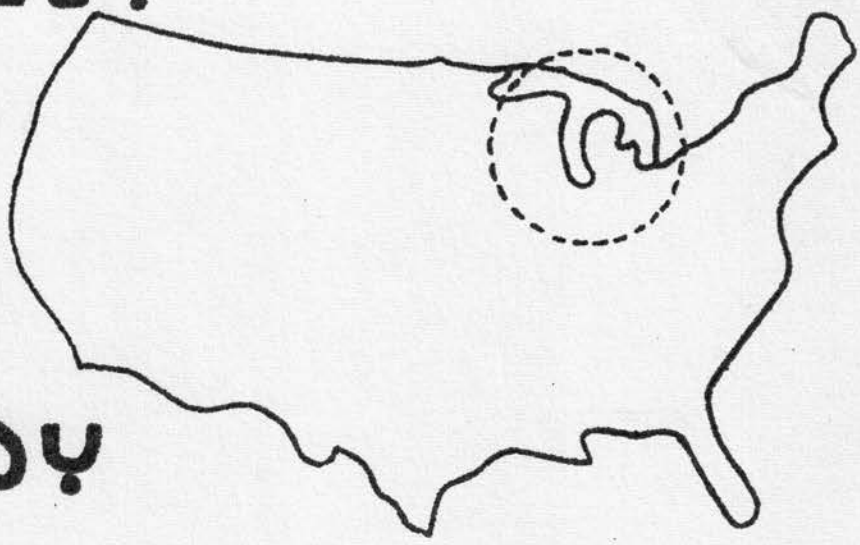
SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF MIDWESTERN LITERATURE



Newsletter
Volume Four
Number Two
Summer, 1974

Society for the Study of

Midwestern Literature

Newsletter

Volume IV Number Two

The Fourth Annual Conference

The Fourth Annual Conference will be held at the Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, on October 12, 1974. The tentative program includes the following:

Morning Panel: Midwestern Local Color as Seen by Midwestern Women Writers (9:00-11:00)

Pauline Adams, MSU, on The Dollmaker

Henry Golemba, Wayne State, on Caroline Kirkland

Robert Bray, Illinois Wesleyen, on Caroline Kirkland

Peggy Treece, Bowling Green, on Mary Catherwood

Helen Stauffer, Kearney State, on Mari Sandoz

Fred Eckman, Bowling Green, on Lorine Niedecker

Lunch speaker: Alma Payne, President

Afternoon Panel: Midwestern Popular Culture in Midwestern Literature

Ronald Primeau, Central Michigan, on Midwestern Slave Narratives

Dorys Grover, East Texas State, on Emerson Hough

Patricia Anderson, Lansing School Libraries, on Children's Literature

Clarence Andrews, Michigan Tech, on Literature of Michigan's Upper Peninsula

Gene Dent, Lakeland Community College, on Sherwood Anderson and Clyde, Ohio: Filming a Documentary

Philip Gerber, SUCNY, Brockport, on Willa Cather

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The Seminar at Midwest MLA

The Society - sponsored seminar to be held at St. Louis during the annual MMLA conference on October 31 - November 1, 1974, will focus on the topic "Research in Progress." Tentatively scheduled to speak on their current research projects are the following:

Clarence Andrews, Michigan Tech, on "The History of Middle Western Literature"

Jerry Nemanic, Northeastern Illinois on "The Bibliographic Guide to Midwestern Literature"

Don Pady, Iowa State, on "The Annual Bibliography of Midwestern Literature"

Ronald Primeau, Central Michigan, on "A Vachel Lindsay Discovery"

Dave Anderson, MSU, on "The Mind of the Midwest"

Attendance, discussion further reports are invited.

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The Programs at MLA

The Society will sponsor two programs at MLA in New York in December: a special program focusing on "Myth and Metaphor in Midwestern Literature", and the annual seminar," Teaching and Research in Midwestern Literature." The former will be chaired by

Bernard Engel, Vice President, and include the following papers:

James Austin, Southern Illinois, on "The Relevance of the Lectures of Petroleum Vesuvius Nasby"

Jeremy Mattson, MSU, on "Midwest Space in Poetry and Architecture"

Henry Golemba, Wayne State on "Caroline Kirkland en famille"

David D. Anderson, MSU, on"The Search for a Living Past"

The seminar chaired by Blair Whitney, MSU, will consist of four or five brief presentations on "New Approaches to Teaching and Research in Midwestern Literature." focusing on new authors, neglected authors, new methods, or new evaluations. Several places on the program are still available; anyone wishing to participate should write to Blair Whitney, Dept. of ATL, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824, as soon as possible.

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The Program at the Popular Culture Convention in Milwaukee on May 2, 1974.

The Society sponsored a program on "Popular Midwestern Literature" at the PCA convention on May 2.

David Anderson served as chairman and Douglas Noverr as secretary. The program included the following papers:

Bernard Engel, MSU, on "Midwestern Popular Poetry".

William McCann on "Midwestern Humorous Journalism

Patricia Anderson on "Images of the Midwest in Children's Literature"

Douglas Noverr, on "Small Town Life and Violence in Recent Michigan Fiction"

David Anderson " on "The Boys' World of Booth Tarkington."

Other members of the Society who gave papers include Etta Abrahams, MSU, on "Where Have All the Values Gone? The Private Eye's Vision of America" Jenifer Banks, MSU, on "Sex Role Stereotyping in Popular Film;" James Austin Southern Illinois, on "The Popular Image of America in France." Russel Nye, MSU,on "Music in the Twenties;" Suyil Dular, MSU, on "Popular Culture of South Asia;" Joseph Waldmeir, MSU, on John Steinbeck: No Grapes of Wrath. Others chaired sessions.

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The Spring,1974, Conference of the Michigan Women's Studies Conference was held in Flint, Michigan on May 3-4. Members participating included Gladys Beckwith, MSU, Eugene Huddleston, MSU, Sandy Gustafson, MSU, Pauline Adams, MSU, Susan Koppelman - Cornillan, Bowling Green, and others. Chief speaker was Florence Howe, SUNY.

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MidAmerica

MidAmerica I is still available and still much more successful intellectually than financially. If youand/or your institution have not yet subscribed, please do so ($3.50 for members, $5.00 for non-members).

MidAmerica II will go to press soon. Orders are now being solicited.

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Sherwood Anderson Seminar

A seminar on Sherwood Anderson, featuring discussion of the forthcoming Sherwood Anderson Centenary in September, 1976,and the formation of a Sherwood Anderson Society, will be held at MLA. If you are interested in participating in either, please attend.

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Farrell and Algren at MSU

The annual Conference in Modern Literature held at MSU featured, in its examination of the 1930's as "The Years of Commitment", participation by two outstanding Chicago writers of those years, James T. Farrell and Nelson Algren, each of whom read, commented, and reminisced. Also featured was Leslie Fiedler. Linda Wagner and Joseph Waldmeir directed the conference.

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Announcements

Newly published is American Humor, an interdisciplinary newsletter edited by M. Thomas Inge of Virginia Common-wealth University and Lawrence E. Mintz of the University of Maryland - Subscriptions are $1.00 a year for two issues, payable to either editor.

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The Old Northwest: A Journal of Regional Life and Letters

The Old Northwest is projected as a quarterly publication devoted to furthering study of the culture, early to recent, of the area included in the old Northwest Territory, comprising essentially the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The premise of the journal is that the area has an identity of tradition: in the words of the History of the Ordinance of 1787, prepared by the Northwest Territory Celebration Commission, "The name 'Old Northwest' implies that the five states included in it share a common historical and social background," a background "which gives to this section an individuality as distrinct as that possessed by the people of New England, or of the Old South."

Journals of similar emphasis have proven valuable in advancing understanding of other sections of the country. At present there is none which concentrates upon the development of "The First Colony of the United States" -- a need which The Old Northwest is intended to meet. In accord with this objective, the journal will be concerned with such matters of pertinence to the region as politics, warfare, settlement, religion, education, agriculture, industrialism, urbanization, ethnology, language, and literature, as well as with the persons who have figured in major or minor ways in these and other connections. Beyond the concerns of an internal nature, it will also give attention to the contributions of the area to the larger culture of the nation. To serve these ends , it will publish relevant articles, documents, book reviews, information about grants and fellowships, announcements of meetings of professional societies and special conferences and events, notes about manuscript acquisitions, and bibliographic citations of periodical articles. In summary, the broad purpose of The Old Northwest will be to provide a focus for the various interests of scholarship in the subject area.

Policies and Procedures

Ownership and copyright of The Old Northwest will be held by Miami University for so long as the journal is supported financially by the University and no substantial changes, except those agreed to by the central staff, are required in the conception of the journal as it is described in this proposal. The University may terminate the agreement, for any reason, on giving a calendar year's notice. In case of termination, ownership and copyright will pass to the members of the central staff at the time of the termination. It is understood that replacements of members of the central staff, if such are necessary, will be determined by the continuing members of the central staff and that no turnover in the central staff will affect the University's proprietary rights in the journal.

The central staff of the journal will consist of four positions. The managing editor will be responsible for matters involving promotion, production, advertising, and finances. The reviews editor will be responsible for all materials for inclusion except advertisements and articles. The two editors in the disciplines will be responsible for receiving submitted manuscripts and seeing them through the selection procedures. In addition to the central staff, the journal will be advised by an editorial board which will represent a reasonable geographic distribution from the states of the Old Northwest and of scholars of suitable expertise from whatever locations. To assure cooperation rather than competition, an attempt will be made to enlist the editors, or other representatives, of the five state historical magazines to serve on the board. Experts in the literature of the region will be identified through the universities of the five states and associations concerned with Midwestern liteature. It is expected that the number of persons on the board will not exceed fourteen.

The Old Northwest will be published quarterly in March, June, September, and December, with first publication planned for March of 1975. Articles should conform to the second edition of The MLA Style Sheet. Acceptance will

Old Northwest
Policies & Procedures

depend upon merit of material and quality of presentation. Ordinarily, articles will run from ten to twenty pages in printed length, although longer pieces justified by importance will be considered. An approximate balance of pieces of historical and literary reference will be maintained on an annual basis. It should be noted that the journal is not meant to be a publishing outlet for the faculty of Miami University, but articles submitted by faculty will be considered in the same fashion as all others.

Co-editors are David Frazier and Dwight L. Smith of Miami University, and Edgar Branch, Walter Havighurst, and David D. Anderson are on the editorial advisory board.

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RECENTLY RECEIVED

From Ball State University comes a booklet called Middletown Man: The Human Side of Life in Muncie, Indiana. It is a collection of essays by professors from Ball State on contemporary life in Muncie, the town once subjected to two incisive studies, Middletown (1929), and Middletown in Transition (1937) by the sociologist team of Robert and Helen Lynd. However, unlike the scientific, scholarly studies by the Lynds, this booklet seeks to examine from within the quality of life in Muncie and to create an atmosphere for improvement. It should serve as a model for other towns interested in community development.

Of most interest to members of the Society is an essay by William M. Lawbaugh, Professor of Journalism at Ball State, called "Night Walk into the 'Great Warm Heart': Imaginative Life in Muncie, Indiana." It is a witty, informative, sympathetic, and touching evalution of the town's addiction to proletarian culture by a man with a Whitmanesque soul and patrician sensibilities.

The Winter 1973 issue of Nebraska History contains three articles relating to Willa Cather. "Cather Family Letters" edited by Paul D. Riley publishes for the first time twenty-three letters written by family members during the summer of 1895 to Willa Cather's grandmother, Caroline. Although none of the letters are by Willa Cather, the letters do contain passing references to her and they do help create a strong image of her family.

The second brief article, "What Happened to the Rest of the Charles Cather Family?" by Mildred R. Bennett presents capsulized summaries of the lives of Willa Cather's brothers and sisters. The third article is a reminiscence by Charles Wesley Cowley of the 1876 Catherton Post Office in which the Cather family was involved.

The Spring 1974 issue of Essays in Literature contains an article by Joseph H. Gardner from the University of Kentucky entitled "Dickens, Romance, and McTeague: A Study in Mutual Interpretation." It is essentially a source study of the Norris novel and finds a number of similarities in character development and plotting to the novels of Dickens.

In the Spring 1974 issue of The Dreiser Newsletter, besides reviews and a useful checklist of dissertations and theses on Dreiser, there is an interview with Ruth E. Kennell, Dreiser's one-time secretary, and author of Theodore Dreiser and the Soviet Union, 1969.

Paul J. Ferlazzo

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Information Wanted

Ms. Roxanne Peters, a graduate student at the University of North Dakota, is writing her Master's thesis on the works of Lois Phillips Hudson, for which she would like critical references other than reviews. If you have any information about Ms. Hudson's work and reputation, please write: Ms. Roxanne Peters, 624 Stanford Road, Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201.

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Announcements

The Scholar's Market

An important resource for those who wish to publish articles about literature is Scholar's Market: An International Directory of Periodicals Publishing Literary Scholarship, by Gary L. Harmon and Susanna M. Harmon. This reference work supplies twenty kinds of information on each of over 800 periodicals that publish literary criticism, history, or bibliography in the English language. Information on each periodical includes the editor's name and address, the circulation number, the cost, a description of the periodical contents, the sorts of articles sought, payment figures, address and cost of back issues, and the like.

Copies of Scholar's Market are available from the Ohio State University Libraries Publications Committee, Room 322A, 1848 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

The cross-indexed volume includes eleven sections: 1) periodicals that focus on Single and Multiple Authors (e.g., Poe Studies or Studies in Browning and His Circle); 2) Age and/or Nationality (with nine sub-divisions, such as American or European: Post-Renaissance through Contemporary); 3) Genres, with sub-divisions devoted to poetry, theatre, and fiction; 4) American Ethnic Minorities; 5) Folklore; 6) Film; 7) Specialized Topics and Interdisciplinary Studies, with four subdivisions, such as Popular Culture or Theory of Literature; 8) Teaching About Literature; 9) Literary Reviews (that contain criticalessays on literature); 10) General Reviews (that contain literary appraisals on occasion); and 11) Bibliographical and Library Resources. Offered, too, are both a Title Index and an Author Index.

William White (Wayne State U.), Gary L. Harmon (U. of North Florida), and Richard R. Centing (Ohio State U.) contribute essays concerning the publishing of literary scholarship.

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The Great Lakes Review
A Journal of Midwest Culture

The Great Lakes Review will represent the first attempt to provide a forum for scholars of Midwest culture. Journals concerned with regional studies have been thriving for a good while in the South, in New England and in the trans-Mississippi West. A periodical which would focus its attentions on the cultural life of the vast country between the Alleganies and the Rockies has been long overdue. We hope to begin filling that gap now.

Perhaps it would be best to speak first about traditional pitfalls which the Review editors hope to avoid. First, we have no interest in providing a field for the exercise of regional chauvinism. Indeed, the Midwest may be God's own land, breeding a remarkably large share of what is holy and fine in America. The standard notion that the Midwest is the badly used stepchild of an effete Eastern establishment may also contain its grain of truth. Notwithstanding, the editors would prefer to leave both self aggrandizement and self righteous whimperings to those who find pleasure in them. The worn old themes we associated with that sort of regional consciousness may have served a purpose in their day -- but that "day" ante-dates the close of the American frontier.

The Middle West exists in space -- it covers approximately 600,000 square miles and is roughly the size of Western Europe. Sixty million people live in its river valleys, in what remains of its pine forests, and on its massive prairie lands. Increasingly, Midwestern folk are burying themselves in the environs of churning lake cities like Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland, or in the older, now sprawling river towns like St. Louis, Cincinnati and Kansas City.

The Middle West exists in time -- its historical records and literary traditions begin in the seventeenth century, with the arrival of learned French missionaries. Its indigenous political life is two centuries old. An unprecedented ethnic stew began a-brewing there before the Civil War, and it still boils furiously.

In the realm of human culture, much has transpired in the Midwest over the past 300 years; there remains a good deal of importance to be said about it. It is being said -- by novelists, poets, historians, folklorists, sociologists, ethnologists, dialectologists. The editors hope to provide a forum for these, and for others too, so that in the sharing of views and information we all might come to some clearer sense of this often paradoxical Midland.

We would like to say a few words about our editorial board, recruited as it was with one eye on various sch olarly disciplines, the other on the excellence of past work in Midwest studies. John Flanagan has written and edited in the field of Midwest literature for many years. His pioneering work in this area is invaluable and he knows the Midwest thoroughly. David Anderson has produced a number of monographs on Midwest writers in addition to playing a key role in founding the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature. Clarence Andrews' most recent book is a Literary History of Iowa. He is currently at work on a literary history of the Middle West. Russel Nye has written extensively on American and Midwestern history, on Midwestern political life and on popular culture. John Knoepfle has published several significant volumes of poetry, much of his work set firmly in the soil of the region. His knowledge of the current literary scene in the Midwest -- the contemporary writers, the little magazines, etc. -- is encyclopedic. Carl Condit is the recognized authority on Chicago architecture. Humbert Nelli has explored the ethnic dimensions of that city's past. Melvin Holli and Zane Miller have written seminal works on the politics of structural change in Detroit and Cincinnati. Richard Jensen has studied the rural and urban nuances of the political culture of the Midwest in the late nineteenth century.

Whatever your interest in the cultural life of the region, or in its various states, cities and localities, we hope the Great Lakes Review can provide you with a stimulating collection of essays, interviews, bibliographies, reviews and creative literature. We invite you to subcribe to our twice yearly publication by marking and returning the enclosed postcard. All correspondence concerning manuscripts and editorial policy should be addressed to the Editors, Great Lakes Review, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, Illinois 60625.

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Sincerely yours,

Gerald Nemanic

Gregory Singleton

Jack Conroy's Return

Chicago of the teens and twenties, of Poetry and the Little Review, of the Chicago Renaissance of Sherwood Anderson, Floyd Dell, and the other fin de siecle refugees from the farms and small towns of the Midwest, has never been lost, misplaced, or forgotten; it has been and remains a central concern in the history of American literature in this century. It was this combination of time, place and work that led Sisley Huddleston, the English critic of the 1920's to proclaim that " "The Middle West, with its large and rugged uncouthness, its grim gropings, may be the most fruitful artistic soil of the United States. . .the real America. . . /with its/ recent strugglings towards a particular culture which shall be essentially American and not European. . ."

The time, the place, and the writers are certainly deserving of the attention they have received over the years, and perhaps when the cultural history of America in this century is written, ever. Huddleston's prose will not seem as inflated as it did to many Easterners in 1928. Nevertheless, in spite of its deserved attention, one of the unfortunate by-products of that celebration is the relative obscurity into which it has forced the Chicago and Midwest of the thirties, the proletarian time and place of The Anvil and blue-collared writers rather than that of The Little Review, flowing scarves and the intellectual and personal liberation of a generation earlier.

Much of what was produced by that proletarian Federal Writers Project - socially - conscious - revolutionary era is justly and mercifully forgotten, but unfortunately much that is deserving of a much better fate has been forgotten also. At the center of that which has long deserved a better fate than it has received is Jack

Conroy, his journal, The Anvil, and his novel, The Disenherited.

Fortunately, however, Conroy is now emerging from that obscurity, largely through his own efforts, but also as the result of increased attention from the media as well as from a few stray scholars. Hopefully, this attention marks the beginning of the rediscovery not only of Conroy but of such writers as Erskine Caldwell, a contributor to Conroy's The Anvil and a serious writer who, unfortunately, has never been taken seriously by academia, and James T. Farrell as author of some of the finest short stories of his age as well as of a body of substantial work too long in the shadow of the Studs Lonigan trilogy.

Conroy's recently-published Writers in Revolt: the Anvil Anthology 1933-1940 (New York: Lawrence Hill, 1973) has made a substantial contribution to that rediscovery in his perceptive and informative introduction - an introduction to an era as well as to the anthology - and in the well-selected contents of the volume. Focusing on the peculiar nature of the writer's revolt of the 1930's - a revolt rooted in politics and economics rather than form, language, and social inhibitions, the substance of most literary revolts, including that of the teens and twenties - and on the role of The Anvil, the longest-lived of all the little magazines devoted to proletarian fiction and verse, Conroy nevertheless ranges widely over the literary left of the decade. Precede by the Rebel Poet which was brought to life in Northern Minnesota by Ben Hagglund and dedicated to "Art for humanity's sake," The Anvil was designed to be larger in size and scope than its predecessor, its purpose to publish "stories from the mines, mills, factories and offices of America" and its motto that "We prefer crude vigor to polished banality." Its wide range of stories and verse were often crude, but, in keeping with the motto, they were never banal, as the representative selection in this anthology makes eloquently clear.

Before its unfortunate merger with the then - failing Partisan Review in 1935 - largely because of threats that the Communist Party, never entirely sure of the magazine or its editor, would refuse to assist in future distribution - The Anvil published new and daring work by significant established writers - Erskine Caldwell's "Blue Boy" in November - December, 1933, and James T. Farrell's "Reverend Father Gilhooley" in October - November, 1935, for example - as well as work by unknowns. Some of them remained unknown; others were Richard Wright, who appeared in a national magazine for the first time in The Anvil, and Frank Yerby, a serious young black writer, who published "The Thunder of God" long before The Foxes of Harrow; one "Jerry Salinger" received an "amiable" rejection from the Anvil well before he had become J.D. and the the discoverer of the mutual attraction between the Glass family and the New Yorker. Others who published in the magazine and appear in the anthology are Nelson Algren, Michael Gold, Langston Hughes, Jessee Stuart, John Malcolm Brinnin, and Karl (then Karl Jay) Shapiro, as well aa others whose literary lives were short or whose work was unimportant.

Although The Anvil's life was short, and the attempted continuation of its tradition in The New Anvil was unsuccessful - in spite of active support from a number of prominent writers, it lasted only six issues in late 1939 and early 1940 - both the anthology and Conroy's introduction are not mere footnotes in the literary history of our time and country, but rather clear reflection of the most turbulent period in our history with the single exception of the Civil War. The history of the depression - literary, social, or political - has not yet been fully written, but when it is, Conroy and The Anvil will provide documentation that is as fresh and vital as it is real.

Indeed, Conroy himself is both subject of and contributor to that documentation in a number of ways other than The Anvil anthology. Among recent articles are "Jack Conroy as Editor," by Michel Fabre in New Letters, Winter, 1972, and "Conroy Mencken, and The American Mercury by Jack Salzman in the current Journal of Popular Culture. The same issue carries "Charlie Was Our Darlin'," the second chapter of his autobiography, the writing of which is supported by a grant from the Louis M. Rubinowitz Foundation.*

*The Fall, 1973 issue of the Newsletter carries an account of the Jack Conroy issue of New Letters.

Jack Conroy
Continued

Although Jack Conroy is back in Moberly, Missouri, the town in which he was born seventy-five years ago, after an odyssey that took him to a rubber heel factory in Hannibal, the Willys Overland plant in Toledo, the critical-political wars in New York and Chicago, the publication of one of the significant novels of the 1930's, and decades of literary obscurity, with the reissue by Hill and Wnag of The Disinherited, the publication of chapters from his autobiography and Writers in Revolt Conroy is once more writing literary history - history that is recounted rather than lived, but as significant in this new dimension as it was in the old. In the process, the "Sage of Moberly" is providing insights for a new generation that has just begun to re-discover the era that shook the foundations of American greatness in thiscentury.

David D. Anderson

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University Presses, Reprinted Works, and the Study of Midwestern Literature

In its little more than a hundred years of history, Midwestern Literature has seen countless books, ranging from the most ephemeral local material to works by authors long considered major, go out of print, become increasingly scarce, and then become virtually unobtainable for students, scholars, collectors, and libraries. True,significant material has often been reissued or republished in commercial or scholarly editions, particularly when that material has passed into the public domain after its fifty-six years of copyright coverage. But fifty-six years is a long time to wait for the reissue of a significant work, and that of less significance is rarely, if ever, reissued.

However, from the paint of view of the study of Midwestern literature, one scholarly larly press, that of the University of Nebraska, has given particularly valuable service in reprinting material, old and relatively new, significant and not, that has become virtually unobtainable. Perhaps its best-known project has been the series of volumes of collected Willa Cather material that it has published under the direction and editorship of Bernice Slote in preparation for the Willa Cather centennial. The first four collections, The Kingdom of Art: Willa Cather's First Principles and Critical Statements, The World and the Parish: Willa Cather's Articles and Reviews, 1893-1902; April Twilights; and Willa Cather's Collected Short Fiction, 1892-1912, have been discussed in an earlier edition of the Newsletter. Now that the series is completed with the publication of Uncle Valentine and Other Stories: Willa Cather's Uncollected Short Fiction (1973), the series is complete, and it provides eloquent testimony of the kind of service such a project can provide when it combines a substantial body of material long unavailable - much of it, indeed, unknown; a dedicated and skilled editor, and a university press determined to render a major service to a major writer from that state.

Uncle Valentine and Other Stories contains seven stories, five of them reprinted here for the first time. But more significantly, these stories are not the product of Willa Cather's apprenticeship; instead,they were written during her literary maturity, during those years when she wrote My Antonia(1918) A Lost Lady (1923)and Death Comes For the Archbishop (1927). These are not stories from rural Nebraska, but from the cities that she came to know in her growing maturity: Pittsburg and New York; they draw their substance from the editorial offices, the streets, and the corporate relationships that she knew in those cities. " Uncle Valentine" (1929) and "Double Birthday" (1929) are affectionate memoirs of her Pittsburgh years, while the others - "Consequences" (1915), a classic ghost story, "The Bookkeeper's Wife" (1916),"Ardessa" (1918), "Her Boss" (1919), and "Coming Eden Bower" (1920) are set in New York. In"Ardessa," particularly, she draws on her experience at McClure's, and indeed S.S. McClure is recognizable as the editor in the story.

Not only are the stories Willa Cather at her best but the volume, like the others in the series, is impeccably edited, intelligently introduced, and beautifully designed, printed, and bound. This series will provide the foundation for study of Willa Cather's work as far into the future as it is possible to foresee. The next generation of graduate students will find Willa Cather for the first time readily accessible.

Although the Willa Cather series is certainly the University of Nebraska' Press's most impressive contribution to the accessibility of materials, it is not its only contribution. Particularly important also is its "Buffalo Books" series, relatively inexpensive but attractive paper bound reprints of works as varied as plains county fiction a generation out of print, relatively recent fiction also out of print, and revised editions of relatively recent criticism, all of it related to the state of Nebraska. Most recently the press has begun to reprint the works of Wright Morris. The Home Place, The World in the Attic, The Works of Love, Ceremony in Lone Tree, Man and Boy, and The Field of Vision have all been re-issued in the series, making this unfortunately neglected writer once more available. Other titles recently issued also are Roy W. Meyer's classic study, The Middle Western Farm Novel in the Twentieth Century, a work that has contributed immeasurably to the study of Midwestern literature. In its new format no student of the literature of our time and place can afford to be without it.

The range of other "Buffalo Books" is wide and varied, and the series will continue to grow, a cohesive and comprehensive series that other presses in other states might well emulate. When that happens - and I believe that it will - the university presses of the Midwest in general will begin to make contributions to the study of the literature of their region and their states that only they can make, and the study of Midwestern Literature will be immeasurably enhanced in the process.

David D. Anderson

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Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature Newsletter

Volume IV, Number Two

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Periodicals Publishing Literary Scholarship in the Midwest

The Midwest is an important area of the world publishing literary scholarship in the English language. While periodicals from over 30 countries are described in Scholar's Market, one fifth of the editorships reside in Midwestern states; Illinois has 43, Ohio, 28, Michigan, 24, Indiana, 19, and Wisconsin, 15. The journals that come from Illinois include: Natty Bumpo Review, Jack London Newsletter, Blake Studies, Dickens Studies Annual, The Shakespeare Newsletter, Comparative Literature Studies, Great Lakes Review, Enlightenment Essays, Essays in Literature, Papers on Language and Literature, Classical Philology, Modern Philology, Renaissance Drama, Journal of English and Germanic Philology, Lituanus, Rumanian Studies, Slavic and East European Journal, Journal of Near Eastern Studies, Specialia, Poetry, Players, Restoration and 18th Century Theatre Research, Black Books Bulletin, Black World, AV Guide, December, Focus! Chicago's Film Journal, Language and Style, Illinois English Bulletin, Journal of Aesthetic Education, Media Mix, Research in the Teaching of English, Chicago Review, Karamu, Mojo Navagator(e), TriQuarterly, The Christian Century, Illinois Quarterly, The American Book Collector, Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, The Library Quarterly, and Newberry Library Bulletin.

The Ohio periodicals include: Hemingway Notes, Under the Sign of Pisces: Anais Nin and Her Circle, Communications -- Brecht Newsletter, Arthur Machen Society Occasional, Milton Quarterly, Ohioana Quarterly, Old English Newsletter, AAASS Newsletter, Hiram Poetry Review, Theatre Studies, Film Heritage, Films Illustrated, Journal of Popular Film, Journal of the University Film Association, The Silent Picture, Extrapolation: A Journal of Science Fiction and Fantasy, Journal of Popular Culture, The Pulp Era, The Classical Journal, Popular Culture Methods, The Free Lance, Kenyon Review (suspended publ.), Mundius Artium, The Ohio Review, The Widening Circle, The Antioch Review, Afro-American History and Culture: New Books Quarterly Checklist Series, and The Serif.

Coming from Michigan are: Newsboy, The Curwood Collector, The London Collector, Walt Whitman Review, Rackham Literary Studies, Midamerica, Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature Newsletter, Criticism, Russian Literature Triquarterly, Journal of South Asian Literature, Comparative Drama, The Journal of Narrative Technique, The Black Arts Magazine, Film-English/Humanities Journal /projected/, The Centennial Review, Christianity and Literature, The Baum Bugle, The Common place Book, Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, Connections II, English Journal, Ann Arbor Review, The Michigan Quarterly Review, and Michigan Academician.

The Indiana periodicals are: The Dreiser Newsletter, Steinbeck Quarterly, Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature, American Literary Scholarship: An Annual, Notre Dame English Journal, Victorian Studies, The Sparrow Magazine, Modern Fiction Studies, La Revista Chicano-Requezna, Negro American Literature Forum, Asian Folklore Studies, Folklore Forum Indiana Folklore, Journal of the Folklore Institute, Science-Fiction Studies, Yandro, Indiana English Journal, Ball State University Forum, and The Cresset.

The Wisconsin group includes: Brecht Heute/Brecht Today, Contemporary Literature, Renascence: Essays on Values in Literature, Monatsheft, Scandinavian Studies, Luso-Brazilian Review, Artic Anthropology /accepts folklore/, The Velvet Light Trap, Views & Reviews, CLIO, The Arkham Collector (suspended publ.), Wisconsin English Journal, The Minnesota Review (ed. in Wisc.), Northeast, and Arts in Society.

Kansas has these eleven journals: Proust Research Association Newsletter, The Emporia State Research Studies, American Studies, Kansas Quarterly, Journal of Spanish Studies: Twentieth Century, L'Esprit Createur, Latin American Theatre Revies, Computer Studies in the Humanities and Verbal Behavior, English Education, Kansas English, and The Midwest Quarterly.

Coming from Missouri are: The Mark Twain Journal, The Twainian, The Classical Bulletin, American Hungarian Review, The Burroughs Bulletin, The Gridley Wave, Missouri English Bulletin, New Letters, Perspective, and Webster Review. From Iowa: Papers of the MMLA (suspended publ.), Philological Quarterly, Poet and Critic, Cinema Journal, Midwest Modern Language Association Bulletin, Iowa English Review, and North American Review. From Minnesota: Sinclair Lewis News-

letter, Henry Miller Literary Society Newsletter (suspended publ.), Eirelreland, The Armchair Detective, Centrum, Minnesota English, and Aegis. From Nebraska: Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation Newsletter, The Neihardt Foundation Newsletter, The Nebraska English Counselor, and Prairie Schooner. And South Dakota has South Dakota Review.

North Dakota will be represented in the Scholar's Market Supplement which is planned in order to keep current the address and editorial changes and to include entries, such as the Arnold Newsletter, which appeared after the manuscript went to press.

Susanna M. Harmon

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Waiting for the Morning Train, by Bruce Catton: a review

Recipient of a Pulitzner Prize and other recognition for historical works such as A Stillness at Appomattox, Bruce Catton has written an autobiographical account of his boyhood years in Michigan. Waiting for the Morning Train (Doubleday) recounts events in Catton's life from 1899 to 1916, in and near the small town of Benzonia in the Traverse Bay area.

An acute but tolerant critic, Catton analyzes the society of that time and place, presenting details about religion, education, ecology, and economics. Perhaps the best portrait is of his father. George R. Catton served as headmaster of tiny Benzonia Academy for a period of time, but it was his interest in politics and history and his late career as a journalist that supplied the inspiration for Bruce Catton's success as a popular historian.

For some readers, the greatest value of this autobiography will lie in its personal and sometimes whimsical treatment of the history of Michigan in the 19th and early 20th centuries. There is a chapter dealing compassionately with the Indian tribes which could not adjust to the change in their environment, and there is also a detailed examination of the phenomenal rise and fall of the Michigan lumber industry. About twenty photographs provide graphic illustration of events and people of the time and place.

However, in spite of its even tone, the book is undergirded by a disturbing thesis. Catton says that today we "live as the Indians of Lewis Cass's time lived between cultures... there is no twentieth-century culture . . . the twentieth century is simply a time of transition." He concludes: "What's our problem? We're Indians."

Jerry West

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From a Midwest Notebook:
STILL SITS THE SCHOOLHOUSE

My mother regularly made a lunch for me to carry to country school, and I never thought about a hot drink. All of us, pupils and teacher, ate cold lunches -- sandwiches, boiled eggs, apples or other seasonable fruit, and cake, pie, or cookies -- without thinking it a hardship. Everybody had a drinking glass or cup that he filled with water from the bucket on the shelf at the back of the room, where our lunch boxes also stood. They were square ones of fiberboard or round tin ones with a flanged lid. Rarely a boy would appear with a Tiger tobacco box -- a beautiful bright-red rectangular tin box with a tiger stenciled on it and handles, the perfect size and shape for a lunch box -- and be the envy of all the rest. But actually lunch -- we called it dinner -- was a matter of the least importance, the eating of it a necessity to be got through with quickly in order to have as much time as possible for blackman or andy over or one ole cat.

Some of us played a variety of mumble-peg in in which the knife, which had to have both blades at one end, with the small blade fully open and the big blade half open, was flipped by the handle from the board. If it landed and stuck perpendicularly on the small blade, that counted one hundred; on the two blades, seventy-five; horizontally on the big blade, fifty; on the big blade and handles, twenty-five. A game was five hundred, a thousand, fifteen hundred points, or any number agreed on. The players flipped once each alternately, and

each used his own knife. A good knife was a highly desirable possession, and the object of nearly every boy was to swap, with so ething "to boot" if necessary, till he had a good one; at the same time it was, like the possession of wealth, a grave responsibility because there was constant risk of losing it.

A boy habitually carried in his pockets a trading stock: knives, marbles, belt buckles, cartridge cases, metal buttons, perhaps even a compass or a slingshot -- any item of which might provide bargaining power, and power well-nigh unlimited if it were unique. But no one would want to part with the unique article unless he were tired of it -- and who would tire of owning something nobody else had? A good slingshot was not to be let go of readily, for a new one was troublesome to make. You had to get a forked stick that was a nearly-perfect Y;and you had to have an automobile inner tube to cut strips from, and a piece of good tough leather for the sling; to put these things together properly was no job for an amateur. As we were all amateurs, we never really made anything. Slingshots, bows and arrows, and watch straps always came from older persons with the requisite skill.

Hardly any of us had a watch, for sixteen, the traditional age at which a boy should be presented with a good watch, was for most of us in the distant future. Moreover, he who had attained that milestone and was the recipient of such a gift would not risk danger to his Hamilton or Elgin by bringing it to school. Even if one of us youngsters chanced to possess an Ingersoll, its value was of prestige only. We depended on the bell, which depended on the school clock or the teacher's watch or that of the older boy who was janitor for the term. The janitor's duty consisted in unlocking the door, sweeping, ringing the first bell at eight o'clock, and in the winter building the fire. In dry weather he did such cursory sweeping that once a month we were all drafted to clean up the room, but in the wintertime he was obliged to do better. His tangible compensation was meager -- two and a half dollars a month -- but the distinction of being janitor was great. He was, in effect, no mere boy but a young man able to bear responsibility. The responsibility did not weigh heavily: when the teacher came, she took over and rang the other bells of the day. When we wanted to make an expedition to the woods -- it was not forbidden or discouraged -- during the noon hour, we asked the teacher to ring the bell five minutes early, which she did. We were very conscientious about returning on time, a matter we attached greater importance to, I am sure, than she.

The woods was only across the field to the north, and we went there often in the fall, a troop of us, boys and girls, to frolic in the leaves. In winter we skated on the pond and when there was new snow played fox and geese in the field. We went to the pond, at the east end of the woods, when the ice was good, either at noon or after school. Sometimes we bargained with the teacher for early dismissal in exchange for ashort lunch period and omission of recess. Then she would probably come with us; we would build a fire, and it would be a party.

We boys all had skates; they were as essential to us as cap and mittens; so had many of the girls. When we were all together we skated singly or in pairs, or a row of us holding hands as we went across the ice. But skating with a companion was risky and invited embarrassment, for our skates were of the clamp kind that indent leather heels and may at any moment pull a not-firmly-nailed heel off the shoe or come loose from the sole. Racing skates with heel screws or real hockey skates with shoes attached we might wish for, but they were beyond our powers of persuasion with our parents.

When the girls were not along we played a kind of hockey called "shinny", which could also be played on frozen ground. It was much better, however, on ice, with skates, though a shinny club is more like a golf club than a hockey stick. In truth, I doubt that many of us would have recognized a hockey stick for what it is. The puck (we knew no such names and would have felt it too near obscenity to utter freely) was a stone or a small piece of wood. We called it "the ball". To get a good shinny club was like getting a good slingshot; you had first to find a straight branch of the right size growing off a larger branch at the correct angle, which is a little greater than that of a golf iron. It was a real misfortune when a good one got broken, and that happened frequently, for a boy's shin is

luckily stronger than a stick. We wore no guards of any sort, and I suppose our shins were bruised all winter; but there is little time in the year when a country boy is not healing somewhere.

Winter was a good time, a happy time, and nobody complained about being cold, indoors or out. We were fairly well dressed for it -- ourparents made sure of that -- although our clothing, wool mackinaws, buckle overshoes, knit caps and sweaters, knee pants, cotton stockings, and cotton undershirts and drawers, was conventional rather than well-designed. The girls were comparably garbed, and I am sure they wore long underwear, though feminine gear was as mysterious to me as mine was familiar. On the coldest day the fire could be poked up till the stove, in the middle of the schoolroom, was red-hot; if you were still cold you might exchange seats with somebody who had absorbed enough heat for the while. Sometimes a pupil came wearing (not because he wanted to) a bag of asafetiday tied around his neck, to ward off illness; he well knew why he became suddenly a pariah, and usually managed after a day or so to discard it. We all had mild or severe coughs and colds during much of the winter, but accepted them as belonging to the pattern of our lives.

A tingling cold day was ideal, we thought, for visiting another school. A visit had to be arranged beforehand, but it was always when there was snow. A farmer of the neighborhood put a wagonbox on a sled, covered the bottom with straw, gathered all his horse blankets, and appeared about ten-o'clock. We piled in, with our lunch boxes, every boy trying to get next the girl he liked best, and every girl trying to keep a place for the boy she favored. Unsuccessful ones bore their disappointment and were consoled with others; we were under the blankets and off for a ride of eight or ten miles, and who was afraid of getting cold with a lapful of girl?

At the other school they would be expecting us, the boys congregated at the back of the room, girls joined the girls up front, and teacher talked to teacher. The driver blanketed his horses. Everybody was shy at first, but shyness soon vanished. It was probably lunch time now, and whether it was or not we ate lunch anyway. When it was time for the afternoon session to begin, we weren't sorry; we knew what was coming. It was a spelldown. Each teacher nominated her most proficient pupil, who chose a team of seven or eight from his own group. Then the contest began, one of the teachers pronouncing from a prepared list to a member of each group alternately. The first few words were easy, but soon there were long or tricky words like "plenipotentiary", "supersede", "irascible", "dilettante", "desiccate", "ecstasy". If you misspelled a word, you were out, and if you were out quickly it was both a personal defeat and a discredit to your school. If one whole team went down while two or more pupils were left in the other, the pronouncing of words went on till only one was left, the dhampion. I was pretty good at spelling, and nearly always either won the contest or was one of the last to go down. I still have a leatherbound Palgrave's Golden Treasury that was a prize for spelling. Later in the year, or perhaps the next year, the host school might repay the visit.

The schoolhouse was a focal point of community life. In the fall there were box socials in it and two or three times a year an "entertainment". In the spring there might be a last-day-of-school picnic. For a box social the girls (not school girls only but the young women generally of the neighborhood) prepared a box of food for two, and the boxes were auctioned, the successful bidder for each having the privilege of eating with the lady who had prepared it. A girl was forbidden to tell which box was hers, but some were not above devising ways of leeting it be known; and some men were unwilling to leave all to chance. There was rivalry among the swains and a conspicuous lack of grace.

These affairs were, generally speaking, for the unmarried, but there was no law about that; it simply happened that in our community unmarried and married people were respectively youth and age. The entertainments were for everybody, and everybody went, for nearly every family had a child in school, and every pupil had a place on the program. There were always recitations, songs, and a short play. The recitations were pathetic and sentimental, like "The Bridge of Sighs", or stern and religious, like "The Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers", or patriotic and vigorous, like "Marco Bozzaris". Humor did not disqualify a

Schoolhouse
Continued

composition, and "The Wonderful One-Hoss Shay" was sometimes given; but few of our recitations were funny, because we thought humor took away the elevated tone they ought to have. Once I recited Holmes' "The Boys " with ten embarrassed lads seated behind me, pointing to them one after another. "The Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers" was a favorite, and I gave it a number of times. If it were a Christmas entertainment, "A Visit from St. Nicholas" was almost certain to be included.

We prepared for an entertainment weeks in advance and practiced during and after school hours. We decorated the schoolhouse for the occasion, in the fall with pumpkins, stalks of corn, bittersweet, and perhaps sumac and oak leaves, in the spring with dogwood or flowering quince. And always our drawings were hung between the windows and at the top of the blackboard. We all worked hard at it, but we pupils never thought of our activity as work. I dare say some of these doings were dull to the teacher, but she never let us know it.

We learned a great deal from one teacher in a one-room country school. There were no serious discipline problems. Generally our teachers were competent and conscientious. One substitute, asking me for a sentence including an adverb and being given "The dog runs fast", acknowledged with reluctance that perhaps one might say "The dog runs fastly". But she was a girl learning to teach, and her assumption that all adverbs end in <u>ly</u> should not be held against her. She may have some time learned better. None of my regular teachers would have been guilty of such a mistake. They <u>knew</u> grammar, and would have been chagrined if they had not been able to answer any question a pupil might ask with a definite and precise statement as to "right" and "wrong" or"correct" and "incorrect". They worked hard and were put to much inconvenience. A teacher must either live with a family in the neighborhood (not an agreeable prospect when no farmhouse had a bathroom) or come on an early trolley car and somehow get over the remaining mile and a half. Either way, their days were long and arduous. Their pay was never more than seventy-five dollars a month (twice as much as went to country teachers of their mothers' generation); expenses certainly took it all. It was a bit of poetic justice when, in 1942 and after, many female teachers went to work in factories to earn three or four times their previous salaries and left penurious school boards dreeing their weirds. But in 1917 most teachers went on teaching.

That was the year when legislation sponsored by Governor Cox and enacted as the Rural School Codes Act of 1914 caused great controversy in Marion County. The new law empowered county boards to redefine school districts according to population and without regard to township lines. Henry Jacobs, indignant at the threatened violability of Canouse Number 7, exercised his legal right of remonstrance and obtained enough signatures to forestall the projected decree of the County Board. My father would not sign his petition. He said to Henry: "You are standing in the way of a trend that is inevitable. You may stop it now, but it won't be for long." He was right. Canouse Number 7 was secure for only three more years. As I was already in high school, it didn't matter to me.

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