

# POLISH ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

## NEWSLETTER NO. 11

MARCH 1997

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American Literature and Culture Department

University of Lodz

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### EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The 6th Annual Polish Association for American Studies Conference was held in Gdańsk on December 5-7, 1996. The topic was: "Dimensions of American Landscape in American Literature and Culture." Twenty papers on a wide range of subjects connected with urban life in the United States were presented by the scholars from Polish universities and our foreign guests.

Kate Delaney, the Cultural Attache from the US Embassy in Warsaw, delivered a plenary lecture entitled "Electronic Resources in American Studies." During its general meeting, which took place on December 6, PAAS elected its new President and new Board Members. The conference sessions met in the historical rooms of Arthus Hall in Gdańsk's Old Town. Participants of the 6th Annual PAAS Conference wish to thank Andrzej Cejnowa for organizing it. Special thanks go to the US Embassy and Kate Delaney for hosting the reception. The Newsletter has recently been informed by Andrzej Cejnowa, who is currently in the United States, that a publication of conference proceedings may be expected later this year.

#### **The 20th Anniversary of the ASC:**

The ASC was founded in 1976 when Warsaw University and Indiana University established the first direct cooperation between Polish and American Universities. The project attracted financial and organizational support from the United States Information Agency (USIA). Thanks to that support and further development of contacts between Warsaw University and American partners ASC could successfully promote American Studies in Poland.

On May 27-30, 1996 an official delegation from Indiana University visited the ASC to take part in the celebrations. Indiana University was represented by President Myle Brand, Professor Peggy Zeglin Brand, Dean of International Programs, Patrick O'Meara, Special Studies Counselor to the President, Christopher Simpson, Director of the Polish Studies Center (PSC) Timothy Wiles, the organizer and the first Director of the PSC, Professor Mary Ellen Solt, Professor Susan Solt and Professor Paul Marer.

They participated in the seminar entitled 20 Years of Cooperation between Warsaw and Indiana Universities, 1976-1996, held in Warsaw University on May 28, 1996.

The visit of the IU delegation inaugurated a series of events organized by the ASC during the 20th year of its activity. Those events included lectures presented by Professor Peggy Zeglin Brand (IU) on Feminism and Aesthetics in Contemporary American Art, May 22, 1996, and

Professor Ronnie Carter (IU), Fulbright Visiting Scholar, on Native American Art, June 11, 1996.

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary the ASC Library has received numerous donations. Their special thanks go to the following publishers: Al Fine, Amber, Centrum Filmowe Graffiti, Czytelnik, Da Capo, Dom Wydawniczy Rebis, Geo Center, Interpress, Muza, Nasza Księgarnia, Novus Orbis, Noir Sur Blanc, Ossolineum, Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy, Polskie Wydawnictwa Ekonomiczne, Philip Wilson, Trio, Wiedza i Życie, Wydawnictwa Artystyczne i Filmowe, Wydawnictwa SGH, Wydawnictwo Zysk i S-ka.

The Sabre Foundation donated 245 books. These are sets of textbooks to be used by the ASC students.

They are also very grateful to persons who supplied their library collection privately. These are: Marcin Rywin- for 58 video cassettes with American movies. Edward Malak, Ryszard Sosiński, Zbigniew Kantostosinski, Ryszard Rapacki, Joseph Wagner, Mark Kulikowski, Ronnie Carter, Katarzyna Matuszewska, Jadwiga Szymczak, Bogusław W. Winid.

After the American Center Library in Warsaw was closed in May, most of its circulation collection (5000 volumes) was transferred to the ASC Library. 4000 volumes are already on the shelves, the ASC librarians are cataloging the remaining books in order to make them available to the readers as soon as possible.

On May 24, 1996 for the third time the ASC organized a Warsaw University Fair for young graduates. This time among many firms offering jobs were: ABK, American Chamber of Commerce, Care SBAC, Cargill, Citibank, Ernst & Young, Johnson & Johnson, Office Depot, ORFE, Personnel Select, Sheraton Warsaw Hotel and Towers, Summit Computer International, Sodexo, Tempservice, Universal Express and Warsaw Business Journal.

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

During the last PAAS Conference in Gdańsk, 5-7 December 1996, two members of their Section were elected to the new Board of the Association : Agata Preis-Smith became one of the two Vice-Presidents, Tomasz Basiuk was elected as the new Treasurer. It was also decided that our Institute would organize and host the 1997 PAAS Conference, in cooperation with the Warsaw Fulbright Office and in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Fulbright program.

#### **News from American Literature Department, UMSC, Lublin**

Jerzy Kutnik and Paweł Frelik took part in the 2nd Conference of Romanian Society for English and American Studies which was held on May 29-June 3, 1996 in Constanța. Both Polish participants presented papers.

Paweł Frelik took part in and presented a paper "Wild(er)ness of Technology" at a conference organized by the Institute of English and American Culture of University of Silesia in Szczyrk in May 1996.

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

Agnieszka Salska delivered papers at the Annual American Literary Studies Conference in Mińsk in May 1996 on "Emily Dickinson Today" and at the Conference of International Society for Contemporary Literature and Theater in Salt Lake City, Utah in July 1996 on "Freedom and Form: Galway Kinnel's 'When One Has Lived a Long Time Alone'."

Agnieszka Salska was invited to give guest lectures on "The Poetry of Emily Dickinson's Letters" at College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, and Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA.

Jadwiga Maszewska has been invited to take part in this year's conference of the Southern Studies Forum, "The Contemporary South and Its Background", which will take place in Odense, Denmark in August 21-24, 1997.

Zbigniew Maszewski will take part in an international conference of the Melville Society in Volos, Greece, July 2-6, where he will present a paper entitled: "The Myth of the Book in the Works of Herman Melville and Bruno Schulz."

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

In September 1996, Elzbieta H. Oleksy became a member of the editorial board of American Literary Scholarship (ALS), a research annual published by Duke University Press since 1963. She will be contributing a section "Eastern European Contribution" to the ALS.

In September 1996, Elzbieta H. Oleksy became a member of the Steering Committee of the Women's Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh.

In the fall of 1996, Elzbieta H. Oleksy gave four talks in the US: "Transformation of Education in Poland," University of Pittsburgh, Sep 1996. "Women's Culture in Poland and the US South," University of Pittsburgh, Oct 1996. "Women's Studies In Poland," University of Oregon and Oregon State University, Nov 1996.

In August 1996, Elzbieta H. Oleksy was awarded a grant for the realization of a three-year TEMPUS Joint European Project, "Modernization of Curriculum in International Studies." Oleksy's project, submitted as one of 178 projects from Poland in January 1995, was one of two successful Polish projects in the humanities. NAS, which coordinates the project, has two Polish partners: the Jean Monet Centre at the Nicholas Copernicus University, Toruń and the Polish Radio SA, and three EU partners: Roehampton Institute, London, University of Joensuu, Finland, and University of Granada, Spain. The main activities undertaken in the project are: development of curricula in international media, international law, public speaking and presentations, and international business strategies; as well as, implementation of the European credit transfer system, and student and faculty mobility.

Agnieszka Borkowska & Tomasz Pludowski took part in the American Studies Colloquium "Pluralism in American Culture: Friction and Fruition," which was held in Olomunc, Czech Republic, on September 1-7, 1996.

Agnieszka Borkowska & Tomasz Pludowski represented NAS at the PAAS conference in Gdańsk and read their papers. The titles were respectively: "My Grandmother, My Mother; My Aunt, My Mother; My Sister, My Mother...:Black Surrogate Mothers in Three Contemporary American Novels" and "A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words - Political Campaigning in the Television Era."

Wieslaw Oleksy who is continuing his Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship at the department of Modern Languages and Literatures, SUNY at Buffalo, organized an evening of Szyborska's poetry reading in English and an exhibition of books and other publications by and about Szyborska in the main library of the University at Buffalo. He also met with the President of the Kosciuszko Foundation Chapter of Western New York, Mr. A. Smaczniak. A possibility of organization of summer schools for Polish students of American Studies was discussed and how Polish American organizations could help to run such summer schools.

Important visits at NAS: Kate Delaney, the Cultural Attache of the American Embassy in Warsaw, accompanied by Malgorzata Koszelew, USIS Warsaw, met with NAS faculty and discussed, among other topics, the setting up of AMERICAN READING ROOM (ARR) which will house the American Studies Collection donated to NAS by USIS Washington, D.C. The collection contains over 1000 books selected by leading Americanists in the USA. The ARR will be accessible to the general public. ARR will also function as NAS's library. The official opening of the facility is planned for November 14, 1997.

NAS was designed as one of the four centers in Poland which will be assisted by the Canadian Embassy in teaching and research about Canada. The decision was announced during S. Bogdan's (Canadian Embassy's Counsellor) meeting with Elzbieta H. and Wieslaw Oleksy at NAS. NAS will also benefit from the deposit of a large collection of Canadian films and videos. Other important projects have also been discussed.

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## GUEST LECTURERS

Naomi Jacobs of the University of Maine (Orono) visited AL&CD, University of Lodz in November and gave a lecture on : "American Literary Utopias."

For the academic year 1996/97 ALS, Warsaw's Fulbright lecturer is Professor Susan Kurjiaka from Florida Atlantic University. She is teaching courses on nineteenth-century literature, Afro-American writing and women's writing.

Ms Cheryl Malcolm from Gdańsk University has been invited by ALS, University of Warsaw, to teach a course on contemporary Jewish American writers.

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## NEW COURSES

**Jerzy Durczak** (UMSC, Lublin) teaches this year a new course entitled: History of American Autobiography.

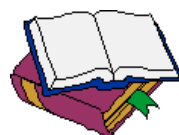
**Jerzy Kutnik** (UMSC, Lublin) teaches a new M.A. seminar entitled: Civil Rights Movement

**Sheila O'Brien**, this year's Fulbright Professor at the AL&CD, is leading a doctoral seminar on "Multicultural Dimensions of American Literature", and an undergraduate course on American Film of the 1950s.

NAS in the Cyberspace. NAS's students will be taking a course on "Ethnic and Racial Conflicts Resolution" which will be offered via INTERNET to eight American and four European universities. This unique possibility was arranged by Wieslaw Oleksy during his visit at W. Paterson College of New Jersey where he was hosted by V. Parrillo, chairperson of the Department of Sociology. The course will be jointly coordinated by **Wieslaw Oleksy** from SUNY at Buffalo and **L. Brunnell** at NAS.

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## PUBLICATIONS



**Krzysztof Andrzejczak**, *The Writer in the Writing : Author as Hero in Postwar American Fiction.*, Lodz University Press, 1996.

**Krzysztof Andrzejczak**, „Lekkie zniekształcenie widzenia," VERTE, *Gazeta Wyborcza*,  
Lodz, Feb 16, 1996.

**Krzysztof Andrzejczak**, „Cofajacy sie horyzont", VERTE, *Gazeta Wyborcza*,  
Lodz, May 10, 1996.

**Krzysztof Andrzejczak**, „Pisarz sterroryzowany," VERTE, *Gazeta Wyborcza*,  
Lodz, Oct 18, 1996.

**Joanna Durczak**, "James McClintock's Nature's Kindred Spirits!" review, *KWARTALNIK NEOFILOLOGICZNY* vol. XLII (4/1995)

**Joanna Durczak**, "Derek Walcott: poeta uniwersalny," *KRESY* 27 (3/1996)

**Jerzy Durczak**, "Eva Hoffman's Immigrant Autobiography: A Quiet Affirmation." in *The American Columbiad: "Discovering" America Inventing the United States*, ed. Mario Materassi, Maria Irene Ramalho de Sousa Santos, Amsterdam: VU University Press, 1996

**Jerzy Durczak**, "Raz jeszcze o Kosińskim," *AKCENT* 3 (56), 1996

**Jerzy Durczak**, "Kosinski : The Final Chapter," review of James Park Sloan's Jerzy Kosiński: A Biography. *AMERICAN BOOK REVIEW*, 1 (18), Oct-Nov 1996. (with Cezar M. Ornatowski)

**Pawel Frelik**, "Wild(er)ness of Technology," in *Images of Wildness*, University of Silesia Press (accepted for publication)

**Marek Jedliński**

"Zwyrodnialy umysl." *Tygiel Kultury* : Feb 1996- review and analysis of Bret Easton Ellis' novel *American Psycho*. It's a Polish version of paper presented at the annual PAAS conference in Oct 1995.

**Jerzy Kutnik**, "Johna Cage'a Cos i Nic," *LITERATURA NA SWIECIE*, 1-2, 1996. oraz ibid. "John Cage w Internecie.", "John Cage, kalendarium zycia i twórczosci", "W obronie Erika Satie." (tłum. współaut. Dorota Janowska)

**Jadwiga Maszewska's** article "Ecofeminist Themes in Marilynne Robinson's *Housekeeping*" appeared in vol.28 of *American Studies in Scandinavia* published by Odense University Press, Denmark.

**Jadwiga Maszewska's** article "Home and Homelessness in Tony Morrison's *Beloved*" was published in *Literatur in Wissenschaft und Unterricht*, a journal of the English Department at the University of Kiel, Germany.

A new book by Professor **Krzysztof Michalek**

was published in May of 1996. The book is entitled *Pod banderami Unii i Konfederacji. Wojna Secesyjna 1861-65 na morzach i rzekach* (Under Union and Confederate Flags. The Civil War of 1861-65 on Seas and Rivers), Warsaw University Press, Warsaw 1996.

*Problematyka kobiet na swiecie*, ed., Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, 1996. The volume is a selection of papers presented at the Teaching Women's Studies Conference organized by Elzbieta H. Oleksy at the University of Lodz in May 1993.

**Elzbieta H. Oleksy**. "Kraina Dixie," in *Verte*. Tygodnik kulturalny, *Gazeta Wyborcza* Oct 18 , 1996.

Proceedings from workshops on "Freedom and Form: American Poetry 1946-96" co-organized by Agnieszka Salska and Esther Lochndorf will appear in print with the help of a grant from EAAS.

Several papers from last year's Jerzy Kosiński conference co-organized by the AL&CD appeared in the May 1996 issue of "Tygiel Kultury" monthly.

**In print:**

Eds. **Agnieszka Salska & Marek Jedliński**. *Jerzy Kosiński. Man and Work at the Crossroads of Cultures.*, Lodz University Press.  
Polish version: eds. **Agnieszka Salska & Grzegorz Gazda**. *Jerzy Kosiński. Człowiek i dzieło na skrzyżowaniu kultur.* (Da Capo)

**Agnieszka Salska** reviewed Christianne Miller's book Marianne Moore, Question of Authority in recent EAAS Newsletter.

**Agnieszka Salska**, „Jerzy Kosiński - artysta naszego czasu," *Tygiel Kultury*,  
May 1996, Lodz.

**Agnieszka Salska** : „Emily Dickinson po polsku," *Odra* 7-8, July- Aug, 1996.

**Agnieszka Salska** : „Emily Dickinson in Polish - Recent translation." *The Emily Dickinson Journal*, vol.V, No. 2

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

The International Conference "**THE UNIVERSITY IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY; PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES**" Lodz: 14-17 November 1997 will have a section entitled: "American Perspectives on the Future of Higher Education." Deadline for the submission of paper title and a half-page abstract is March 30, 1997. Please get in touch with the conference chair, Wieslaw Oleksy at NAS.

Professor Elzbieta H. Oleksy has accepted an invitation to act as a contributor of the "East European" chapter of the AMERICAN LITERARY SCHOLARSHIP (Duke UP). Please submit copies of books you have authored or edited, articles, essays, interviews to be reviewed for the AMERICAN LITERARY SCHOLARSHIP by June 30, 1997.

The Bielorrussian Association for American Studies, The American Studies Center of the European Humanities University, World Literature Department of the Minsk State Linguistic University with the support of USIS, Belarus have the honor to announce the 7th International Conference **THE EUROPEAN TRADITION VS AMERICAN EXPERIENCE** which will take place in Minsk in mid-May ,1997. Prospective contributors to the Conference can contact its organizers at the following address:

Prof. Yuri Stulov  
American Studies Center  
European Humanities University  
220000 Minsk, pr. F. Skaryny, 24  
Bielarus.  
tel/fax: +00375 (17) 2768159 or 2367632

Deadline for applications is April 10, 1997.

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## FROM THE EDITOR:

The next issue of the PAAS Newsletter is scheduled for June 1997. 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

UMSC, Lublin -Department of American Literature and Culture, Maria Sklodowska-Curie University, Lublin

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