

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF MIDWESTERN LITERATURE

NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Number I  
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240 Ernst Bessey Hall  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

As a result of an idea, a letter of inquiry circulated among a few scholars, and with a consensus that such an organization was both desirable and feasible, the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature is now unofficially and informally a reality.

This society will be dedicated to the study of the rich literary heritage of the area that Sherwood Anderson called "Mid-America" -- the land between the Appalachians and the Rockies, the Canadian border and the Ohio River Valley. The society will first of all recognize the fact that much of the literature in the mainstream of the American literary heritage is Midwestern in its influences, inception, origin, and/or subject matter; and that the relationship between the works and the region is both real and significant.

With this principle as a point of departure, the society will exist to encourage and assist the study of that literature in whatever directions the insight, imagination, and curiosity of the members may lead.

The society can assist this study in many ways. First of all, we hope to develop an organization that, while as informal as the region out of which it comes, will be permanent and self-maintaining. This means, of course, that we will need an organizational framework, dues, a journal, meetings, and whatever other ways we can devise for encouraging the study of Midwestern literature, both by scholars and in classrooms, and for disseminating the results of that study among those who are interested.

The members of the organizing committee feel that we should move promptly to insure the success of the society and begin what we feel is a worthwhile cause. The Department of American Thought and Language and the University College of Michigan State University have generously agreed to absorb initial clerical and supply expenses, but we feel that the organization should become as self supporting as possible as quickly as possible. Therefore, we must begin by soliciting memberships and ideas, and then by providing for a permanent organization.



This historical document is, then, your personal invitation to join us by payment of \$1.00 as initial dues for 1971, to supply us with suggestions for making the organization permanent (we hope to plan a meeting for Fall, 1971), and to provide us with items of news, bibliographic items, and other comments for the next issue of this newsletter, tentatively planned for late Spring, 1971.

C. Merton Babcock, Michigan State University  
Bernard Duffey, Duke University  
Robert R. Hubach, Bowling Green State  
University  
William McCann, East Lansing, Michigan  
Russel B. Nye, Michigan State University  
William B. Thomas, Ohio State University  
David D. Anderson, Michigan State University  
(Acting Chairman)

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Enrollment Form

Enclosed is the payment of \$1.00 for 1971 membership dues in the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature (checks payable to the Society).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested members: