

ASAIL Notes

Vol. XIV, No. 3

December 1997

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ASAIL NOTES

is published five times a year for the **Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures**. This publication is funded by the American Indian Studies Department at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. A special thanks to Jennifer Randonis for her contribution to the production of this edition on the Notes.

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From the Editor

I greet you as I take up the position of Editor of *ASAIL Notes*. This issue will be focused primarily on announcements of upcoming MLA sessions on American Indian Literature and related fields to be presented at the end of this month (Dec. 27-30) in Toronto, Ontario during the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association. I encourage all conference participants to make note of the various panels offered this year and inform others that might be interested as well.

I very much look forward to the opportunity to act as a liaison for the community of scholars and writers engaged in research and instruction in the field of American Indian literary study. Please feel free to send me any relevant information (calls for papers, conference information, book announcements, etc.) concerning our mutual areas of interest for inclusion in future editions of *ASAIL Notes*. The primary goal of this edition of *ASAIL Notes* is to reestablish a regular quarterly publication schedule and announce upcoming events. I wish especially to thank my predecessors in this undertaking, Susan Scarberry-Garcia and John Purdy, for their advice and support. I look forward to the information that we will share as the New Year approaches. Nia'weh.

Scott Manning Stevens

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American Indian Offerings at the 1997 MLA in Toronto

34. Gothic Americas: Border Narratives, with a paper by Renée Bergland.

72. Ethnic Theater, with a paper by Elizabeth Ammons

125. (Post) Ethnics: Reading Across, with a paper by Jana Sequoya.

144. Collaborative Autobiography I: Ghosting, Making, Taking Lives, with a paper by Julia A. Watson.

226. To Celebrate Canada's First Nations I: The Works of Thomas King

Papers by Stuart Christie, Renée Hulan, Gillian H. Siddall, and Kathryn Winona Shanley. Virginia Carney, *Presiding*.

607. Encounter and Assimilation Stories from Native American Perspectives

Papers by Virginia Carney, Debora Michelle Garfield, Susan L. Rockwell, and James Richard Keegan. Alanna Kathleen Brown, *Presiding*.

637. American Indian Literatures: Creating Syllabi

Speakers: Peter Grant Beidler, Laurie E. Grobman, and Kenneth Morrison Roemer. James K. Ruppert, *Presiding*.

641. Discovering Exploration: Exploration Literature and Contemporary Cultural Studies

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Papers by Ann Diego, Gordon Mitchell Sayre, and David E. Johnson. Edward J. Parkinson, *Presiding*.

663. Joint Business Meeting of the Division on American Indian Literatures and the Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures, 12:00 noon-1:15 p.m., Algonquin, Royal York

717. Landscape in North American Ethnic Literature, with papers by Martha J. Cutter and Elizabeth M. Blair.

719. Names, Culture, and Identity, with a paper by Edward J. Parkinson.

Book News

Donald L. Birchfield, Choctaw, will publish his manuscript - "The Oklahoma Basic Intelligence Test, and Other New and Collected Elementary, Epistolary, Autobiographical, and Oratorical Choctologies" (New York: Greenfield Review Press, 1998) -- which was awarded the 1997 Louis Littlecoon Oliver Memorial Prose Award from the Native Writers' Circle of the Americas. Birchfield's manuscript took this award in the category of North American Native Authors First Book. The author is

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currently a visiting lecturer in the American Indian Program at Cornell University and is the general editor of the 10-volume *Encyclopedia of North American Indians*, published in 1997 by Marshall Cavendish. Birchfield's book, a collection of essays, short stories and non-fiction, is due out next year.

Bernd C. Peyer, lecturer at the Center for North American Studies and Research, Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universitat in Frankfurt, Germany, has published *The Tutor'd Mind: Indian Missionary Writers in Antebellum America* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1997). This is the latest volume in the University of Massachusetts Press's Native Americans of the Northeast: History, Culture, and the Contemporary series. The book is a mixture of historical narrative and textual analysis, focusing on the lives and writings of four prominent Indian missionaries -- Samson Occom, William Apess, Elias Boudinot, and George Copway. It should prove to be a valuable resource to scholars of Early American Literature and American Indian Literature alike. Published in August of 1997, it is available in cloth and paperback.

Joy Harjo, Muscogee, and **Gloria Bird**, Spokane, edited *Reinventing the Enemy's Language: Contemporary Native Women's Writing of North America* (New York: Norton,

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1997). This anthology of Native American women's writing brings together the poetry and prose of some of today's most important writers. Over eighty contributors are represented from nearly fifty nations, including such nationally known writers as Louise Erdrich, Linda Hogan, Leslie Silko, Lee Maracle, Janet Campbell Hale, Laura Tohe, and Beth Brant; others -- Wilma Mankiller, Winona LaDuke, and Bea Medicine -- who are known primarily for their contributions to tribal communities; and some are published for the first time. This landmark collection of poetry, fiction, prayer, and memoir demonstrates the diversity and vitality of contemporary American Indian writings. Its publication is a welcome edition to American Indian literature in the 1990's.

Conferences

SALSA - The Symposium About Language and Society-Austin, 6th Annual Meeting, University of Texas at Austin, April 24-26, 1998. Call for papers: Topics based on research that addresses the relationship of language to culture and society. Examples: linguistic anthropology, sociolinguistics, ethnography of communication, speech play, verbal art, and poetics, political economy of language. Abstracts of 100 words (six copies) should be sent by **January 16, 1998** to: (see next page)

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SALSA
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15th International Symposium on Latin American Indian Literatures, University of Oklahoma, College of Continuing Education, 4-7 June 1998. Call for papers: Topics to be drawn from wide array of disciplines and must be clearly related to indigenous literatures. Send a 100-200 word abstract in English or Spanish by **Feb. 28, 1998** to Monica Barnes, LAILA/ALILA Symposium Program Chair 377 Rector Place, 11J New York, NY 10280, USA

A New Home for ASAIL Notes

This issue marks the beginning of *ASAIL Notes*' tenure at Arizona State University. I am very excited about taking-up the position of editor and working with my colleagues at *SAIL*. Since the publication of *ASAIL Notes* is dependent on institutional funding and contributions, I am especially happy to acknowledge the support of the new **American Indian Studies Department at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona**. In order for *Notes* to fulfill

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its mission of keeping our community informed I am reissuing our call for information in the following categories: Association news; grant opportunities, calls and notices, publications, poetry, and commentary. *Notes* will appear according to the normal schedule established by the former editors. Editions will therefore be forthcoming 15 February, 15 May, & 15 October. Any information you wish to submit for publication in this newsletter should be sent to me at the following address:

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{inside back cover}

**The Association for the Study of American Indian
Literatures Membership Form**

Our association by-laws passes five years ago, and in accordance with them we are calling for readers to join. The association's two publications -- *SAIL (Studies in American Indian Literatures)* and *ASAIL NOTES* -- are funded from membership funds and contributions from supporting institutions. This means you can receive **both** publications, as well as all rights and benefits of membership, by completing the form below and mailing it to the address provided. We hope you choose to do so.

Please mail payment (in U.S. dollars only, please -- check, money order, or cash are all acceptable) and this form to ASAIL Membership c/o R.M. Nelson / Box 112 / University of Richmond, VA 23173-0112

ASAIL membership rates for 1998:

____ Limited income \$16 ____ Individual member
\$25

____ Institutional member \$35 ____ Sponsor \$50

____ Patron \$100

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MAILING ADDRESS: _____
