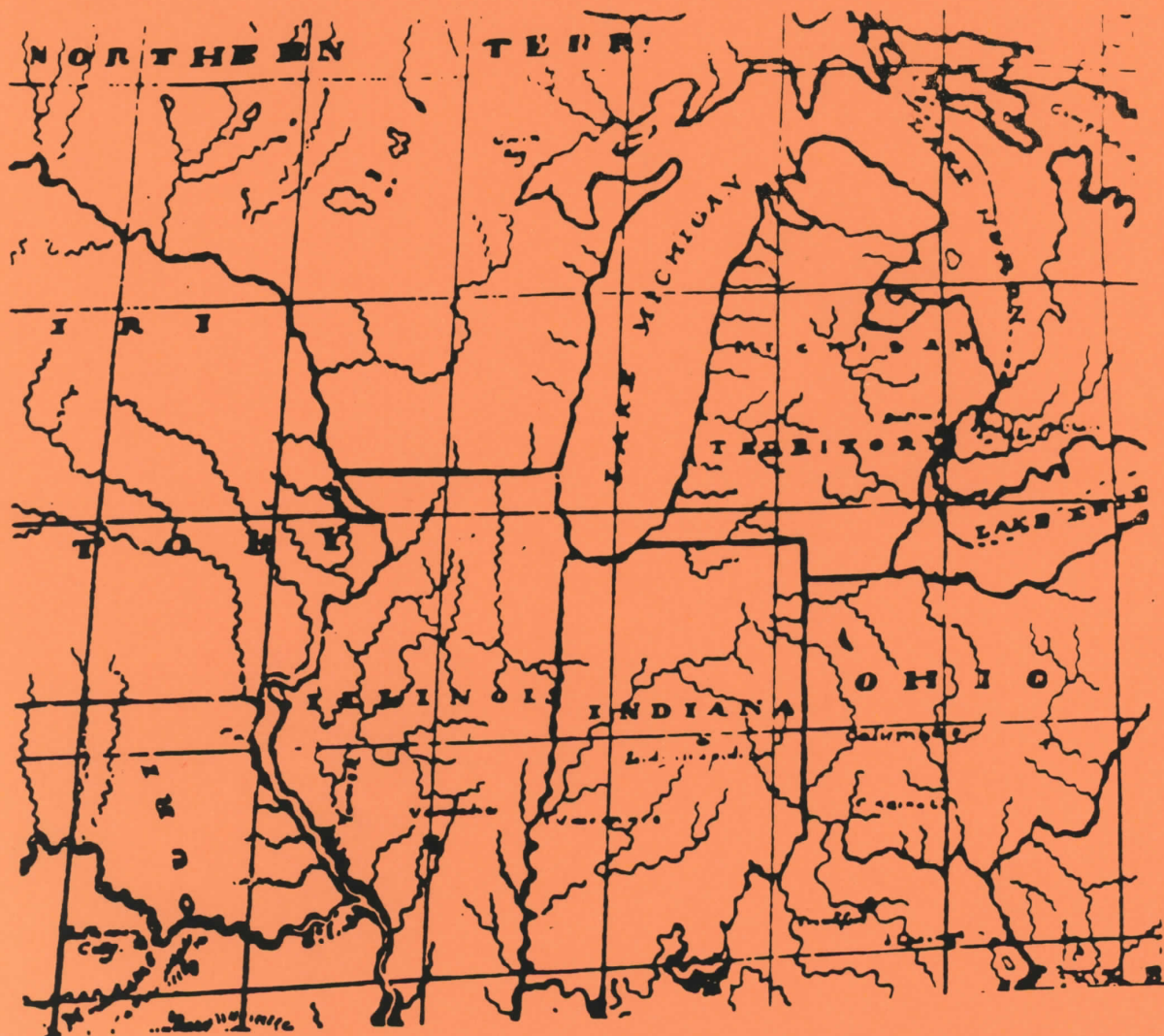


SML *Newsletter*



The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature

**The Center for the Study of
Midwestern Literature and Culture**

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Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature

Newsletter

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The Eighteenth Annual Conference

The Society's Eighteenth Annual Conference, with its concurrent symposium "The Cultural Heritage of the Midwest" and "Midwest Poetry Festival," was held at the Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, on May 12-14, 1988. More than 100 members participated, with about 40 members reading papers and 40 reading poems and prose.

At the Awards Dinner on Friday, May 13, the late William B. Thomas, founding member, was remembered, Marc Van Wormer, conference coordinator, was recognized for his many years of service to the Society, and Walter Adams, President Emeritus of Michigan State and Society supporter was made an honorary member.

The Mark Twain Award for distinguished contributions to Midwestern Literature was presented to Harry Mark Petrakis, Chicago novelist, and the MidAmerica Award for distinguished contributions to the study of Midwestern Literature was presented to Diana Haskell, Lloyd Lewis Curator of Midwest Manuscripts at the Newberry Library. Citations appear on pp. 3-4.

At the annual convivium on Saturday, May 14, winners were announced of the Midwestern Heritage Award for the best paper read and the Midwest Poetry Award for the best poem read. Each prize was a \$250.00 cash award, provided through the generosity of Gwendolyn Brooks.

Winner of the Midwestern Heritage Award was Marcia Noe, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, for "Failure and the American Mythos: Tarkington's the Magnificent Ambersons." Winner of the Midwest Poetry Award was Diane Garden of Michigan State University, for "In Winter the Snow." Both works will be published in MidAmerica XV.

Honorable Mention essay was "Humility and Literature Is There a Plains Style?" by Jeff Gundy, and Honorable Mention poems were "Being Killed" by Jeff Gundy and "My Father's Stories" by Skip Renker.

New officers for 1988-89 are the following:

Marilyn Atlas, Ohio University, President; Paul Miller, Wittenberg University, Vice President; John Rohrkemper, Elizabethtown College, and Sylvia Wheeler, University of South Dakota, members of the Executive Council.

A special exhibit of poems by Charles Campbell and prints by Bill Bippes, both of Spring Arbor College, decorated the dining room.

The 1989 conference will be held at the Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, on May 18-20, 1989.

Dave Anderson

Citation of Diana Haskell, Recipient of the MidAmerica Award

1988

Diana Haskell, Lloyd Lewis Curator, of Midwest Manuscripts at the Newberry Library is truly part of the distinguished group of scholars, writers, and bibliographers who have received the MidAmerica Award since its inception in 1977. As librarian, as curator, as bibliographer Ms. Haskell preserves and facilitates the use of the great Midwestern collections in the Newberry Library. Not only have those collections been the basis of many significant studies, but each of them, in turn, makes clear its debt to Ms. Haskell, without whose dedication and services the works would not have appeared. For her distinguished work as curator, as bibliographer, as supporter of the study of Midwestern literature, Diana Haskell joins her thirteen distinguished colleagues in receiving the MidAmerica Award.

David D. Anderson

Citation of Harry Mark Petrakis, Recipient of the Mark Twain Award
for 1988

Harry Mark Petrakis came from St. Louis of his birth to Chicago of his maturity, from one Midwestern metropolis to another, to find the subject matter and the experience that provide the substance of his works. As the major celebration and delineator of the Greek-American-Urban-Chicago experience in his fiction, Mr. Petrakis portrays, in novels that began with his first, Lion at My Heart (1959), a Chicago of neighborhoods and ethnic atmospheres rapidly disappearing, sacrificed to freeways and architecture. His fiction is firmly rooted, too, in the low-keyed literary tradition of Crete, from which his parents came; it is marked by the ancient Greek stress upon "Beauty with Economy;" it is, at the same time, truly American, truly Midwestern, truly part of the great multi-ethnic tradition that marks Chicago and its literature. In the great tradition that Mark Twain gave to the region and the nation, Harry Mark Petrakis defines the Midwestern America of our time. Harry Mark Petrakis is a distinguished contributor to Midwestern Literature, and we're proud to present to him the Mark Twain Award for distinguished contributions to Midwestern Literature.

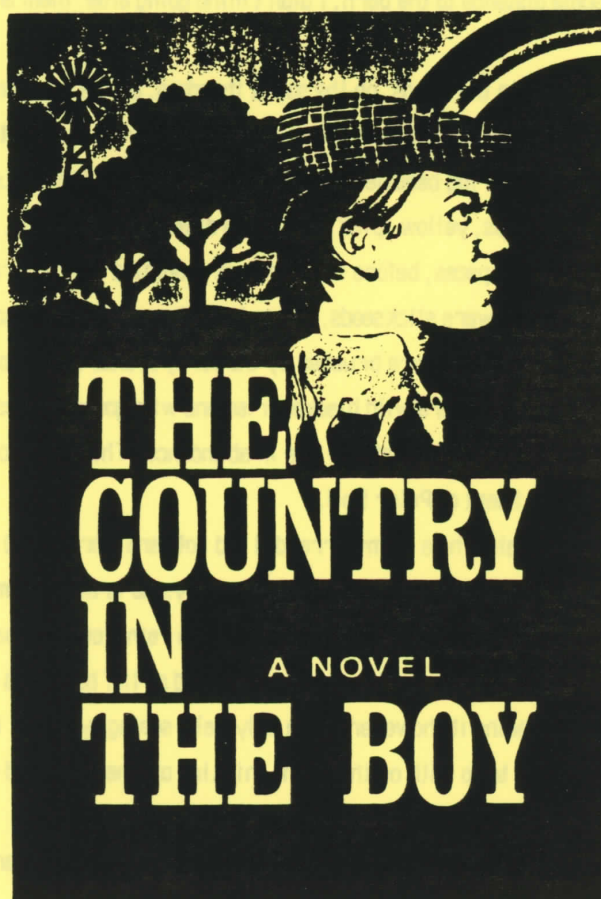
David D. Anderson

William B. Thomas

William B. Thomas, "Bill" to many of us, a founding member and benefactor of the Society, died in Findlay, Ohio, on November 16, 1987. Born in Marion County, Ohio, he is buried in Hancock County.

A native Ohioan, scholar, and writer of fiction and poetry, Bill was the recipient of the Ohioana Award for his novel The Country and the Boy. He received his B.A. from Ohio State, his M.A. from the University of Maryland, and his Ph.D. from Bowling Green. He taught at Ohio State, Maryland, Kansas, Bowling Green, and General Motors Institute, and retired from Ohio State/Marion. He is survived by his wife, Sara, also an early supporter of the Society, his daughter Salva Sedlak, five grandchildren, and two greatchildren.

Bill's contributions over the years to students, colleagues, young writers, and the Society have been enormous. His encouragement, comments, editorial assistance, and sound advice have been, like his own work, part of his deep respect for and lifelong commitment to the art and craft of writing. Bill encouraged and supported and supported the Society from the beginning; he remained a dedicated member; and his influence will continue in our memories, our work, and the William B. Thomas Collection of books, which he has left to the Society. One of Bill's early contributions to the Newsletter is printed here in his memory.



Ohioana Prize Novel, 1976

From a Midwest Notebook:

THE WOODS AND THE RIVER

William B. Thomas

The twenty-acre woods on our farm was, and ever remained, to me a wonderland. Something in every boy, I suspect, seeks association with nature undisturbed by man, and I liked the woods, in all seasons. There was a good deal of big timber in it, white oak, red oak, bur oak, pin oak, white ash, black ash, hickory, elm, and sugar maple, but my father cut trees only when he needed poles for a straw-shed or lumber for some structure. It was more economical to buy wood or steel fence posts, but sometimes a dead oak or walnut went to make a corner anchor. The rest of it was firewood, and there were always tops and fallen trees for cutting.

My father liked a clean woods, and the livestock kept the brush in check. Every spring and summer there were hogs and cattle, or both, in the woods, the hogs being always greedy for acorns, and both hogs and cattle making clear trails through the brush. In summer the milk cows were pastured there, and, though they had to be driven on the road some distance to the barn, I didn't mind going after them and didn't care if I had to hunt them out of the thickets.

For it was a joy to walk in the woods, on the sod at its edges, on the cushiony grass of swampy spots, on the moist dark loam of its shady center. Here in the spring were dogwood and hawthorn and black-haw blossoms and profusion of wild flowers: spring beauties, wild pansies ("Johnny-jumps-ups"), blue, yellow, and white violets, sweet williams, buttercups, yellow, pink, and white daisies, field onions, May apples, jack-in-the-pulpits. Many open spaces, before the livestock trampled them, were carpeted with ground ivy. Wild mustard was everywhere, as were stickseeds, whose little burs cling so tenaciously to trouser legs in summer and fall. On the paths one's feet were brushed by the ferny fronds of yarrow. Wild grapes and wild raspberries grew thickly, and there were wild blackberries and wild gooseberries, too. But I was no botanist, every, and to me they were all one, simple natural life in abundance. The details of nature no more found their way into my heart than into the heart of Peter Bell.

If I were caught in the rain while on my errand, I did not care, for I could keep nearly dry by standing close to a big tree, and one of the pleasantest sights of the countryside is the shimmer of rain against foliage, of the pleasantest sounds the drumming of raindrops on leaves. The rain would probably stop suddenly, just as it might come in late afternoon; and, as I urged the cows, who would as lief be wet as dry, toward the gate, I would look on a fresh green world--seeing it, however, with only half-seeing eyes, for in those days I was thinking always of other things than I had to do with on the farm, thinking of what I wanted of life, what I wanted to have and do and be.

Cattle and hogs in the woods had water at the pond until late summer, when, if rainfall had not been

greater than normal, it would be dried up. If they ran then in the hill pasture as well--the snake fence between was easily opened--they were watered from a spring in the next field, near a great twin-trunked wild black cherry tree. Here the water had to be dipped by bucket, for this spring was simply a hole in the middle of a swamp, which my father had dug out and fenced around.

There was a well within the woods, and, though it eventually failed, it served many summers, while the hill field was being tilled and livestock were confined to the woods alone. When it was in use a 250-gallon tank was kept there, and one of my duties was to fill it daily. When there were steers in the woods as well as the cows, they drank a tankful every day. But there was a small reward for the hard and tedious job of pumping: after I had pumped until the cattle had drunk all they wanted the time being, sometimes I undressed and immersed myself in the clear, cold water.

In the middle of the woods were hawthorn and black-haw and spice thickets, some so dense that even the cattle did not go through them. There were a couple of sizable open spaces in the midst of trees, and at a time when life extracted so many compromises that I was sick of them all I thought of building a little house in one, using bricks from the abandoned schoolhouse in the adjacent field and myself doing the masonry. But this, like so many other of my projects, never came to realization.

My other haunt, the river, was almost as inviting. Fishing was dull, but to row up and down it in my boat was a pleasure, and I often did that for no purpose except to be on the water. My German shepherd bitch delighted to stand in the prow, and nearly every fine day of summer, until the dog days came and it was clogged with algae, we were some time there, either in the boat or trampling the banks. Rowing north to the Bend, I might have to stand and push the boat off one of the big rocks that were clustered in the shallows south of the east hook. At low water many were above the surface, and both the dog and I might sit on one sunning ourselves like the turtles I could see from the bank. Then, it is likely, we would go on around the Bend, overhung on both sides by great trees, elm and shagbark hickory and sycamore and locust, with many buckeyes and hackberries and crab apples and elders and a few green ashes and but oaks, the lower banks dense with scrub maples, to where the river straightened and, with the road running close by, lost much of its interest. Here, where the current stuck the south bank, was the "deep hole", which I had been cautioned to beware of from childhood. It took the length of an oar to reach its mud bottom.

In that past time the river seemed always at its best just after a rain--not a downpour or an all-day drizzle, which turned its banks to thick and slippery mud, but a brief summer shower, which freshened the leaves of trees and wild grapevines and all the tangled foliage that grew on the broad south and west banks at the east hook. It was then I liked best to tramp there, for no purpose and going nowhere, but making my way cautiously through this maze of undergrowth as if it were the threshold to some great adventure. Near a big sycamore I thought was the ideal place to find or deposit buried treasure. I never found any, but once I chose a

spot, directly under the fork of a limb, and buried ten pennies in a tin can. I drew a map, appending instructions to drop a string from the fork, as in "The Gold Bug" (but also gave the compass direction and the distance from the tree for certainty), put it into a book for somebody to discover.

The books of those years are dispersed, and perhaps another imaginative boy has tramped the banks of the Scioto seeking romance and a sycamore tree.

Meredith Nicholson's American Commonwealth

Bernard F. Engel

In an era when the White House encourages arrant selfishness, it may be salutary to be reminded that notions of a community have existed among our predecessors. One of the too infrequent arguments for that spirit came at the turn of the century as the moralists who had dominated popular culture saw the threat the work of realists and naturalists posed to their complacent religiosity and domesticity. Their response was to turn their pens into swords.

Most defenses simply re-asserted the Godly truth of the old order. But the more thoughtful wanted to revive a spirit of community, a cultural wholeness in which demands for individual fulfillment would be sacrificed for the good of the public. This was the position of Meredith Nicholson (1866-1947) of Indiana, best known as a novelist but also the author of short stories, essays, and books of verse.

Drawing on James Bryce (1838-1922), author of the now classic study The American Commonwealth (1888), Nicholson argued that a democracy is always in danger of flying apart because of the tendency of individuals to seek their own goals without regard to the needs of others. Nicholson was the glue that held the nation together to be moral beliefs and doctrines, and wrote both stories and essays to illustrate the point.

His novel The Poet (1914) shows a verse writer--given no name, but twice referred to as the The Poet All the People Loved--intervening in a divorce case in a way that some today might characterize as the nosings of a busybody, but that Nicholson meant as a illustration of responsible moral behavior. Seeing that a neighbor couple are splitting apart, the poet upbraids each party, giving as authority for his intercession the need for all to support the marriage system regardless of any contravening individual desires. The husband and wife agree to reconcile; consequently, in the ending we are told that as the poet walked off the scene "The golden light enfolded him and the scarlet maples bent down in benediction."

If such a quixotic rhymester went butting into marriage relationships in my neighborhood today, his

benediction would be a shower of rotten tomatoes and those silly paperbacks on how to get everybody to love you. But Nicholson had a considered position. The poet, he held, has a "winged heart" that gives him special wisdom about romantic love and the sentiments, a "temperament" that causes him to oppose pessimism. Nicholson has him especially troubled by Arnold's observation that we are here "As on a darkling plain"; the poet wants realism, but, seeking "to harmonize poetry and life," he wants it to be uplifting: he cannot believe that "the virile book has to be a nasty one."

The poet had roamed the field and streams of his farm boyhood, acquiring a store of "the country lore and the country faith" and learning to value the homes that "domiciled fold of simple aims and kindly mirth." He resembles, indeed, the public image of James Whitcomb Riley, Nicholson's Indiana contemporary and friend (though James Hart's Oxford Companion to American Literature goes too far in describing The Poet as a fictional biography of Riley, who in real life would rarely have been sober enough to act, even in meddlesome benevolence).

Nicholson made his point even more directly in a series of essays, all but one of them published in The Atlantic in the early 1900s and gathered together under the title The Provincial American and Other Papers (1912). In "The Provincial American," Nicholson recognizes "the complacency of the provincial mind," the quality that exasperated Twain, E. W. Howe, Dreiser, and other literary observers. But, he says, this complacency is owing to the fact that "every American county is in a sense complete"--each is a democracy in miniature, one "in which the sovereign rights of a free people are expressed by the court-house and town hall, spiritual freedom by the village church-spire, and hope and aspiration in the school-house." There are no worms in his American pie.

He quotes Bryce on the American "tendency to acquiescence and submission" because of a feeling that "the affairs of men are swayed by large forces," what Bryce called "the Fatalism of the Multitude." (The observation, one may note, detects this notion in our society before the coming of the naturalists to whose work we usually attribute it today). Nicholson believes, however, that the dangers of this fatalism may be overcome because of the frequency of elections.

Nicholson reasserts his point in the essay "Should Mr. Smith Go to Church?" The answer to the title's question is yes. Perceiving not hostility to religion but growing indifference to it, Nicholson argues that Mr. Smith, the Protestant he takes to be the American, has an obligation to support the church.

Indifference, he says, is not a product of "higher criticism," but of faults in organized worship, principally the competition for membership among the denominations and the clashing ambitions of ministers. He proposes remedying these errors by reconciling the denominations in a campaign for social betterment. But an equally important need is for Mr. Smith to accept his patriotic obligation to join and work with the united Protestant community. To protest that he does not believe would be self-indulgent.

Is Nicholson to be read as a mere mossback? Not quite. His argument harks back to the sermon on the Arbella, which warned us that we have two choices, to work together or to fall apart. Perhaps he is only expressing a version of that pious American jeremiad that scolds and reproaches as it urges us to renew the drive toward a City upon a Hill. Certainly we would reject a revival of conventional moralism. But in the days of deregulation purporting to free the heroic enterpriser but in fact harming the public, the urging to communitarian behavior can look appealing.

Michigan State University

THE BELLMAN

John T. Flanagan

On July 21, 1906, William Crowell Edgar published in Minneapolis the first issue of The Bellman, a weekly magazine which for thirteen years concerned itself with current events, history, literature, the theater, and the arts. It survived for twenty-six volumes and 676 issues, published news commentary, articles, essays, verse, short fictions, and book reviews, and attracted national attention. In the final issue, 28 June, 1919, Edgar, the sole editor during the magazine's life, calculated that he had received 43,000 unsolicited manuscripts, the vast majority of which were returned to their senders. At best he claimed that the Bellman could print only two such items a week.

Edgar's failure to continue his journal was purely a personal decision. Professional and business engagements demanded more of his time and energy than he could afford. He proudly pointed out that the demise of the Bellman involved no financial loss for anyone. The original capital stock of the Bellman company was \$25,000; this was shortly doubled to create a satisfactory sum for publication. During the thirteen years stockholders had received dividends annually and in 1919 the Bellman had no liabilities. Edgar asserted that the total income from advertising and subscriptions was \$457,000 and the total expenses \$427,000. Surely not many magazines have reached the end of their longevity in total solvency.

Edgar was not a journalistic neophyte when he decided to begin the Bellman although he had only limited experience with a general magazine. He was born in LaCross, Wisconsin, in 1856, was a businessman in St. Louis from 1874 to 1882, and in the latter year moved to Minneapolis where from 1886 to 1924 he was associated with the Northwestern Miller. In addition to his editorship of a trade magazine, he was the author of a book published by the S.S. McClure Company in 1909 called The Story of a Grain of Wheat. And sixteen years later his volume entitled The Medal of Gold gave the history of Washburn-Crosby Milling Company of Minneapolis, creator of Gold Medal flour. Edgar died in 1932.

Edgar set a high standard for the Bellman and maintained it with considerable success although he could not pay competitive rates to his contributors. The masthead of every issue of the magazine included the following paragraphs:

The Bellman absolutely excludes advertisements of patent nostrums, bogus, remedies, bucket-shops, quacks, frauds and the horde of vulgar and mendacious rogues who prey on the public through the media of the press.

The Bellman believes those advertising in its columns to be thoroughly trustworthy. No others will be knowingly advertised by it.

The Bellman will not accept passes to the theatre or to any other form of public entertainment. Its writers pay the full regular price for tickets and are not under the slightest obligation to managers or actors.

In the beginning the Bellman was sharply departmentalized, but Edgar eventually realized that this

plan deprived him of flexibility and consequently reduced the number of departments. Early issues carried "The Bellman's Sermon" by Milton O. Nelson and "The Village Gossip," the latter devoted to social news not only about Minneapolis and St. Paul but also about neighboring communities. These were shortly eliminated. Each issue, which averaged about twenty-two pages exclusive of advertisements, began with a long editorial section or news summary, unsigned but generally the work of Edgar himself. Occasionally the managing editor, Henry Adams Bellows, or the editor's son, Randolph Edgar, contributed material. The scope was wide, ranging from international news and world affairs to local topics. Since World War I was fought during a third of the Bellman's existence, war news often dominated an issue.

"From the Belfry" was a single page of isolated items again unsigned. "Exchanges" reprinted selected comments from the world press, even translations from other languages. "Over Pipes and Ale" brought together jokes and witticisms, brief and often tart but always in good taste. "The Bellman on the Bourse," written by William Justus Boies, was dated from New York and dealt with Wall Street and financial news in general. Many issues included "The Bellman's Tale," a short story running about four pages. Short and mostly lyric verse appeared consistently. "The Bellman's Notebook" was given over to familiar essays usually contributed by Charles M. Flandrau and Richard Burton. Burton also served as the magazine's dramatic and literary critic. His theatrical commentary dealt chiefly with stage productions in the Twin Cities. "The Bellman's Bookshelf" generally provided one long review with brief notices of several books and a list of titles received. Reviewers besides Burton included Bellows, Hardin Craig, Carl Becker, Carroll K. Michener and James Thayer Gerould, the librarian of the University of Minnesota.

Occasionally space was allotted to longer articles dealing with travel, art, and the national theater. Life in Geneva, Venice, Seoul, the reconstructed Lille, and certain wartorn towns of Europe was described and photographs were liberally used. Reproductions of four of the paintings of Charles M. Russell enriched the evaluation of Estelline Bennett of the work of the Montana cowboy artist. Montrose J. Moses, after a nationally known dramatic critic, wrote frequently about the New York stage and provided excellent photographs of such actors as William Faversham, Henry Miller, and the Barrymore brothers John and Lionel. An article by Eugene Parsons about Eugene Field in Denver included a picture of the poet and columnist as well as several satiric paragraphs from the notorious Tribune Primer. William Stanley Braithwaite, recognized for his annual anthologies of American verse, contributed an essay on the work of the poet and sculptor William Wetmore Story. The magazine also carried drawings of the epigenous colonial bellman, complete with bell and script, in the earlier issues.

Toward the end of his editorship Edgar decided that it might be desirable to collect some of the contributions to the Bellman in book form, perhaps in the hope that they would thus acquire greater durability. Apparently he planned to publish three volumes devoted seriatim to verse, short stories, and essays or articles. Only two of these volumes actually appeared.

In 1919 the Bellman Company of Minneapolis published The Bellman Book of Verse with a preface by the editor. Edgar pointed out that he had always intended to include poetry in the magazine and that the first manuscripts purchased were the work of local Minneapolis poet, Arthur Upson, who died in 1980. Little poetry appeared in the early issues, however, as Edgar felt that he could not afford to pay for "really high-class poetry and certainly did not desire to print any other." Subsequently he found that he could compensate poets modestly and certainly had no dearth of verse to choose from. Some of the poetry he published brought the authors celebrity so that the editor could conclude: "The Bellman may justly claim to have been some small service to American poetry during his thirteen years of life."

The Bellman Book of Verse included 255 poems in its 225 pages, the work of ninety poets in all with forty-one of them represented by a single poem. Four of the authors were members of the faculty of the University of Minnesota: Joseph Warren Beach, Richard Burton, Ruth Shepard Phelps, and Arthur Upson. Some others were local figures: Lily Long, a St. Paul journalist, A.J. Russell, a Minneapolis editor, and Bellows. Madison Cawein and Bliss Carman belonged to an earlier period. Clinton Scollard and Odell Shepard were academic poets of no great distinction. Louis Untermeyer became better known as an anthologist of British and American verse than as a poet in his own right. Arthur Guiterman built a reputation for humorous verse and Charles Badger Clark utilized folklore and cowboy songs in his work. Sara Teasdale, William Alexander Percy, and John Hall Wheelock enjoyed a modest recognition in later years. The only foreign poet included was George Meredith (twenty-one lines altogether). George Sterling remains the best known of the poets welcomed by the Bellman.

It should be noted that none of the versifiers coming to fame during the heyday of the magazine appeared in its pages. Someone named Amelia Josephine Burr had twenty-one poems included. But there is no mention of Frost, Robinson, Sandburg, Moody, Amy Lowell among the contributors. Moreover, the poetry included is usually short, almost always a brief lyric about nature, religion, personal grief, love, friendship. Rhyme is carefully and deliberately used and the lines are imitatively musical. There is no experimentation, no free verse despite the explosion against convention then going on, little fresh imagery. Edgar was fairly liberal in his editorial policy but his choice of vers seems stereotyped.

In 1921 Edgar put together another book culled from the Bellman, The Bellman Book of Fiction, nineteen short stories in a volume of 254 pages. In the preface he expressed his appreciation to readers who liked and presumably bought its predecessor and again suggested the possibility of gathering a representative collection of essays and editorials. But he declared no intention of exploiting the files of the Bellman for commercial purposes.

Four of the contributors were English: Eden Phillpotts, Frank Swinnerton, Margorie Swinnerton, and

Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch. One was the editor's son, Randolph Edgar, the author of a two-page story. Two were well known authors of adventure stories, Charles Boardman Hawes and Ben Ames Williams. Indeed the latter's tale, "The Right Whales's Flukes," could compete with Melville in its use of atmosphere and command of suspense. Another, Charles Macomb Flandrau of St. Paul, was well known to readers of the Bellman for his familiar essays and his sketches of Mexican life. The remainder never achieved a substantial reputation.

On the whole, the stories reveal a surprising competency and considerable variation in setting and time. They are localized in France, England, Mexico, New York City, and California. They are plotted tales rather than formless sketches and stylistically they are superior to the verse, which was often full of clichés. The Bellman's fiction seemed to have a legitimate place in the magazine whereas the poetry like so much light verse was often used to fill gaps in the columns.

The Bellman was a well edited and attractive magazine, certainly in its time the best literary journal published in the area which it basically served. A reader paging through its back issues today would find some of the editorial matter prolix or redundant with an overemphasis on topical matters, but he would be pleased by the variety and sometimes spriteliness of the departments. Richard Burton in an emotional farewell to the journal (28 June 1919), which he had supported for much of its life, emphasized its devotion to art and tradition and observed that it was never offensive nor tolerant of experimentation. The Bellman, he thought, had ideals. He might have added that journalism suffered a loss when the symbolic bellman ceased to clang his bell.

University of Illinois Emeritus

Report on the Business Meeting, May 13, 1988

The business meeting of the Society's annual conference at Michigan State University this spring was scheduled to make members aware of upcoming issues affecting the Society and to solicit suggestions and tap the creativity of the membership. Response was good. Members suggested ideas for future action and voiced their preferences on other pending issues. Unfortunately, last minute scheduling shifts forced the business meeting into an early morning slot one day earlier than many members were expecting and decreased participation at the session.

The comments below are designed to present business meeting information to all Society members and to solicit ideas, suggestions, and preferences from all.

First, changes are occurring in the Kellogg Center at Michigan State University. With those changes it is possible that costs could rise for SSML's annual spring conference and/or that services which we have, through the good graces of Marc Van Wormer, taken for granted for years may no longer be available. In fact, the SSML Conference in spring 1988 was Marc's last conference as a Kellogg Center employee. From now on, he will be employed, with new duties, by the College of Engineering's Continuing Education division.

For that reason, we polled the members present and asked for preferences on future meetings. Among the choices given were these: (1) continuing at MSU; (2) alternating "home" and "away" annual conferences, with "away" years being held at easily reachable sites (like Chicago, St. Louis, etc.) across the Midwest; (3) rotating the annual conferences around the Midwest to allow members to visit literary and cultural sites and to encourage greater membership by virtue of conference opportunities closer to home for many people.

The response most often heard was satisfaction with the conference as it is now at MSU. At least for those present at the business meeting, there was no particular desire for change. We would, however, like your ideas as well as any attractive offers for future conference locations and institutional sponsorship.

The second issue raised at the business meeting was an explanation of larger changes occurring at MSU and the felt-need by the Society leadership to protect the Society in the future by establishing the Society as a non-profit organization.

independent of the university. That independent non-profit status has now been achieved, leaving SSML in a freer position to bargain with MSU as well as other institutions, secure in the knowledge that any change in institutional affiliation will not endanger non-profit status or mailing privileges.

Incidentally, with this independent non-profit status, members and others can make tax deductible donations directly to the Society. As always, your donations will be greatly appreciated.

Third, the Society has received the bequest of a large library from Bill Thomas. The library includes between nine and eleven thousand items, and it is quite valuable. Most items are books, and they center on Midwestern literature, but some manuscripts are included and some works even go back to the Renaissance.

The Society is interested in using these volumes as the nucleus of the library of a Center for the Study of Midwestern Literature (or Midwestern Culture) somewhere in the Midwest. Prospects for future library gifts to the Society appear good, and with a core library in place and well-maintained, we believe the Society will be able to regularly solicit books and manuscripts from Midwestern writers and critics. In other words, we believe the library and Center can form an increasingly strong magnet for library and monetary donations in the future. We are attempting to position the Society with that in mind.

As a first step toward that goal, the Society is interested in receiving proposals from Midwestern institutions to receive the current and projected collections and to offer some sort of compensatory assistance, monetary, or "in kind," to the Society. Our preference would be for the proposal to give the Society presence the status of "Center for the Study of Midwestern Literature," include some continuing allocation of space and clerical assistance for the performance of the Society's business, and carry a commitment to continuing financial assistance in printing the Society's publications, current and projected.

The Society does not wish to deed over the collection to the receiving institution. Rather, it would place the collection on continuing indefinite loan with the receiving institution. This "indefinite loan" status would be designed to insure that the collection would be maintained as a separate entity, not subject to integration in other collections, culling of less-used volumes, or trading between libraries. Also, in the event that the host institution became unwilling to maintain the agreements listed

above, SSML would be free to go elsewhere with its collection. In other words, the collection and the potential for future additions gives the Society some leverage in dealing with potential host institutions. We wish to maintain and maximize that leverage.

Any proposals for the library and Center by members or member institutions should be directed to David Anderson at the Society's mailing address.

Michigan State University is currently negotiating with Dave Anderson and Roger Bresnahan concerning library space and financial assistance for the Society. We hope that these negotiations are fruitful, but the Society, the Center for Midwestern Literature, and the library will go to the institution ready and willing to do the most to insure current stability and future growth to SSML.

Fourth, I requested names of individuals interested in working informally to secure grants for SSML and the Center for Midwestern Literature. Some interest was expressed in a Fall meeting, to discuss grant-seeking and the priorities of the Society. With success there, we would begin seeking grant for the Society as well as for "co-sponsored" ventures in Midwestern states done in conjunction with SSML members or English departments at member institutions in given states.

If you would like to attend such an exploratory meeting this Fall, please let Dave Anderson know of your interest. We will attempt to schedule at a time convenient to you. Call Dave at (517) 646-0012 (HOME) or (517) 353-4370 or (517) 355-2400 (OFFICE).

Finally, several members expressed interest in a continuing informal guiding role for interested Society members. Most specifically, the possibility of a "mid-year" planning or steering meeting, occurring in early fall, was suggested both during and after the business meeting. Sara McAlpin's letter suggests the potential benefit of such an informal grouping. She writes,

After attending the business meeting . . . it was very clear to me that a small group of people, with enormous generosity, is actually carrying most of the burden of responsibility for soliciting and keeping track of members, building the Society's library, securing financial support, doing all publications, planning meetings, etc., etc., My thought was that in order to offer at least a little support to these loyal people, in addition to having the regular, formal officers of the Society, it might be interesting to get volunteers from the member -

ship to serve on a brainstorming group which could meet perhaps once a year (in the fall?) in some central location, to discuss a wide variety of topics like fund-raising and other topics mentioned above. Out of such a group, ideas would inevitably merge and there might also be some volunteers willing to carry out some of the ideas.

Regular informal planning sessions would give Society members more insight into upcoming issues, offer SML leadership the benefit of "local knowledge" of opportunities across the midwest, and assist the leadership in handling some aspects of their Society responsibilities. Suggestions for a date for these informal planning sessions seemed to center on October, before the weather makes travel difficult and unattractive.

If you would be interested in attending such an informal fall planning session, held at an accessible location in the midwest (perhaps in conjunction with an attractive art exhibit or literary conference), please call Dave Anderson and let him know of your interest and availability. If enough members are interested, we'll try to come up with a date and location to please.

Thanks for your interest.

Phil Greasley

University of Kentucky Center at Fort Knox

Announcements

Hollis Summers

Hollis Summers, 71, novelist, poet, distinguished professor at Ohio University, Society member, and participant in the Midwest Poetry Festival, died on November 14, 1987. Hollis's novels include City Limit (1948), Brighten the Corner (1952), The Weather of February (1957), The Day After Sunday (1968), and The Garden (1972). Among his collections of poetry were The Walks Near Athens (1959), Someone Else (1967), Seven Occasions (1965) and others. He was the recipient of many awards, including the Ohioana Poetry Award, the Saturday Review Poetry Award, the Ohio Arts Council Award, and a National Foundation for the Arts Fellowship. He is survived by his wife Laura and two sons.

Gene H. Dent

Gene H. Dent, video maker and writer-producer of A Story-Teller's Town, Sherwood Anderson: Blue Ridge Country, Up in Michigan, and Ho! The Rich Land, who received the MidAmerica Award in 1986, is the recipient of a 1987 Ohio State Award for excellence in educational, informational, and public affairs broadcasting for his "Sinclair Lewis: the Man From Main Street"

Clarence Andrews

Clarence Andrews, writer, champion of Iowa literature and culture, publisher, author of A Literary History of Iowa and Chicago in Story: A Literary History, and recipient of the MidAmerica Award for 1982, has just edited A Ruth Suckow Omnibus, with a critical introduction, and published by the University of Iowa Press.

Gwendolyn Brooks

Gwendolyn Brooks, poet, Society benefactor, and recipient of the Mark Twain Award for 1985, has been appointed to the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, NY. A recipient of the Pulitzer Prize and a Nobel nominee, she is Poet Laureate of Illinois.

Amy Jo Zook

Amy Jo Zook has published poems in The Lyric, Atlantis (Canada), Sisters Today, Queen of All Hearts, and Second Encore. She has poems accepted in Gryphon, Facet, Parnassus, and Kansas Quarterly, and an article on Cincinnati poet Richard Jague in Western Ohio Review (this is a slight revision of the paper given at Midwestern Literature in 1986). The revised/enlarged version of A Sonnet Sampler appeared in December 1987, and currently New & Used Poems is in preparation at Lake Shore Publishers.

Frederick Manfred

Frederick Manfred of Luverne, Minnesota, and winner of the Mark Twain Award for distinguished contributions to Midwestern Literature for 1981, was honored by a group of friends and admirers at the Loft in Minneapolis on Saturday, January 16, on the occasion of his 76th birthday. In spite of the weather, the crowd was so large (about 150) that the fire marshall turned away a good many. Among the speakers were Robert Bly, Fred's daughter Freya, and others. In response to a toast Fred commented that "I shouldn't have been invited here tonight because I'm only halfway through. I feel I've got a lot of things I want to do yet. The best stuff is all ahead." Fred has published 21 novels, two volumes of short stories, and a book of poetry. Most recently he's published Winter Count II, poems, and "Portraits in Essays." He is a prominent nominee for the Nobel Prize in Literature.

The Sherwood Anderson Fiction Festival

The First Annual Sherwood Anderson Fiction Festival was held at the Firelands College of Bowling Green State University and in Clyde, Ohio, on June 9-11, 1988. It featured workshops, readings, and talks by prominent writers. Among the participants were Russell Banks, novelist, Jack Matthews of Ohio University, novelist, and Robert Flanagan of Ohio Wesleyan University, novelist. The Clyde program featured a tour of Clyde as Winesburg, directed by Society member Thaddeus Hurd and the keynote talk, "Clyde, Chicago, Sherwood and the Mainstream of Modern American Literature," by David D. Anderson of the Society.

The Jim Tully Centennial Programs

A public celebration honoring the 100th birthday of Jim Tully (1888-1947), Ohio novelist, was held at St. Marys, Ohio, on June 4, 1988. Tully was born in poverty in a log cabin near St. Marys, and with little formal education, became a hobo, roustabout, and prize fighter. He published his first novel, Emmet Lawler in 1922. It was followed by 29 additional books and some 900 articles and short stories. He became a screen writer, occasionally acting in his own films. The program was held in the historic St. Marys Theater. It included a showing of "Way For a Sailor," a Tully film starring John Gilbert, Wallace Beery, and Tully, readings of Tully's work by the St. Marys Drama Club, remarks by Robert Sampson, a Tully fan, and a talk, "Jim Tully and Modern American Literature," by Society member David D. Anderson.

Marcia Noe

Marcia Noe, winner of the Midwestern Heritage Prize for 1988, formerly of Black Hawk College and now of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, was married to Robert Marlow, a physicist, also of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, on May 29, 1988. (The editor apologizes for the lateness of this announcement, which had also included an invitation to all Society members to attend the wedding and reception).

David D. Anderson

David D. Anderson, Society founder, of Michigan State University, has received two awards recently: The Distinguished Faculty Research Award for 1988 by the College of Arts and Letters of Michigan State, and the Michigan Association of Governing Boards Distinguished Faculty Award for 1988.

The Society for the Study of
Midwestern Literature
Founded 1971

The Members of the Society Invite You to
a Special Program:

Midwestern Literature: Meetings North and South

to be held on

Thursday, December 29, 1988,
at 8:30-11:30 a.m.
in the Chequers Room
of the New Orleans Hilton

Part I

Professor James Seaton, Michigan State University,
"The Defense of Culture: Chicago Aristotelians and Southern Agrarians"

Professor John Rohrkemper, Elizabethtown College,
"Cather and the Meaning of the Past: The Professor's House"

Professor David D. Anderson, Michigan State University,
"Meetings North and South: Sherwood Anderson in Fiction"

Professor Kenny J. Williams,
Duke University,
Presiding

Part II

Professor Bernard F. Engel, Michigan State University,
"A Disjointed Distrust: Marianne Moore's World War II"

Professor Marilyn J. Atlas, Ohio University,
"Toni Morrison's Beloved and the Critics"

Professor Kenny J. Williams, Duke University
"A Tale of Two Cities: Sherwood Anderson in Chicago and New Orleans"

Professor John Rohrkemper,
Elizabethtown College,
Presiding

**AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES (ACLS)
GRANTS FOR TRAVEL TO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS ABROAD**

Deadlines: **October 1, 1988** for meetings January-June, 1989;
 March 1, 1989 for meetings July-December, 1989.

Amount: \$500-\$1000 depending upon location of meeting.

The ACLS, in cooperation with its constituent societies, administers a program of travel grants, awarded on a competitive basis, to enable scholars in the humanities and humanities-related disciplines to participate in international scholarly meetings outside the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean islands. Financial assistance will approximate an amount not less than one-half of the most economical air fare available between major commercial airports. Since the program is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the use of U.S. flag carriers is required. Travel grant stipends are expendable for travel only and cannot be applied to per diem expenses. Funds are paid to an awardee only after the meeting has taken place and a substantive report have been submitted.

Persons having a major, official role in a meeting are eligible to apply, but preference is given to those who are to present scholarly papers. Applications are encouraged from scholars who are still young in the profession, e.g. in untenured ranks, and from those who have not held ACLS travel grants in the past. All applicants must hold the PhD degree or its equivalent and must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States. Scholars who were awarded travel grants in competitions taking place in either the current or the two preceding calendar years are not eligible.

In determining awardees, selection committees organized by the constituent societies take both the applicant and the proposed meeting into account; both must represent those fields defined as humanities or humanities-related. Membership in a constituent society of the ACLS is not a requirement. Prospective applicants are reminded however that meetings whose focus is pedagogy, journalism, social or political policy formation, or the creative or performing arts cannot be considered under the Travel Grant program.

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES (ACLS)

Competitions to be held in 1988-1989

Deadlines:

Fellowships	September 30, 1988
Fellowships for Recent PhD Recipients	September 30, 1988
Grants for Travel to International Meetings Abroad	betw. Jan-June 1989
	betw. July-Dec 1989
Grants-in-Aid	October 1, 1988
	March 1, 1989
	December 15, 1988

General Information:

The General Programs of the American Council of Learned Societies support postdoctoral research in the humanities. The following fields of specialization are included: philosophy (including the philosophy of law and science), aesthetics; philology, languages, literature, and linguistics; archaeology; art history and musicology; history (including the history of science, law, and religions); cultural anthropology; and folklore. Proposals with a predominantly humanistic emphasis in economics, geography, political science, psychology, sociology, and the natural sciences will also be considered.

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES (ACLS) GRANTS-IN-AID

Deadline: December 15, 1988

Amount: \$3,000 maximum

Tenure: between May 1, 1989 and May 1, 1990

The ACLS Grants-in-Aid are designed to assist scholars with the expenses of specific programs of research in progress. These expenses may include personal travel and maintenance away from home necessary to gain access to materials, research or clerical assistance, and reproduction of materials. Awards for living expenses at home to relieve the applicant of the necessity of teaching beyond the conventional academic year will be made only in exceptional cases. Grants are not ordinarily made for the purchase of personal computers, books, or other non-expendable materials.

Grants will not exceed \$3,000 and may be used between May 1, 1989 and May 1, 1990.

Completed applications must be postmarked no later than December 15, 1988. Decisions will be announced in late April, 1989.

Announcing. . . .

Two \$1,000 Awards for Short Fiction

The Iowa Short Fiction Award

The John Simmons Short Fiction Award

ELIGIBILITY

Any writer who has not previously published a volume of prose fiction is eligible to enter the competition for these prizes. Revised manuscripts which have been previously entered may be resubmitted. Writers who have published a volume of poetry are eligible.

PRIZES

Two equal \$1,000 cash awards will be given. The winning manuscripts will be published by the University of Iowa Press.

MANUSCRIPT

The manuscript must be a collection of short stories of at least 150 typewritten pages. Stories previously published in periodicals are eligible for inclusion. Xeroxed copies are acceptable. Stamped, self-addressed return packaging must accompany the manuscript. Please do not send cash, checks, or money orders. Reasonable care is taken, but we are not responsible for loss of manuscripts in the mails or for the return of those not accompanied by a stamped envelope. We assume the author retains a copy of the manuscript.

SUBMISSION

Manuscripts should be mailed to:

Iowa Short Fiction Awards
Department of English
English-Philosophy Building
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242

No application forms are necessary. Entries for the competition for the annual Iowa Short Fiction Award and the John Simmons Short Fiction Award should be submitted between August 1 and September 30. Announcement of the winners will be made early in the following year.

Potential entrants wishing to read the books by previous winners may order them from the University of Iowa Press Order Department, Graphic Services Building, Iowa City, IA 52242.

THE PARIS REVIEW

541 EAST 72 STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10021

UN. 1-0016

SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS

Fiction manuscripts should be submitted to George Plimpton; poetry to Patricia Storace c/o The Paris Review, 541 East 72nd Street, New York, NY, 10021. We regret that we are not responsible for manuscripts not accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelopes. Material must be in English and previously unpublished. Translations are acceptable and should be accompanied by a copy of the original text. A cover letter is not necessary. We suggest to all who submit that they read through several issues of The Paris Review to acquaint themselves with the material that we publish.

Copies of The Paris Review are available in many public libraries. Sample copies may be ordered from the Flushing office (45-39 171 Place, Flushing, NY, 11358) for \$6.75 per copy, including postage and handling, or \$20.00 for a one year subscription (four issues).

THE AGA KHAN PRIZE FOR FICTION

The Aga Khan Prize for Fiction is awarded annually by the editors of The Paris Review for the best previously unpublished short story submitted. Manuscripts must be a minimum of 1,000 words and a maximum of 10,000 words. All work should be submitted between May 1st and June 1st. The winning selection will be announced in the Fall issue. The winning manuscript, awarded \$1,000, will be published in the following issue of The Paris Review. Please address to Aga Khan Prize for Fiction c/o The Paris Review, 541 East 72nd Street, New York, NY, 10021. No formal application form is required; regular submission guidelines apply. Submissions should be limited to one per envelope.

THE BERNARD F. CONNORS PRIZE FOR POETRY

The Bernard F. Connors Prize for Poetry is awarded annually by the editors of The Paris Review for the finest unpublished poem over 200 lines submitted. All work should be submitted between April 1st and May 1st. The winning selection will be announced in the Fall issue. The winning manuscript, awarded \$1,000, will be published in the following issue of The Paris Review. Please address to the Poetry Editor/B. F. Connors Prize c/o The Paris Review, 541 East 72nd Street, New York, NY, 10021. No formal application form is required; regular submission guidelines apply. Submissions should be limited to one per envelope.

THE JOHN TRAIN HUMOR PRIZE

The John Train Humor Prize is awarded annually for the best previously unpublished work of humorous fiction, nonfiction, or poetry. Manuscripts must be less than 10,000 words and should be received by March 31st. The winning manuscript, awarded \$1,500, will be published in The Paris Review. Please address to The John Train Humor Prize c/o The Paris Review, 541 East 72nd Street, New York, NY, 10021. No formal application form is required; regular submission guidelines apply. Submissions should be limited to one per envelope.

HUMOR

International Journal of Humor Research

Manuscripts must be typed double-spaced on one side of DIN A4 paper (or similar) with margins of at least 3.5 cm on all four sides of the page. The paper should be reasonably divided into sections and, if necessary, subsections with appropriate headings (not numbers). Emphasized and foreign words should be underscored and will appear in *italics*. Use single quotation marks. The title of the article should appear at the top of the first page followed by the author's full name and affiliation.

Line drawings ('Figures') and **photographs** ('Plates') must be reproducible originals and should be submitted on separate sheets, carefully numbered and labeled. They should be referred to in the text and their approximate position should be indicated. Captions should be typed on a separate sheet and placed at the end of the manuscript together with the originals.

Tables should also appear at the end of the manuscript, numbered consecutively and titled. Reference must be made in the text and approximate position indicated.

Footnotes should be kept to an absolute minimum. They should be marked consecutively throughout the text by a raised number following a punctuation mark. All footnotes should be listed on a separate sheet entitled 'Notes' and should be included after the main body of the article preceding the reference section.

References are cited in the text by giving the name of the author/editor, year of publication and, in the case of citations, the page reference, all in parentheses, for example (Haugen 1966a: 925). Use et al. in the case of more than two authors. The reference section should contain all and only those references made in the text and these must be listed fully in alphabetical order of author/editor, with complete bibliographical details (including author's first name and publisher). Journal and book titles must be given in full and must be underscored. Page references must be given for articles in books and journals. References should conform to the following examples:

Bach, Emmon and Robert Harms (eds.)

1968 *Universals in Linguistic Theory*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston

Chomsky, Noam

1957 *Syntactic Structures* (Janua Linguarum 4). The Hague: Mouton

Haugen, Einar

1966a Dialect, language, nation. *American Anthropologist* 68, 922-935

1966b *Language Conflict and Language Planning: The Case of Modern Norwegian*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press

Keenan, Edward L.

1976 Towards a universal definition of 'subject'. In Li, Charles N. (ed.) *Subject and Topic*. New York: Academic Press, 303-333.

Lyons, John

1977 *Semantics*, vol. 2. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Saville-Troike, Muriel

1985 Bilingual discourse: Communication without a common language. Paper presented at the Second Language Research Forum, Los Angeles, CA.

Authors are requested to check their manuscript very carefully before submission. Authors will receive page proofs for correction, which must be returned by dates determined by the publication schedule. It is therefore important to keep the Editor informed of your current address.

All the materials should be in English. Contributors whose native language is not English should have their contributions edited by a native speaker before submission. Manuscripts will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope. Contributors are asked to submit four copies of the manuscript (two for reviews) and to keep their own copy for reference purposes. An abstract of up to 200 words is required for each paper.

Contributions should be sent to:

Professor Victor Raskin

Editor HUMOR

Department of English

Purdue University

West Lafayette, IN 47907

USA

Reviews should be sent to:

Professor Mahadev Apte

Review Editor HUMOR

Department of Anthropology

Duke University

Durham, N.C. 27706

USA

The Grapes of Wrath, 1939-1989: An Interdisciplinary Forum

March 16-18, 1989
San Jose State University



Lithograph by Thomas Hart Benton

Papers invited on
The Grapes of Wrath and the 1930s,
the novel in its historical, artistic, and political contexts.
Papers on California migrant labor in the 1980s also welcome.

Please submit papers by
December 30, 1988
to:

Dr. Susan Shillinglaw
Steinbeck Research Center
San Jose State University
San Jose, CA 95192-0028

CALL FOR PAPERS



*Farmhouses curl like horns of plenty, hide
scrawny bare shanks against a barn, or crouch
empty in the shadow of a mountain....*

So Malcolm Cowley describes the Pennsylvania countryside of his childhood. World War I finds him in a far different landscape -- France, where he would return to live and write in Paris. In 1936, after hectic years working at the writer's trade in New York, he moves from Manhattan to Sherman, Connecticut, at the northern tip of Fairfield County. Today Malcolm and Muriel Cowley still live in the converted tobacco barn they purchased for \$1300. In the intervening years, he has chronicled the careers of that group of writers known as the lost generation, championed a forgotten William Faulkner, helped reclaim America's literary heritage. These and other achievements form a growing field just coming into its own --
"Malcolm Cowley Studies."

HORNS OF PLENTY: Malcolm Cowley and his generation

a new quarterly, seeks to fill a significant void in literary publications with this treatment of what Emerson termed the "representative man." Poet, critic, editor, literary historian: Cowley has excelled in all. His book reviews not only introduced countless unknowns and examined established authors with new eyes, but transformed the lowly book review into a refined literary genre. His introductions to the collected works of Hawthorne, Whitman, Hemingway and Faulkner proved vital to the renewal of interest in these authors. His explications of the forces at play upon his generation both reflected and helped form their view of themselves as a cohesive group.

Critics debate over Cowley's flirtation with the communist movements of the 1930s -- scholars take issue with his literary interpretations and critical techniques -- writers learn from his common sensical approach to their craft -- students of literary history are inspired by his refreshing view of our American past. *Horns of Plenty* encompasses the spectrum of Cowley studies.

Contents include

- Essays such as "Whatever Roots He Had in the Soil: Cowley and the American Scholar" and "Cowley Edits Cowley"
- Critical exchanges such as "Darkness at the New Republic: Malcolm Cowley, America and the Moscow Trials" and "Malcolm Cowley and the Popular Front Politics of the 1930s"
- Reminiscences from and interviews with colleagues and contemporaries
- Announcements, notes and queries, textual analyses, research in progress, dissertation listings
- Information for the Cowley bibliophile/collector: photographs, unpublished letters, reprints of hard-to-find material

Horns of Plenty will be indexed in *American Humanities Index*, *Humanities Index*, *MHRA Annual Bibliography* and *MLA*.
ISSN 0896-9965

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Yolanda Butts

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■ Alden Whitman ■ Thomas Daniel Young, *formerly of Vanderbilt University*



1989 WHIM

April 1-4 will be the dates of the 1989 WHIM Conference, and it will take place in Hawaii. Margaret Baker and Jesse Crisler in the Communication Division of BYU-Hawaii will be the chairs; 808-293-3600 or 808-293-1552.

WHIMSY PROCEEDINGS

Available for \$10.00 each are the following:

WHIMSY III: CONTEMPORARY HUMOR

WHIMSY IV: HUMOR ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES

WHIMSY V: AMERICAN HUMOR

WHIMSY VI: INTERNATIONAL HUMOR (available April 1, 1988)

FURTHER INFORMATION

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THE FOLLOWING ARE AVAILABLE:

- 1). Comedy Clubs
- 2). Humor Journals
- 3). Humor Organizations
- 4). Humor Scholars

CONTACT: Don L. F. Nilsen; English Department,
Arizona State University; Tempe, AZ
85287; 602-965-7592



LONG RIDE BACK

A Novel by John Jacob

■ CONTEMPORARY FICTION SERIES

"Few people have managed to be poet, teacher, editor, scholar in one life, and to accomplish those skills with such clear excellence and vision."

—Michael McClure

"John Jacob is a writer of striking versatility and inventiveness."

—Ralph J. Mills, Jr.

With unflinching accuracy, in a wrenching and poignant first novel, *Long Ride Back*, award-winning poet John Jacob captures the harrowing experience of the Vietnam War and its bitter aftermath—the waking nightmare that continues for those Americans who survived.

This haunting novel is about how memory keeps a terrible past alive; whose relentless intrusions wreak havoc upon the present.

After returning from a tour of duty in Southeast Asia, only fellow veterans, guys like six foot six McCoy (who seems to have adjusted), Ray Sharp (an ace with a knife, now in jail), and Swanson (who, after his return, donned his combat gear and went hunting for the enemy in a Chicago suburb) know what's really going on with Travis Jones.

His scarred body wracked by recurring malaria, each night Travis fights the sweats and chills of fever with Flagyl and Meclizine. Even worse, both day and night, reality gives way to the terrible memories and dreams of war. Travis, along with his friend Ray Sharp, were "Cut Men," members of an elite group of the U.S. Army's highly trained intelligence troops. Sent out by the brass on the most dangerous missions, wary as wild animals, these men, who knew the ways of the jungle and the enemy, met the challenge with cool heads and matchless courage.

During the war, Travis didn't question why he was fighting, but followed orders and concentrated on staying alive. He was, however, mystified by American cooperation in the field with two unknown officers—one French, the other English. Toward the end of his tour, when he and Sharp—sole survivors of their squad—move to carry out a top secret order taken from their dead commander, they discover the shocking truth behind these joint maneuvers.

Long Ride Back, a seamless tapestry of past and present, dream and nightmare, war and its devastating and long-lasting effects, marks John Jacob's impressive debut as a novelist.

John Jacob has published five books of poetry, one of which won the 1980 Carl Sandburg Award. He has taught at six colleges and universities since 1972, most recently at the University of Illinois-Chicago and Northwestern University, where he teaches writing.



STORM LAKE, IOWA -- Dave Diamond, assistant professor of mass communication at Buena Vista College, has signed a publishing contract with Lynx Communications in New York City for a series of six western novels.

"This is a series of continuing novels that follow a unique character, Frank Slade, as he makes his way through the Old West," says Diamond.

The series, entitled Slade, will begin release in the fall of 1983. The first six novels, if they are successful, will be followed by six more on an option Diamond signed. The Slade series will feature historical facts from the late 1800's, the period in which the novels are set.

Diamond said, "I'm excited about this contract. It's a good one for me and will enhance our communication program at Buena Vista College, because if these novels are successful it will open the door in New York for BV students interested in writing and publishing."

Diamond is also in negotiation with Lynx Communications for a trilogy of novels entitled The Unholy Ghost.

"We have a letter of intent on the novels, but details of a contract are still being worked out between my agent and the publisher," said Diamond.

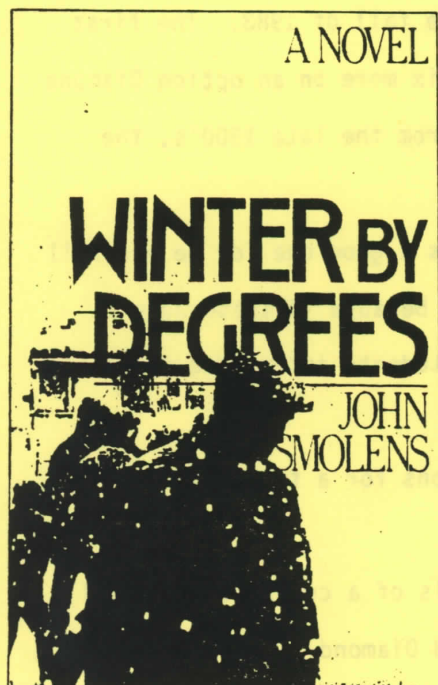
Lynx books will be distributed by Bantam.



E. P. DUTTON

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WINTER BY DEGREES

by **JOHN SMOLENS**

In this powerful debut, a man must face his town, his family, and himself before he can solve a terrible murder.

Some deaths are different. In Newburyport, a few people drown each year. It's a commonplace event on the coast of Massachusetts, where death has been kept busy since the days of the whaling ships. Iver Smyth was best known as the town drunk . . . until he slipped under the ice and was washed out to sea. But Iver Smyth did not die from drowning. The mystery of his sordid life and death unfolds in the pages of *Winter by Degrees*, a novel rich with exquisite texture as well as page-turning plot twists. One man in Newburyport is willing to ask the questions that nobody wants answered, until he uncovers not only who killed Iver Smyth, but the horrifying motive behind the murder.

John Smolens's short stories have appeared in *Redbook*. He lives in Lansing, Michigan, though his heart lies in New England.

DECEMBER, \$16.95 FPT (\$16.46) cloth,
FICTION, 5 1/8 x 8 1/4, 224 pp, (b), 0-525-24724-6