization," " EAAS Conference. American Culture and its Impact, 1946-1996."

On January 31, 1996, Krzysztof Michalek took part in the teleconference on Global Information Society Project which was organized at the American Center in Warsaw.

On February 1 1996, the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences organized a panel discussion on five-volume The History of The United States of America, 1607-1990. At the invitation of professor Marek Marian Drozdowski a few members of the faculty who served as coeditors of two volumes and also were authors of various chapters were present They were Krzysztof Michalek, Zbigniew Kwiecien, and Piotr Ostaszewski, ASC, Warsaw.

Elzbieta H. Oleksy, NAS, Lodz, has been awarded a grant from the Kosciuszko Foundation and is at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, University of Mississippi, Oxford.

Elzbieta H. Oleksy talked to Gazeta Wyborcza's Joanna Podolska about NAS's introduction of the credit transfer system.

Wieslaw Oleksy, NAS, Lodz, and the American Embassy in Warsaw organized "American Culture Workshop." It was conducted by two American film and mass culture professors: Perry Frank and James Deutsch. The participants included thirty English Language College teachers and Ph.D. students from all over Poland. During a two day session they had a chance to broaden their knowledge of such aspects of American culture as classic American film, multiculturalism and the influence of technology on American mass culture. NAS has received a grant from the Ministry of Education to publish the papers from the workshop. Also, the workshop is likely to result in providing NAS with teaching aids related to the subject.

Wieslaw Oleksy has been interviewed by "Radio Lodz." He talked about American specialization within the Institute of International Studies.

Piotr Ostaszewski , ASC, Warsaw, participated in the Salzburg Seminar (February 2-16, 1996). The seminar was focusing on "the Major Reform Movements in the American History."

At the PASE 5th annual conference, Agnieszka Zarzycka, AL&CD, Lodz, delivered her paper called "A Portrait of the Minnesotan Family in the Works of Regional Writers From this Area."

Since 1996 the ASC, Warsaw, has started the interdisciplinary project on The Reception of American Values and Standards in Poland after 1989.

The NAS, Lodz and Women's Studies Center, Lodz, are currently working on the second part of the international seminar "Mass Media in Civil Society" which is sponsored by the United Nations Development Program.

The NAS has established mutual cooperation with Polish-American Management Center. (note PAM's entry at

the end of the newsletter.)

The AL&CD, Lodz, hosts two American students from the Southwest State University, Marshall, Minnesota, who are taking classes and co-teaching American Culture classes. It is the second year of the exchange with the SSU in Minnesota.

Abbreviations:

AL&CD - American Literature and Culture Department, University of Lodz,  
ASC - American Studies Center, Warsaw,  
ESI, Lublin - English Studies Institute, University of Maria Curie-Skłodowska, Lublin,  
ESI, Warsaw - English Studies Institute, University of Warsaw,  
NAS - North American Studies Center, University of Lodz.

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## GUEST LECTURERS

On March 25 and 26, following the EAAS Warsaw Conference, AL&CD, Lodz, held a session on the history and literature of the American South. Lectures were presented, and class discussions were led by Professors:

Pirjo Ahokas, University of Turku, Finland;  
Dan T. Carter, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia;  
Valeria Gennaro Lerda, University of Genua, Italy;  
Peter Nicolaisen, Bildungswissenschaftliche Universität, Flensburg, Germany;  
Noel Polk, University of Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Ann C. Colloy, Fulbright professor of Buffalo State College, stayed with ESI, Warsaw for the academic year 1995-6, lecturing on the history of American literature and teaching courses on the American Renaissance Afro-American literature, and women's writing.

James Dougherty of Notre Dame University, Indiana, visited ESI, Warsaw, for the period 16 April - 16 May, 1996, giving a series of 3 lectures on "The City in American Literature."

Nicholas Farnham, Director of Educational Program for the Christian Johnson Foundation, and John Walsh, Cultural Attaché of the Embassy of the United States of America (March 1, 1996) visited ASC, Warsaw. N. Farnham was interested in the organization and different forms of activities of the Center.

Susan Kurjiaka of Florida Atlantic University, will be Fulbright lecturer in the American Literature Section of ESI, Warsaw in the academic year 1996-7.

Andrzej Mania, the Director of the Center for American Studies at Jagiellonian University visited ASC, Warsaw on January 17, 1996. He expressed his interest in its activity, particularly in the teaching program which was considered by him as a good model for the implementation of the program in Kraków.

Barry O'Connell of Amherst College, visited Warsaw for a week during the EAAS Conference and talked to ESI's students on "Nationalism and American Literature."

Vincent Parrillo, a sociologist from Paterson University, New Jersey gave a series of lectures on ethnicity to the students of the Postgraduate Program in North American Studies and conducted a seminar for NAS's staff and Ph.D. students. During his stay a possibility of funding an Internet lab at NAS was discussed.

In March, David Pichaske from the Southwest State University, Marshall, Minnesota visited AL&CD, Lodz, and was a guest speaker at several American Culture and Literature classes.

Andrzej Rabzenko, Counselor for Scientific & Technological Affairs of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in the United States visited ASC, Warsaw on January 19, 1996. The possibilities of the collaboration of the Polish Embassy in Washington with the ASC, especially in the context of the development of the academic and cultural cooperation between Poland and the US were discussed.

While in Warsaw on April 11, 1996, Richard Virden, Counselor of Embassy of the United States of America expressed his interest in perspectives of further development of the ASC, Warsaw, focusing on the ASC's research program and the Library.

In March, Matthew Wilson from the University of Pennsylvania and David Pichaske from the Southwest State University, Marshall, Minnesota visited AL&CD, Lodz. M. Wilson gave a lecture on "The Career of Charles Chestnutt."

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## NEW COURSES

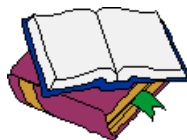
### **Donna Groot**

, AL&CD, Lodz, taught American Culture for several INSETT sessions, which provide refresher courses for English teachers.

**Tomasz Pludowski**, NAS, Lodz, teaches a course "Mass Media and Democracy in American Society."

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## PUBLICATIONS



**Joanna Durczak**, "Into Misanthropy and Back: Galway Kinnell's 'When One Has Lived A Long Time Alone'," *Studies in English and American Literature and Language*, ed. Irena Przemicka and Zbigniew Mazur, Kraków 1995.

**Joanna Durczak**, "A.R. Ammons and the Frontiers of Poetry," *Literature and American Identity: Immigration*,

**Joanna Durczak**, "America and Europe in Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*," Maria Curie-Sklodowska University Press, 1995.

**Joanna and Jerzy Durczak**, eds., *Polish-American Literary Confrontations*, Maria Curie-Sklodowska University Press, 1995.

**Pawel Frelik**, "The Electronic Frontier: Technology and American Identity in Bruce Sterling's *Islands in the Net*," *Literature and American Identity: Immigration, Assimilation and the Frontier*, Poznan 1995.

**Pawel Frelik**, a block of translations and essays devoted to cyberpunk literature, *Akcent*, Lublin, 1996.

**Adam Janiszewski**, "Absurdity, Democracy and Love in Kenneth Brown's *The Brig*," *Polish-American Literary Confrontations*, Joanna and Jerzy Durczak, eds., Maria Curie-Sklodowska University Press, 1995.

**Jerzy Kutnik, Cezar Ornatowski**, eds., *Re-Visioning Democracy. Central Europe and America: Critical Perspectives*, Maria Curie-Sklodowska University Press, 1995.

**Jerzy Kutnik**, "Cage/Kontekst/(pre)tekst," *Akcent* 1 (63), 1996.

**Zbigniew Kwiecien's**

article entitled "USA and the Philippines, 1898-1935: The Shaping of American-Type Democracy" was published in: Jerzy Kutnik, Cezar M. Ornatowski's *Re-Visioning Democracy. Central Europe and America. Critical Perspectives.*, Maria Curie-Sklodowska University Press, 1995.

**Jadwiga Maszewska's**

article "Ecofeminist Themes in Marilynne Robinson's *Housekeeping*" will appear in the forthcoming issue of *American Studies in Scandinavia*, a journal published in Copenhagen.

The ASC inaugurated its own series of publications entitled *Dissertations and Papers of the American Studies Center*. The series is designed to present results of the research of the Center's faculty. Therefore, doctoral dissertations, post-Ph.D. works (habilitacja) and also regular research papers will be published in form of separate volumes. The series is inaugurated by a book prepared by **Piotr Skurowski** on *A Model of Warning: the American Reform Mind and the Image of Europe, 1890-1918*.

**Agnieszka Salska's**

paper "Re-visioning the Democratic Imagination: Tim O'Brien's Vietnam Fiction" was published in *Polish-American Literary Confrontation*, (eds) Joanna & Jerzy Durczak, MSC University Press, Lublin 1995.

The ASC has published *American Studies Center of Warsaw University, 1976-1996*. The brochure presents the most important information about the Center, its 20-year history, its achievements from the past and plans for near future, its personnel and facilities. The brochure is distributed for free. If you are interested to get a free copy, please contact the ASC.

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**CENTER FOR AMERICAN STUDIES,  
JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY**

The Center for American Studies at the Jagiellonian University was set up in March 1991 and it is located in the very heart of Cracow's historical center.

The permanent staff of the Center is a small assembly. However, it cooperates with several professors from outside the Center whose research interests focus on North American Issues. Among them there are historians, sociologists, lawyers, economists, political scientists, specialists in American literature, and art.

Andrzej Mania, a historian specializing in the recent history of the USA, and vice-Dean of the Law Faculty at the Jagiellonian University, is the Director of the Center.

The library of the Center consists of a modest but growing collection of books related to American Studies. It was established with a generous grant from the Mellon Foundation and gifts donated by other libraries, such as the American Studies Center of the Warsaw University, The American Consulate in Cracow, as well as gifts from individual donors.

The Center is a University institution which gathers academics and students of diverse disciplines, who are interested in American Studies. As many as 400 students participate in the study program each year.

Starting the first semester 1995, there is a research-oriented Master of Arts seminar program "The United States - History, Politics and Society" offered by the Center. In May 1995, the Jagiellonian University's Senate raised the Center's status and allowed for two other advanced programs: the one-year diploma program for graduate students, and the post-doctoral program for researchers who want to gain their Ph.D. degree in American Studies. Language instruction is offered in intermediate and advanced English to prepare students for following courses in English and working with primary sources in the field of American Studies.

Each year courses on American Society, Economy and Politics, as well as American Culture are provided, among others:

*"History of the USA in 1774-1945"* - Andrzej Mania, supplemented by:

- "The Impact of the Ideas in American Culture"* - John Matel, the American Consul,
- "Creation of Ethnic America, Polonia and Other Ethnic Groups in the USA, 1870-1930"* - Adam Walaszek,
- "The United States in the Global Society after the Second World War"* - Lubomir Zyblikiewicz,
- "From Cold War to Cold Peace, Europe, the United States, and Russia, 1939-1994"* - Gunnar Boehnert,
- "Military Politics of the USA"* - Michal Chorosnicki,
- "Federate Power in the USA"* - Marian Grzybowski,
- "Local Government in the USA"* - Wieslaw Kisiel,
- "The United States after the Second World War"* - Andrzej Mania,
- "The American Nation"* - Tadeusz Paleczny,
- "Ethnic Relations in the American Society"* - Jaroslaw Rokicki,
- "Topics in Women's Studies"* - Joanna B. Boehnert,
- "The US Financial Market"* - Andrzej Szopa,
- "Contemporary American Economy"* - Bronislaw Oyrznowski,
- "Small Business in the US Economy"* - Jacek Klich,
- "Post-modern America"* - Maria Hussakowska-Szysko,
- "Progressive Styles in the American Cinema"* - Andrzej Pitrus,
- "Contemporary American Audiovisual Culture"* - Wieslaw Godzic,
- "American Media"* - Tomasz Goban-Klas.

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**PAM CENTER**

Polish-American Management Center

University of Lodz, Faculty of Management and  
University of Maryland,  
College of Business & Management

begin admitting students for:

Lodz Executive Master of Business Administration Program

The Lodz Executive MBA is a two year, intensive program of study in management

(720 course hours), concluding with the receipt of a  
Masters Diploma in Management

from the University of Lodz and a Certificate from the University of Maryland.

Courses will be taught in Polish and English and they will be offered on Fridays and Saturdays at the PAM  
Center, University of Lodz.

First year costs are 4,850 PLN  
(approx. 1,870 \$).

The costs for two years of study will be approximately 4,000 \$.

Application fee is 70 PLN.

Costs of additional courses of English for Managers and Computer Skills is 300 PLN.

The program is sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Admission requirements:

University degree, two years of professional experience, good knowledge of English

Entrance exams and interviews will be held in the second half of June, 1996.

The deadline for applications is June 10, 1996.

Additional information can be obtained Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the  
MBA Program:

Joanna Piorunowska  
PAM Center

16/18 Kopcińskiego Street, 90-232 Lodz, Poland

phone: (48 42) 354958,

fax: (48 42) 354959

e-mail: LEMBA@KRYSLA.UNI.LODZ.PL

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **Re-Thinking Nationalism: Women's Writings of Resistance and Accommodation in the Modern Period.**

A conference to be held at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, November 25-26, 1996, Barcelona, Spain.

The purpose of this conference is to explore the variety of ways in which women accommodated to and  
resisted nationalist projects in the critical period from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century.

Papers may be presented in English, Spanish or other languages of the Spanish autonomous regions.

Proposals from outside the Americas should be sent to:

Professor Aranzazu Usandizaga

Departament de Filologia anglesa i Germanística

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona,

08193 Bellaterra, Barcelona (Spain).

All proposals must be received by July 1, 1996.

On 23-25 April, 1997, the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, the Netherlands, will host for the third time the biennial conference of European historians of the United States. The theme for this 'Middelburg 3' Conference is

**Secular and Religious Reforms Movements in American History.**

Historians interested to present a paper at this conference with plenary sessions are invited to send a one-page proposal before 15 September 1996 to the two conference organizers:

Professor David K. Adams  
David Bruce Center for American Studies  
Keele University  
Keele, Staffordshire ST5 5BG  
United Kingdom  
Fax (44) 1782-583460

and

Dr. Cornelis A. van Minnen  
Roosevelt Study Center  
P.O. Box 6001  
4330 LA Middelburg  
The Netherlands  
Fax (31) 118-631593

Scholars interested in attending the conference are requested to contact the Roosevelt Study Center.

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Please send your items for the next PAAS NEWSLETTER to the address below BEFORE APRIL 30, 1996.

PAAS NEWSLETTER   
North American Studies Center  
University of Lodz  
Narutowicza 54  
90-136 Lodz, Poland  
fax: (48 42) 31 95 82  
e-mail: eloleksy@kryisia.uni.lodz.pl

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