

POLISH ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

NEWSLETTER NO. 18
NOVEMBER 2000

Editor: Jadwiga Maszewska
Assistant Editor: Malgorzata Myk

Department of American Literature and Culture
University of Lodz

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

[Institute of English Philology, University of Białystok](#)
[Department of American Literature and Culture, UMCS, Lublin](#)
[Department of American Studies & Mass Media, University of Lodz](#)
[Department of American Literature, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan](#)
[Department of English, Nicholas Copernicus University, Torun](#)
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[American Studies Center, University of Warsaw](#)
[Department of American Literature & Culture, University of Lodz](#)

Institute of English Philology at the University of Białystok

Events and activities Halina Parafianowicz's book *Eleanor Anna Roosevelt (1884-1962). W Cieniu Wielkiego Męża* was promoted in The American Studies Center in Warsaw on June 10, and later on June 30 in Książnica Podlaska in Białystok.

Conferences Halina Parafianowicz participated in the conference "Wiek Kobiet w Literaturze" organized by the Institute of Polish at the University of Białystok; on October 19 she presented a paper "Eleanor Roosevelt w Białym Domu, czyli Jak Ameryka Rządziła Kobieta".

Publications Halina Parafianowicz "Mit Amerykański i Amerykanizacja Czechosłowacji po I Wojnie Światowej," in *Dzieje Najnowsze*, 3/2000

Department of American Literature and Culture UMCS Lublin

"Revisiting the American Century"
Puławy, 20-24 September 2000

"Revisiting the American Century" was the third in the series of workshop-conferences for young scholars from former

Eastern Block countries. Organized by the Department of American Literature and Culture at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University and supported by the American Embassy, the event - as usual - took place in Puławy, in the Sybilla conference center. The conference has hopefully become a fixture, and so (hopefully, too) have Heinz Ickstadt (J.F. Kennedy Institute, Berlin) and Rob Kroes (University of Amsterdam), the two former executive officers of the European Association for American Studies, who have been coming to Puławy ever since the series was initiated. Other guest lecturers included Mick Gidley (University of Leeds), Agnieszka Graff (American Studies Center, Warsaw) and Jerzy Kutnik (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University). The conference participants represented universities and colleges from Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Moldavia, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Poland. Apart from lectures and panel discussions, the participants could relax during an afternoon trip to the nearby Kazimierz Dolny, and a bonfire party in the woods near Puławy.

Events and activities Last June, together with its counterparts at the University of Silesia and the University of Warsaw, the Department co-organized the "Queer Perspectives" conference.

Jerzy Durczak has been appointed the Director of the Institute of English at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University.

Roy Goldblatt (University of Joensuu, Finland) taught a seminar on American Naturalism.

In the academic year 2000/2001 the Department hosts Larry Hussman, a Fulbright professor. It is his second time in Poland after a similar term in Warsaw several years ago.

Last April, six faculty members took part in the biennial conference of the European Association of American Studies. Jerzy Durczak chaired a workshop titled "Rivers and the American Experience" while Joanna Durczak, Małgorzata Rutkowska, Bianka Zarzycka, and Paweł Frelik presented papers. Jerzy Kutnik participated in the conference as the PAAS representative to EAAS.

Dorota Janowska is currently a Junior Fulbright Scholar at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Last September Małgorzata Rutkowska (formerly Siwek) spent four weeks at the Kennedy Institute in Berlin researching for her doctoral dissertation.

Bianka Zarzycka spent 6 weeks as a fellow at Fulbright American Studies Institute 2000 at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. The title of the Institute was "An American Gumbo: Cultural Geography of the United States."

Last July Jerzy Kutnik was a recipient of a fellowship from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York City.

The Department WWW page is up! Please visit us at: <http://klio.umcs.lublin.pl/~ptsazlka/dalc/dalc.htm>

Guest lecturers **Ole Moen** (Norway)
"Affirmative Action in the USA"

Paul Lauter (Trinity College, Hartford)
"Civil Rights and American Literature: From Mississippi

Summer to the Heath Anthology"

Publications

Jerzy Durczak

"Ihab Hassan: The Art or Risk", *Anglistik* (11-2-2000), 34-44

"Interview with Ihab Hassan", *Anglistik* (11-2-2000), 25-33

Bianka Zarzycka

"Roaring Loud, Standing Proud. Malcolm X in the Pop Culture of the 1990s" *Proceedings of the CAAR Conference in Munster 1999*, November 2000.

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

Honors

In September 2000, ASM joined the newly established Faculty of International and Political Studies. Elżbieta H. Oleksy, who continues to chair ASM, became the first Dean of the new Faculty.

At a meeting in Bologna Elżbieta H. Oleksy was elected to serve on the five-member Executive Council of the Association of Institutions for Feminist Education and Research in Europe (AIOFE).

ASM launched a new Postgraduate Program in Journalism and Social Communication with Tomasz Płudowski acting as Director. The program accepted its first thirty students in September 2000.

Visiting Professors

Susan Hammond, a Fulbright professor of history and political science (the American University, Washington, D.C.), teaches three courses at ASM: American Government and Politics, Presidency: Elections and Governing, and The US Congress; she also supervises MA and Ph.D. students.

Mary Jirgensons (Brown University) teaches MA seminars US History and Politics, United States History, and The making of the United States as a Great Power.

Guest lecturers

On May 15, Paula S. Fass (Professor at the University of California, Berkeley) visited ASM and gave a lecture on "The Abduction of Charles Lindberg."

Events and activities

Elżbieta Durys spent the summer semester of 1999/2000 at the University of Joensuu in Finland on a Socrates/Erasmus scholarship. She gathered materials for her Ph.D. thesis on the films of John Cassavetes.

In September, Ewa Brzezinska participated in a conference: "Polish Women Managers 2000" organized by the International Forum for Women and Project Firma 2000. She conducted a workshop on "Communication - Driving Force for Teams".

Tomasz Płudowski was appointed by the Salzburg Seminar to participate in the workshop "Political Leadership and Media Democracy", which took place between October 21 and 28, 2000 in Salzburg, Austria.

Special programs 47 students are continuing the fifth semester of the MA Special Program in American Studies and Mass Media. The following MA Seminars are offered in this program in the fall of 2000:

- Organizational Behavior (Ewa Brzezińska)
- United States History and Politics (Mary Jirgensons)
- Language Use and Function in Interpersonal Communication, the Media and Politics (Wiesław Oleksy)
- American Cinema: Social Problems and Politics (Jan Rek)

In September 2000, 70 students were admitted to the MA Special Program in American Studies and Mass media directed by Wiesław Oleksy.

Publications **Elżbieta H. Oleksy,**
Elżbieta Ostrowska, Michael Stevenson, eds. *Gender in Film and the Media. East-West Dialogues*, Hamburg: Peter Lang, 2000

"A Sparrow with a Broken Wing...and a Shot of Vodka': Visualizations of Women in Polish Post-War Culture" in: *Gender in Film and the Media. East-West Dialogues*. New York and Hamburg: Peter Lang, 2000.

"Active Heroines in Polish Film. Constructions of Femininity through the Language of the Cinema", *Bochum Studies in Adult Education*, 2000.

Tomasz Pludowski
"Politics and Media in Poland after 1989: The Rise of the Peripheral Strategy of Persuasion in Political Campaigning on Television", *International Studies. Interdisciplinary Political and Cultural Journal*, University of Łódź, No. 1/2000.



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, 2001.

Please send your materials to:
Prof. dr hab. Elżbieta H. Oleksy
Department of American Studies
and Mass Media
University of Lodz
Narutowicza 54/11
90-136 Lodz
Poland



International Conference

American Culture in the Era of Globalization Łódź

Poland: October 20-23, 2001

Department of American Studies and Mass Media
University of Lodz
&
The Polish-US Fulbright Commission, Warsaw

seek proposals for papers and panels related to any of the topics
that will be discussed in the following sections:

- National Identities and the Americanization of European Cultures
 - American Mass Media and Globalization
- The Impact of American "High" and "Low" Cultures on the Processes of Globalization
 - The Role of the Fulbright Program in the Globalization Processes
 - Americanization vs. Cultural Globalization

Conference Secretary: Jarosław Wojcieszek

Deadline for the submission of proposals
(title and a half page abstract): April 30, 2001

Address:
Department of American Studies
and Mass Media
University of Lodz
Narutowicza 54/11
90-136 Lodz
POLAND

Phone: +48+42 631 9760

Fax: +48+42 631 9582

E-mail: specamer@kryisia.uni.lodz.pl

Conference Fee: \$50.00

The cost of hotel (3 nights), conference materials,
and full board: \$ 200.00

Department of American Literature and Culture, University of Lodz

Seminars In October, Krzysztof Andrzejczak started a two-year MA seminar on Canadian literature entitled "Contexts in Canadian Literature"

Publications **John Crust**
"Year in a Polish City," *Jewish Post and News*, (Winnipeg, Canada), September 27, 2000.



Department of American Literature and Culture
of the University of Lodz
announces a conference and workshop on:

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH

The Conference is scheduled to take place on April 18-20, 2001
in Dobieszków near Łódź. Three distinguished speakers:

- Richard Godden of the University of Keele in Great Britain
- Peter Nicolaisen of Flensburg University in Germany
- Noel Polk of the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS, USA

are going to present lectures and conduct workshop sessions
dealing with contemporary literary works by Southern writers.
Reading list for the conference will be sent to
prospective participants.

Estimated conference fee: 200 PLN
For further information, please contact:

Prof. dr hab. Agnieszka Salska
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University of Lodz
Al. Kościuszki 65
90-514 Lodz

Fax: + 48 42 6390220
E-mail: Salska@Kryisia.uni.lodz.pl

American Literature Department Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan

Guests On March 28, 2000 we had the honor to host Hayden White, professor from the University of California/Stanford University, who held an open seminar on "Figural Realism"

Marek Wilczynski is spending this academic year 2000/2001 as Senior Fulbright Fellow at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Conferences Joseph Kuhn, Marek Wilczynski and Magdalena Zapędowska participated in the EAAS Conference "'Nature's Nation Reconsidered: American Concepts of Nature from Wonder to Ecological Crisis'" held in Graz, Austria on April 14-17, 2000. Marek Wilczynski chaired a workshop on "Gothic Nature" in which he presented a paper titled "From Edwards to Slosson: Nature and Typology in the New England Local Color Gothic." Joseph Kuhn read a paper titled "Nature in the Southern Renaissance: Gothic or Demonic?" and Magdalena Zapędowska spoke on "Travel into Nature in Henry David Thoreau's A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers and Seweryn Goszczyński's Diary of a Journey to the Tatras."

Marek Wilczyński took part in the conference "Na początku wieku..." hosted by the School of Polish, Adam Mickiewicz University, and held in Poznan on April 4-6, 2000. He read a paper on "Trzy Wizje Tradycji u Progu Amerykańskiego Romantyzmu (Richard Henry Dana Sr., James March, Ralph Waldo Emerson)".

Agnieszka Rzepa participated in the British Association for American Studies Conference held at Swansea, Wales on April 6-9, 2000. She delivered a paper "Textual Androgyny? Susan Sontag's *Volcano Lover* As an Androgynous Text."

Agnieszka Rzepa took part in the conference "Queer

Perspectives: The Growth Pains and Prospects of Queer Studies in Poland and Central/Eastern Europe" organized in Szczyrk on June 2-5 by the Institute of British and American Culture and Literature, University of Silesia, the Institute of English, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, and Warsaw University). She read a paper on "A Little Transvestite Thrill and a Miraculous Harmony: Janet Hobhouse's Dancing in the Dark."

Events On September 18, Magdalena Zapędowska defended her doctoral dissertation on "Nature and Subjectivity in American and Polish Romanticism". The dissertation was supervised by Marek Wilczynski and reviewed by Agnieszka Salska and Andrzej Kopcewicz. She is now leaving the Department to teach at the Institute of Pedagogy and the Fine Arts at Adam Mickiewicz University in Kalisz.

Publications **Paulina Ambrozy**
"John Barth's The Sot-Weed Factor - A Case of Hypertextuality," *Studia Anglica Posnaniensia*, vol. 35 (2000)

Marek Wilczynski is a co-editor of Hayden White's *Poetyka Pisarstwa Historycznego*, eds. Ewa Domanska and Marek Wilczyński, Kraków: Universitas, 2000.

Marcin Turski
"Zygmunt Bauman's Postmodern Ethics and John Barth's The Sot-Weed Factor," in *Reflections on Ethical Values in Post(?)Modern American Literature*," ed. Teresa Pyzik, Katowice: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego, 2000, 26-43.

Agnieszka Rzepa
"Krotka Przechadzka po Anglojęzycznej Literaturze Współczesnej Kanady" *Poradnik Bibliograficzno-Metodyczny* 3/130, Poznań: Wojewódzka Biblioteka Publiczna i Centrum Animacji Kultury w Poznaniu, 10-19.

Department of English Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torun

Events and activities Mirosława Ziaja-Bucholtz (Ph.D. Brandeis University, MA Jagiellonian University) joined the English Department on October 1, 2000

Seminars Mirosława Ziaja-Bucholtz started teaching a new seminar on Henry James's tales and nouvelles. Spanning thirty years of James's creative work - from "The Madonna of the Future" (1873) to "The Beast in the Jungle" (1903) - the seminar traces the development of James's style, as well as his views on life and art.

Publications **Mirosława Ziaja-Bucholtz**
"Generic Shifts in Two Polish Translations of James's The American," *PASE Papers in Literature and Culture*, ed. Ewa Kęmbłowska-Ławniczak, Wrocław: Aksel, 2000, 185-191.

"Amerykanin w Pozie Niedbałej," *Literatura na Świecie* 1/2 (2000), 391-398 (a review)

American Literature Department University of Warsaw

Events and activities Agata Preis-Smith spent the last academic year as Visiting Fulbright Professor at the University of California at Riverside working on the subject of "Performativity, Camp and Gender Masquerade" in American Poetry of the 1950s and 1960s.

During the spring semester 2000, Shelley Armitage, Professor at the University of Texas at El Paso, was Distinguished Fulbright Chair at the Institute of English Studies, University of Warsaw. She offered courses on postmodern women and ethnic writers, and gave a faculty seminar on the status of photography and other visual documents in contemporary American studies.

In May, Ewa Łuczak defended her doctoral dissertation entitled "Functions and Forms of Memory in the Novels of Toni Morrison." The dissertation was written under the supervision of Elżbieta Oleksy.

Conferences

Tomasz Basiuk

"Queer Narratives and Identities: Some Reflections on Daniel Mandelsohn's *The Elusive Embrace: Desire and the Riddle of Identity*." Gdańsk: PASE Conference, April 2000.

"Are Mothers Queer? Pedro Almodovar Revisits Tennessee Williams." Szczyrk: Seminar on "Queer Perspectives: the Growth Pains and Prospects of Queer Studies in Poland and Central/Eastern Europe," (co-organized by Tomasz Basiuk, John R. Leo, and Tomasz Sikora), June 2000.

Visits

Paul Lauter,

general Editor of the Heath Anthology of American Literature, talked about his experience as instructor at black colleges in Mississippi in the 1960s.

Tony A. Frayer,

Professor at the University of Alabama, Distinguished Fulbright Chair at the American Studies Center, University of Warsaw, gave a talk on the narratives of American national identity ("The Idea of America").

Stephen Tapscott,

Professor at M.I.T., Distinguished Fulbright Chair at the English Department at the University of Łódź, gave a poetry reading co-hosted by the Fulbright Commission and the Warsaw Lambda Group, and offered a seminar on the Gettysburg Address to Tomasz Basiuk's "The Idea of America" class.

Publications

Ewa Luczak

"Defence of Repetition, or Toni Morrison as an Oral Artist," in *Reflections on Ethical Values in Post(?)Modern American Literature*, ed. Teresa Pyzik, Katowice: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego, 2000.

Marek Paryz

"The House of Seven Gables by Nathaniel Hawthorne: Dementia Versus Social Dictatorship," in *Reflections on Ethical Values in Post(?)Modern American Literature*, ed. Teresa Pyzik, Katowice: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego, 2000.

"Derangement, Desire and Dissimulation in Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Cask of Amontillado'," in *PASE Papers in Literature and Culture. Proceedings of the 8th Annual Conference of the Polish Association for the Study of English*, ed. Ewa Keblowska-Lawniczak, Wrocław: Aksel, 2000.

American Studies Center University of Warsaw

In view of our rather longish absence from these pages, a more detailed initial presentation seems to be advisable.

The American Studies Center was established more than 25 years ago, first as a research institution and then, in the last decade, as an independent Warsaw University unit, empowered to confer M.A. degrees upon both full-time and weekend students.

- Faculty** Over the years, the ASC has grown into the largest American Studies institution in Poland, with 5 senior faculty members, 7 faculty members with Ph.D.'s and 3 junior faculty; faculty fields of expertise range from American literature and culture to American politics to American business and so on. We also host a Distinguished Fulbright Chair, held this year by Prof. Ronald Shaiko, whose field is US politics. The Center has recently reorganized its faculty, and three new permanent faculty members have joined us in October: Dr Agnieszka Graff, whose primary field is American literature/criticism and Feminism; Dr Grzegorz Szulczewski, whose field is business ethics; and Mr. Andrzej Filipiak. M.A., who is very close to completing his dissertation on American Conservatism. Ms. Krystyna Mazur, Ph.D., received her doctorate from Cornell this summer. Moreover, more than a dozen outside lecturers offer classes to our ca. 300 students, majoring in various aspects of American Studies. Prof. Zbigniew Lewicki as its Director and Prof. Cynthia Dominik as the Deputy Director currently lead the Center.
- Courses** The curriculum was re-drawn this year: all students (who already have a licencjat or have completed 5 semesters elsewhere) have to complete 6 semesters of studies at the ASC, where they must take 30 courses in 12 different areas, all connected with American Studies. The list of courses offered at the ASC changes yearly. The students are assisted by a sizable library, which includes a unique periodicals collection, and a free-access Internet Cafe.
- Special events** The Center hosts the Distinguished Speakers Series, which in the past featured such speakers as Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Polish Foreign Affairs and Defense Ministers, opens its 2000/2001 season on November 13 with the US Ambassador, Christopher Hill, commenting on the US elections.

Outside connections The Center is a member of American Studies Network, which brings together American Studies centers from all over Europe. Its "old" ties with Indiana University no longer exist, though faculty members keep visiting both ways.

Dr Piotr Ostaszewski was a guest lecturer at Kent State University in 1999/2000, and Dr. Bohdan Szklarski has been teaching at Notre Dame since January 2000.

Publications The ASC has been publishing American Studies for some twenty years now, the latest issues in cooperation with the PAAS. It also puts out its own Dissertations Series (Piotr Ostaszewski's doctorate was the latest publication in it) and the ASC Studies series, with Dr B. Winid' s book on NATO enlargement published recently.

The ASC has stopped the publication of its Newsletter, and will soon move its contents to the Center Web site, about to be launched.

Recent publications **Grzegorz Kostrzewa-Zorbas**

"Wojna o Kosowo, Stany Zjednoczone, NATO i bezpieczeństwo europejskie," in: Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska, ed., *Świat po Kosowie*, Warszawa 2000

"Wielkie teorie polityki światowej," in: *Wprowadzenie do stosunków międzynarodowych*, Warszawa 2000.

Halina Parafianowicz

Eleanor Anna Roosevelt, Wydawnictwo UW, 2000

"Legenda Woodrow Wilsona w międzywojennej Czechosłowacji," in: Cezary Kukło, ed., *Miedzy polityka a kultura*, Warszawa

"Mit amerykański i amerykańizacja Czechosłowacji," in: *Dzieje Najnowsze*, 2/2000.

Bohdan Szklarski

"Democratic Fundamentalism: The Discursive Culture of Right-Wing Extremists," in: *Federalism. Citizenship, and Collective Identities in US History*, European Contributions to American Studies XLVII, Amsterdam 2000.

Bogusław Winid

"Polska w polityce zagranicznej prezydenta Woodrow Wilsona a latach 1919-1920," *Studia Historyczne* vol. 22. London 1999.

FROM THE TREASURER:

The PAAS bank account is:
Bank PKO BP, XV Oddział w Warszawie
05 - 10201156 -123114426
(the old account number cannot be used after January 1, 2001)

FROM THE EDITOR:

The next issue of the PAAS Newsletter can be expected in March 2001. 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 address of the PAAS WWW page has changed!

It is now:

<http://klio.umcs.lublin.pl/~ptszalka/>

The old address is still valid though, and will continue to re-direct the visitors to the new page

The page features the general information concerning PAAS, the Board as well as the archive with PAAS Newsletters. 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

ptszalka@klio.umcs.lublin.pl

or the snail mail address:

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