

SOCIETY
FOR THE
STUDY
OF

MIDWESTERN
LITERATURE

NEWSLETTER

Volume One
Number Two
Spring, 1971



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The First Annual Meeting

The first annual meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday, October 16, 1971, at Michigan State University. Agenda will include an organizational meeting and sessions devoted to the study of Midwestern literature. Committee members planning the meeting are John Ferres, Paul Ferlazzo and Eugene Huddleston. Details will follow.

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Experiments in collecting unrecorded information about both Carl Sandburg and Robert Frost have convinced Dr. William A. Sutton of Ball State University that it would be very profitable to launch a Biographical Resources Conservation Project. Details on request.

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The theme for the American Literature Forum "The City in American Literature" of the MLA meeting in Chicago will be "Chicago in Literature." Program chairman is Bernard Duffey. Participants include James T. Farrell, Daryl Hine, and David D. Anderson. The forum will be held on December 29, 1971, 8:30-10:30 A.M. in the Grand and State Ballrooms of the Palmer House.

**

Applications for lecturing appointments and advanced research grants under the Fulbright-Hays Act for 1972-1973 are now being accepted by the Committee on International Exchange of Persons, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418. Numerous openings exist in American literature. Applications received by July 1, 1971, will receive priority.

**

Directory of Interests

Dr. William A. Sutton of Ball State suggests that we compile a directory of people interested in various Midwestern literary figures, periods, and genres, and he has volunteered to work on the project. The usefulness of such a project is as obvious as its magnitude. If you are willing to share the work, please write Dr. Sutton.

Announcements continued

Possible Areas of Service

E. Bruce Kirkham of Ball State suggests possible research on minor as well as major figures, including Booth Tarkington, G.S. Porter, J.W. Riley Edgar Guest, and others. This should include lists of holdings of manuscripts in private hands as well as in libraries. Anyone interested in working in this area please contact Mr. Kirkham or the acting chairman, and we can work out a program.

**

A Dreiser Centennial Celebration will be held at Indiana State University on August 17 and 18. Included among those participating on the program are Ellen Moers, Richard Lehan, Ruth E. Kennell, Marguerite Tjader, Philip Gerber, Charles Shapiro, Neda Westlake, John J. McAleer, and Jack Salzman. A detailed description of the program will appear in the Spring, 1971, Dreiser Newsletter, published at Indiana State University. Brochures can also be obtained by contacting Robert P. Saalbach, Centennial Chairman. Richard W. Dowell

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HELP WANTED:

Contributions to this issue have been encouraging; however, the contents are only a fraction of what is being done or projected in Midwestern literature. We need the following kinds of help to compile it.

A Bibliographer
A Review Editor
A Features Editor

We also need a continuing supply of the following items:

Brief reviews (200 words)
Work in progress or contemplated
Annotated checklist items
Descriptions of pertinent journals
Notes on special collections
Notes on special libraries
Features on state resources
Questions and answers
Letters

Contributors to this issue include Herbert Bergman, Linda Wagner, Joseph Katz, C. Merton Babcock, William A. Sutton, E. Bruce Kirkham and Robert Hubach. Cover is by John Antico.

NOTES ON JOURNALS

Resources continued

Novel: A Forum on Fiction, published at Brown University three times a year, \$4.50, is now beginning its third year of publication. "Two years ago Novel pledged to help clear 'the current log-jam of conflicting novel theories'." Editorial and subscription address is Box 1984, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island 02912.

**

The Journal of Narrative Technique, published at Eastern Michigan University, three times a year, \$3.00, has just appeared for the first time. George Perkins is General Editor, Martin Kornbluth is subscription editor. Both are in the Department of English, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197. "We are interested in critical studies of all narrative literature in English (including Midwestern)."

**

The Dreiser Newsletter, published at Indiana State University twice a year, \$2.50 for two years, is publishing its second volume. Richard W. Dowell and Robert P. Saalbach are Editors; editorial address is :

English Department,
Indiana State University,
Terre Haute, Indiana 47809.

"It is dedicated to stimulating, coordinating and reporting Dreiser scholarship. Critical articles are welcome, but priority is given to material of a bibliographical nature."

**

Resources for American Literary Study

sponsored by Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Maryland, semi-annually, \$8.00, is publishing its first issue in the Spring of 1971. Edited by M. Thomas Inge, Maurice Duke, and Jackson R. Bayer, it features evaluative bibliographic essays, annotated and evaluated checklists, and other pertinent material.

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The first volume of PROOF: THE YEARBOOK OF AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHICAL AND TEXTUAL STUDIES will be published by the University of South Carolina Press in October 1971. Edited by Joseph Katz, PROOF focusses on American literature, art, and culture

through studies in the transmission and recovery of the texts by which they are defined. Contributors are encouraged both to establish the facts and to use them historically and critically.

PROOF I is a clothbound book of over three hundred pages, with articles on Charles Brockden Brown, Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Park Benjamin, Stephen and Cora Crane, Theodore Dreiser, William Faulkner, South Carolina copyright records 1794-1820, and the theory and practice of bibliography and textual criticism. Continuing features of PROOF are the serial Register of Current Publications, a descriptive record of significant in-print books, and probing review articles on noteworthy projects. PROOF I reviews the Centenary Hawthorne and its reprints, and the Serif Series of Bibliographies and Checklists. Among the many illustrations in this volume are the first reproductions of Melville's own copy of the contract for Moby-Dick and the newly-discovered dummy of Dreiser's The "Genius." Contributors to PROOF I include James B. Meriwether, Harrison Hayford, Lillian Gilkes, G Thomas Tanselle, William R. Cagle, Donald Pizer, C.E. Frazer Clark, Jr., Morese Peckham, and O. M. Brack, Jr.

Manuscripts, accompanied by return postage and a self-addressed envelope, should be sent to Joseph Katz, PROOF, Department of English University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. 29208. Subscriptions and orders for single copies go directly to the University of South Carolina Press. Single copies are \$14.95; continuation orders (subscriptions) are \$12.00.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Identification of 650 personal appearances by Carl Sandburg has been instrumental in the collecting of 6,502 episodes and items about the poet (as of April, 1971). Information about Sandburg appearances or recollections of his should be sent to Dr. William A. Sutton, English Department, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, 47306.

**

I am currently engaged in writing a dissertation under Prof. Joseph Katz tentatively entitled 'The Literary Career of Henry Blake Fuller.' For this project I would be grateful for any information -- in the form of letters, reviews, reminiscences, and the like -- concerning Fuller both as a person and as a literary and cultural figure.

Artem Lozynsky

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"The Midwest and Expatriation"

I am preparing a series of studies on the relationship between the Midwest and expatriation during the period from the end of World War I to the Depression. As Ford Madox Ford has stated, when he was editing the transatlantic review in Paris, at least 80% of the manuscripts submitted in English were by Midwesterners. I shall be focusing on individual writers, their works, themes, and attitudes, in an effort to understand the cultural and social milieu of the Midwest at this time, and the reaction of the literary expatriate to it.

Paul J. Ferlazzo

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A CHECKLIST OF CURRENT PUBLICATIONS

"Alice", a short story by Sherwood Anderson, first published in Alice and the Lost Novel (London: Elkin Mathews and Marrot, 1929) has been reprinted in Sumac (Winter, 1971), 77-83.

An Illinois Reader, edited by Clyde C. Walton (Northern Illinois University Press), collects essays by Allan Nevins, Ray A. Billington, and others, from the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society.

"Miss Ella", by Zelda Fitzgerald, has been reprinted in the Ladies Home Journal (January, 1971), 78, 106-107.

Checklist continued

"Howells, Dylks, and the Backwoods Millenium", by David D. Anderson, Northwest Ohio Quarterly (Winter, 1971), 43, 4-10, examines the origin of The Leatherwood God (1916).

"Mark Twain's Chuck-Wagon Specialties", by C. Merton Babcock, Western American Literature (Summer, 1970) discusses a number of recipes in verse in which Twain lampoons the food in public eating houses.

"William D. Gallagher: the Poet of the Ohio Valley", by David D. Anderson, Ohioana (Spring, 1971) 14, 17-21, is a review of the work of an early Ohio poet. The first of a series of eight essays on Ohio writers, it will be followed by articles on the Carey Sisters, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Hart Crane, and others.

The Rise of Silas Lapham, by William Dean Howells. Volume 12 of a Selected Edition of W.D. Howells. Text established by Ronald Gottesman, Walter J. Meserve, and David J. Nordlah. (The CEAA edition). Indiana University Press, 1970.

Now in paperback: ✓

In Defense of Man, a critical study of Saul Bellow, by John J. Clayton. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind.

Brand Whitlock, a critical study, by David D. Anderson, College and University Press, New Haven, Conn.

Marching Men, by Sherwood Anderson, edited by Ray Lewis White, Case Western Reserve University Press, Cleveland, Ohio. This critical edition in the continuing series of Anderson editions will be available in the Fall of 1971.

Forty Years of It, by Brand Whitlock, Introduction by Louis Feller. Case Western Reserve University Press. The first reprint in more than fifty years of this autobiography of a progressive politician and realistic novelist.

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A PROPOSED CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF MID-WESTERN LITERATURE

Several members of the Society have proposed the establishment, as an adjunct of the Society, an administrative unit to be known as The Center for the Study of Mid-western Literature. This unit, now informally in existence, will have as its main purpose serving the scholarly needs of the members of the Society, each of whom is also a fellow of the Center.

Organization and financial support of the Center will, however, be separate from that of the Society. This structure will enable the Center to attract Foundation and other support that would be difficult for the Society to do. Particular commitments of the Center include the following:

1. Collecting and disseminating information concerning grants, research subsidies, fellowships, projects, and publishing opportunities in the broad area of Midwestern literature.
2. Providing an organization that can seek and attract funds to support research and curriculum development in that area.
3. Working with other scholarly organizations to develop programs in or concerned with Midwestern literature.
4. Working with the U.S. Department of State, the International Federation for Modern Languages and Literatures, and other organizations in providing members with the opportunity to encourage interest in Midwestern literature abroad.
5. Collecting, preserving, and making available documents and works that will contribute to the work and interest of the members.

The temporary home of the Center will be the rather crowded quarters at 240 Ernst Bessey Hall, Michigan State University, and the acting director will be David D. Anderson.

OHIOANA LIBRARY

Believing with Thoreau that "books are the treasured wealth of the world and the fit inheritance of generations and nations," the founder and Trustees of the Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library Association have built an unique collection of books by Ohio Authors and on the Ohio Scene.

Thus today Ohioana have this treasured inheritance of books. The Ohioana Library is located at 1109 Ohio Departments Building, 65 S. Front Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

The Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library is a highly specialized library, housing only books and brochures written by Ohioans and about Ohio and Ohioans. Founded by Mrs. Myers Y. Cooper (Martha Kinney Cooper) when she was First Lady of Ohio, it is now incorporated under the laws of Ohio and is directed by a Board of Trustees, 20 of whom are elected by the membership and four appointed by the Governor.

The reason that the Ohioana Library is recognized as one of the most unique in the United States is because of the many projects, educational and promotional, which the Association sponsors and develops for the State of Ohio. These projects acquaint the public with Ohio authors and composers through many media; assist individuals and organizations in all phases of Ohio study and research; stimulate interest in Ohio and Ohioans through various publications, such as the Ohioana Quarterly magazine. The Ohioana Library Association awards medals each year for outstanding books which center national attention upon Ohio authors; presents career medals in recognition of distinguished service in different fields of activity; sponsors pilgrimages to historic shrines of Ohio, thus helping to acquaint people with our state; publishes the Ohio Pictorial Calendar which is a fine medium for publicizing Ohio not only by picture, but by authentic story.

Continued on page 5.

At the same time that the Ohioana Library Association is carrying forward these projects and adding to its service to the people of Ohio, it is ever mindful of the necessity to build a greater book collection. Each year we add both rare books and contemporary ones to our collection. Current books are presented to the Library by authors and publishers.

Ohioans at home and abroad are invited to become members of the Ohioana Library Association and thereby help to build this Ohio Collection and to assist with the many cultural and educational projects.

The American Library Association has stated: "The Ohioana Library Association has not only made the most consistent effort to develop a collection of state authors, but has shown the full potentialities of a collection of this sort when it is intelligently administered and imaginatively developed."

The success of all plans and projects of the Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library Association depends on a large, interested membership. Recognizing the value of the Ohioana Library Association and its constantly increasing service to the state, the Ohio State Legislature in 1949 gave to the Association a appropriation which is used for staff salaries. The financing of the many Ohioana projects, the development of the book collection, the purchase of valuable Ohio material, the printing of publications, the extending of service to meet the many new demands of the public depend on membership dues and gifts.

Among our projects and enrichment programs are the following: The Ohioana Quarterly, The Annual Year Book, Ohioana Day in the Fall and presentation of Ohioana Awards, Spring Pilgrimage, The Lucille Loy Kuck Ohioana Literary Contest, The Ohioana Library/Battelle Memorial Institute Creative Writing Workshop and the sending of packets of material on Ohio to school children.

The Ohioana Library is a reference library, open to the public Monday thru Friday, 9 to 5.

continued

By becoming a member of The Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library Association which conducts the Ohioana Library, by donating funds, and by donating books by Ohio authors or books about Ohio you can vitally support Ohio's proud heritage.

Bernice Williams Foley
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Bibliographies of Midwestern Authors

American Literary Realism, 1870-1910 "is a scholarly literary journal with a bibliographic focus, "emphasizing comprehensive annotated bibliographies of secondary comment." The following is a listing of bibliographies of midwestern authors that appeared in American Literary Realism, 1870-1910. Unless otherwise indicated, by title or annotation, the bibliographies are of secondary comment; the divisions of the bibliography are indicated.

Fall, 1967

Edward Eggleston

Hamlin Garland (I. Bibliography; II. Editors, Reprints, and Published Manuscript Material; III. Studies of Garland in Book Form; IV. Articles; V. Manuscript Collections.)

Joseph Kirkland (I. Studies to 1950, II. Studies after 1950, III. Further study needed.)

Spring, 1968

"Harold Frederic" (Books, Periodicals, Addenda)

"Frederic's Short Fiction: A Checklist"

"Frederic's Collection of Reviews: Supplement to the Checklist of Contemporary Reviews of Frederic's Writings"

Summer, 1968

"Charles Waddell Chesnutt" (I. History of Criticism; II. Bibliography; III. Editions, Reprints, and Published Manuscript Material; IV. Manuscript Collections; V. Recent Critical Articles; VI. Areas Needing Further Attention). The bibliographies following, unless otherwise indicated, use these headings, sometimes with variations as noted.

Bibliographies
continued

"Zona Gale"

"Brand Whitlock" (No editions or reprints listed.)

Spring, 1969

"Edgar Watson Howe" (Books, Periodicals, Newspapers)

"Joseph Kirkland" (Books, Periodicals, Newspapers)

"The Joseph Kirkland Papers"

1969 Special Supplement

A Bibliography of Writing About William Dean Howells (Part One: 1860-1919 - I. Books and Parts of Books, II. Articles, III. Reviews; Part Two: 1920-Present - I. Bibliographical Items, II 1920-Present - I. Bibliographical Items, II. Books and Parts of Books, III. Articles, IV. Dissertations, V. Reviews, Addenda.)

Spring, 1970

"Harold Frederic: Supplemental Critical Bibliography of Secondary Comment" (Books, Periodicals)

"John Hay"

Fall, 1970

"Hamlin Garland" (Books, Periodicals)

Winter, 1971

"Ambrose Bierce" (Books, Periodicals, Dissertations), Addenda)

Herbert Bergman

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Articles and notes on midwestern authors that have appeared in American Literary Realism, 1870-1910 are as follows:

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Articles
continued

Spring, 1968

"The 'Christian Science Case: An Account of the Death of Harold Fredric and the Subsequent Inquest and Court Proceedings."

Fall, 1968

"Annie Kilburn"

"A Modern Instance"

"Howells, Houses, and Realism"

Spring, 1969

"Edgar Watson Howe: Legend and Truth"

"A Note on Kirkland's Autobiographical Writing"

"A Note on the Realism of Joseph Kirkland"

Fall, 1969

"John Hay's The Bread-Winners as Literary Realism"

"Illusion and Moral Amivalence in Seth's Brother's Wife"

Winter, 1970

"The Conscious Realism of Howells' April Hopes"

"An Interview With Howells"

"As Howells Sees Fiction"

"Zona Gale and Ridgely Torrence"

Summer, 1970

"You Will Not Like Me, I M /sic/ Sure": Dreiser to Miss Emma Rector November 28, 1893, to April 4, 1894."

Fall, 1970

"What Shall We Do About Hamlin Garland"

"Harold Frederic's Narrative' Essays: A Realistic-Journalistic Genre."

Continued on page 7

Articles
continued

Winter, 1971

"Ambrose Bierce: A Romantic in an Age
of Realism."

Herbert Bergman

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REVIEWS

Robert G. Ingersoll: A Checklist, by
Gordon Stein. The Kent State University
Press, 1969. 128 pp. introduction,
chronology, appendix, index. \$5.00

The latest in the Serif Series of bibliographies and checklists, this is the first that, in spite of Robert Ingersoll's eastern origins and final years, deals with an authentic post-frontier Midwesterner. To his enemies he was the devil incarnate; to Mark Twain his was a "great and beautiful spirit," and to much of late nineteenth century America he was the purveyor of new ideas that were either heretical or liberating.

The difficult job of attempting to identify and locate the many versions and editions of Ingersoll's writings is long overdue, and Gordon Stein does it effectively and perhaps as completely as can be done. In the checklist he attempts to collate the many authorized, pirated, revised, and retitled versions of Ingersoll's lectures, printed as essays; he locates Ingersoll's contributions to periodicals, the many collections, anthologies translations, and individually published works, and he begins to wrestle with the voluminous writings about Ingersoll. Although contemporary newspaper accounts and interviews, together with most of Ingersoll's legal briefs, are missing, the checklist should prove to be valuable in future Ingersoll research. It certainly suggests a number of provocative scholarly approaches to studying the mind and works of a man too often destroyed by detractors or deified by supporters.

David D. Anderson

**

Heartland: Poets of the Midwest, edited
with an introduction by Lucien Stryk.
Northern Illinois Press, 1967. 262 pp.
\$6.50.

In his introduction to this anthology of poems by twenty-nine contemporary poets associated with the Midwest, Lucien Stryk comments that because Midwesterners are often defensive about their region, they are sometimes prone to make extravagant claims for it, claims which he refuses to make for this volume or the poets in it. Nevertheless, the collection speaks for itself, and its collective voice asserts the diversity, the vigor, and the clear sense of regional identity that its contributors share, often voiced as a curious love-hate relationship rarely found among poets of New England, the South, or the Far West.

The anthology is not provincial; those poets selected for inclusion - there are as many name poets as unknown youngsters - are first of all, true poets who have in some fashion drawn from the living experience of the Midwest and in return have sought to define it in their verse. Thus, the Midwestern voice that emerges is a fragmented montage of urban-rural, contrasts, small-townsmen, urbanites, and expatriates, the triumphant machine and endangered nature; accomplishment and mediocrity; significant accomplishment and secret shame. Just as the lives of Sherwood Anderson and Warren G. Harding touched for a brief moment in rural Ohio before each followed the path of his inclinations, the poems in the collection range widely, showing, as Stryk comments, that these writers have not chosen to ignore the land of their region, that each finds it "sufficient to his needs as man and artist."

David D. Anderson

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Route 4, Box 214,
Iowa City, Iowa. 52240
April 2, 1971.

Society for The Study of
Midwestern Literature,
240 Ernst Bessey Hall,
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan 48823,

Dear Friends:

As the founder in 1915 of The Midland, A
Magazine of the Middle West, and its
editor until the depression killed it in
1933, I am indeed much interested in your
Newsletter which I have received today. I
think your idea is sound and that there
is a truly valuable potential in the direc-
tions it proposes. Over the years (I
finally retired from teaching at the State
University of Iowa last June) I have found
students very generally attracted to and
interested in a regional approach to
American literature and emphasis on mid-
western writers.

May I suggest that in the follow-up mail-
ing which I hope you will be making, you
mention the fact that The Prairie, by
Walter J. Muilenburg, certainly one of
the best midwestern novels, has recently
been reissued in paperback by the Popular
Library. I retired from teaching as of
June 1, 1970; otherwise I would certainly
be using this book as an assigned text
this semester.

My wife and I had lunch yesterday with
James Nearst and his wife of Cedar Falls,
where he is teaching. He is in my con-
sidered judgment the best midwestern poet.
I included his work in the anthology
called Out of the Midwest, published by
Whittlesey House (McGraw Hill) in 1944.
It has steadily increased in range and
power ever since.

I hope that you will let me know what re-
sponse your proposal receives.

Sincerely,

John T. Frederick

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

All prospective members proposed by
members have received a copy of the final
newsletter, the invitation to join. Many
of them have undoubtedly decided to join
but have put the invitation aside for the
usual pressing academic reasons. Conse-
quently, perhaps many will respond to re-
minders. Institutional memberships are
also invited. If your college library or
those people you suggested are not on the
membership list, please give or send them
one of the following forms.

Enrollment Forms on page 9.

Society for the Study of Midwestern
Literature Newsletter
Volume One, Number Two
Published at Michigan State University
with the support of the Department
of American Thought and Language.
Editorial office:
240 Ernst Bessey Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan 48823
Edited by David D. Anderson
Distributed free to members of the
Society for the Study of Midwestern
Literature.

Enrollment Form

Enclosed is \$1.00 payment for membership dues in the Society for the Study of
Midwestern Literature.

Name _____

Address _____

Institutional ☐ / Special interests or collections _____

Enrollment Form

Enclosed is \$1.00 payment for membership dues in the Society for the Study of Midwestern
Literature.

Name _____

Address _____

Institutional ☒ / Special interests or collections _____

Enrollment Form

Enclosed is \$1.00 payment for membership dues in the Society for the Study of Midwestern
Literature.

Name _____

Address _____

Institutional ☒ / Special interests or collections _____

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Bowling Green, Ohio

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