

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF
MIDWESTERN LITERATURE

<http://www.ssmw.org/home>

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

David D. Anderson, Founding Editor, *MidAmerica*

Marcia Noe, Editor, *MidAmerica*

Marilyn Judith Aulas

Ohio University

Robert Beecher

Grand Valley State University

Roger Brantman

Michigan State University

Phillip Greenley

University of Kentucky

Nancy McKinney

Illinois State University

Mary DeLong Obuchowski

Central Michigan University

Ronald Pinnau

Central Michigan University

James Seaton

Michigan State University

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Paula Buchanan

Shevora Denny

Melissa Eungchaisri

Ambrey Lawson

Jonathan Clardy

Michael Lyons

Carla Coe

MidAmerica is a peer-reviewed journal of literary criticism, history, theory, and scholarship on the literature, culture, and history of the Midwest. The journal is published quarterly and is the only journal of its kind in the field. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the study of the Midwest. The journal is published by the Society for the Study of the Midwest, a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of the Midwest. The journal is published by the Society for the Study of the Midwest, a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of the Midwest.

The journal is published by the Society for the Study of the Midwest, a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of the Midwest. The journal is published by the Society for the Study of the Midwest, a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of the Midwest. The journal is published by the Society for the Study of the Midwest, a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of the Midwest.

The journal is published by the Society for the Study of the Midwest, a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of the Midwest. The journal is published by the Society for the Study of the Midwest, a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of the Midwest. The journal is published by the Society for the Study of the Midwest, a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of the Midwest.

The journal is published by the Society for the Study of the Midwest, a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of the Midwest. The journal is published by the Society for the Study of the Midwest, a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of the Midwest. The journal is published by the Society for the Study of the Midwest, a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of the Midwest.

MidAmerica XXXIII

*The Yearbook of the Society
for the Study of Midwestern Literature*

DAVID D. ANDERSON, FOUNDING EDITOR
MARCIA NOE, EDITOR

The Midwestern Press
The Center for the Study of
Midwestern Literature and Culture
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1033

2006

In Honor of
Guy Szuberla

Copyright 2006
by the Society for the Study of
Midwestern Literature
All rights reserved
Printed in the United States of America
No part of this work may be
reproduced without permission of
the publisher

MidAmerica 2006 (ISSN: 0190-2911) is a peer-reviewed journal of the Society for the
Study of Midwestern Literature.

PREFACE

On May 11, 2006, members of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature gathered in East Lansing for the thirty-sixth annual meeting of the Society. Highlights included two panels that commemorated the centenary of Paul Laurence Dunbar's death, and the second annual SSML Festival of Films' presentation of *Fei Hu: The Story of the Flying Tigers*.

At the awards banquet on Friday night, Claire van Breemen Downes was honored with the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize for "Lost Luggage," named the best poem read at the 2005 conference. Guy Szuberla received the MidAmerica Award for distinguished contributions to the study of Midwestern literature, and David Diamond received the Mark Twain Award for distinguished contributions to Midwestern Literature.

With this volume *MidAmerica* gets a new look and a new editor, the first such changes in the thirty-six-year history of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature. The founding editor, David D. Anderson, and I will be working together with the Editorial Committee to bring our readers the best in contemporary Midwestern scholarship. While we expect to change the journal very little, we are always interested in our readers' ideas. A new feature that we would like to institute is an annual review essay that discusses recently published books in Midwestern studies, so if you are the author of such a work, please send it to Marcia Noe, 535 Elinor Street, Chattanooga, TN 37405.

CONTENTS

Preface		
March Afternoon Tea		
The Gwendolyn Brooks Prize Poem	Ellen Arl	7
An Illusion of Understanding: Listeners and Tellers in Sherwood Anderson's <i>Winesburg, Ohio</i> and Carson McCullers's <i>The Heart is A Lonely Hunter</i>		
The David Diamond Student Writing Prize	Michael Merva	9
William Dean Howells and Humanistic Criticism		
The Jill Barnum Midwest Heritage Prize Essay	James Seaton	21
The Midwest, <i>The New Yorker</i> , <i>The Onion</i> and Something Funny	Guy Szuberla	31
Rock/River: Lorine Niedecker's Objectivist Poetics of the Natural World	Jonathan Ivry	48
The Matriarchal Mentor: Edna Ferber's Emma McChesney as both "New" and "Woman"	Scott D. Emmert	66
Wisconsin: Land of Strange Beings and Ancient Gods	Sara Kosiba	78
The Divided World and Conflicted Self Revealed in Stewart Edward White's <i>The Blazed Trail</i> and <i>The Unobstructed Universe</i>	Paul W. Miller	90
Religion and Literature in Sinclair Lewis and Willa Cather	James Seaton	103
Transformation of the World: The Metaphor of Fairy Tale in the Poetry of Lisel Mueller	Linda Nemeck Foster	111
Annual Bibliography of Midwestern Literature 2004	Robert Beasecker	121
Recipients of the Mark Twain Award		Inside Back Cover
Recipients of the MidAmerica Award		Back Cover