

ASAIL Notes

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ASAIL Notes

is published by the Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures. **Deadline** for submission of material is May 1 for May 15 publication. All materials should be sent to:

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From the Editor

This winter issue of *ASAIL Notes* was assembled and produced at Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado with the assistance of Jennifer Goldberg, a communications student. I am pleased to be guest editor for a year in John Purdy's absence. As mentioned in last spring's issue, John is on a Fulbright to Der Universität Mannheim in West Germany. We congratulate him and wish him well.

As you've noticed by now, this issue is bursting with announcements of noteworthy events and publications. Our counterpart, our academic journal -- *SAIL* -- is well and thriving as it anticipates three exciting guest-edited issues in the new year, 1990. Meanwhile many of us are looking forward to closing out 1989 in style at our "annual ASAIL reunion" at MLA. Our two ASAIL sessions center around the theme of "encounters between cultures" and promise to contain provocative discussions of literary "texts" ranging from Alaskan oral narratives to *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to Northern Plains '49 songs. I hope to see many colleagues and friends at MLA in Washington D.C. in December.

Special thanks to Helen Joskoski and LaVonne Ruoff for furnishing much of the information on forthcoming publications and future conferences that appears in this newsletter. Also, thanks to those of you who conscientiously have taken the time to send me special notices that deserve widespread attention.

While this issue was in production we were waiting for snow and we are still waiting. Hesperus Peak in the San Juans, to the northwest of Durango, is dry. But perhaps by bringing forth this issue, although a trifle late, our cooperative efforts will help encourage a change in the Four Corners weather patterns.

In closing, I must mention that since, at present, only one tenth of our nearly six hundred

subscribers have paid the annual \$4.00 fee to receive the Notes, we have been hard-pressed for funds. It's difficult to produce this service to the field gratis, even though we would like to, so imagine that we are all participating in a global {ii} "give-away" and send us your four "green frog skins," as Lame Deer would say! In the spirit of continuity and survival, please help us to project "the power of the word" throughout the Americas, Asia and Europe.

Expect our next issue in May 1990. Best Wishes and Good Health to all of you in the New Year.

Susan Scarberry-Garcia

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Modern Language Association

The convention will be held in Washington, D.C. December 27-30, 1989. ASAIL is sponsoring two sessions.

"Reconstructive Encounters: American Indian Literatures and American Classics" will be chaired by Ken Roemer. Papers on Dec. 28 include:

1. "Geographies of Literature, Literatures of Geography" Kathryn Shaney Vangen, University of Washington
2. "Mark Twain and the 'Real' Indians: Huck and Jim in the Territories" Carter Revard, Washington University
3. "In Sickness and in Health" Paul Louter, Trinity College.

"Encounters in the Oral Tradition: Native American Stories of Cultural Contact" will be chaired by Franchot Ballinger. Papers on Dec. 30 include:

1. "The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Dead: Myth and History in First Contact Narratives of the Ahtna Indians" James Ruppert, University of Alaska, Fairbanks
2. "Conversations with Mabel McKay: Story as Contact, Contact as Story" Greg Sarris, University of California, Los Angeles
3. "Plains Indian Names an Autobiography: The Onomastic Construction of the Self" Hertha Wong, California State University, Chico.
4. "From Creation Stories '49 Songs: Cultural Transactions with the White World as Portrayed in Northern Plains Indian Story and Song" Joe DeFlyer, University of North Dakota.

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Our annual ASAIL business meeting is scheduled at MLA for 5:15-6:30 p.m. on Friday, December 29, 1989. ASAIL President Jim Ruppert will preside.

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The Discussion Group on American Indian Literature is presenting "Readings by Emerging American Indian Poets" with Carter Revard, Andrea Lerner and James Ruppert, presiding. Readings from:

1. Poets from the West and Northwest: Elizabeth Woody (Warm Springs), Robert {2} Davis (Tlingit), and Alice Sadongei (Kiowa and Tohono-O'odham).
2. Poets from Oklahoma: Charlotte DeClue (Osage), Richard Ray Whitman (Yuchi), and Joe Dale Tate Nevaquaya (Yuchi and Comanche).

Other MLA Sessions of special interest to our readers include:

- * "Ethnicity and Women Writers" with Helen Jaskoski
- * "The Status of Minority Literatures in the Profession: Retrospective and Prospective"/ A Forum with Paula Gunn Allen
- * "Emerging Canons in Minority Literatures" with Jarold Ramsey
- * "Minority Literatures and the Politics of Institutionalization" with LaVonne Ruoff
- * "New Directions in Research on Minority Literatures" with Andy Wiget
- * "Uses of Memory in American Ethnic Literature" with Michael Staub
- * "Women Writing in the United States: A Multicultural Reading" with Joy Harjo
- * "Culture and Responsibility: The Scholar, the Writer, and the Community" with Joy Harjo
- * "Feminisms: Margins and Centers Meeting in El Norte" with Terri Baker.
- * "Reading Each Other: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Literatures Other Than One's Own II" with Carlos Hortas.

Books

John Purdy's ***Word Ways: the Novels of D'Arcy McNickle*** is due out from the University of Arizona Press, Spring 1990.

Susan Scarberry-García's ***Landmarks of Healing: A Study of House Made of Dawn*** is to be released Spring 1990 from the University of New Mexico Press.

LaVonne Brown Ruoff's ***American Indian Literatures: An Introduction, Bibliographic Review and Selected Bibliography*** is to be released by the Modern Language Association, Spring 1990.

A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff and Jerry W. Ward Jr. have edited ***Redefining American Literary History***, due out Spring 1990 from the Modern Language Association. The book contains {3} essays and an annotated bibliography on American Indian, African American, Asian American, Chicano, and Puerto Rican Literatures. Andy Wiget, LaVonne Ruoff and Jarold Ramsey have written essays on American Indian Literatures for the volume.

Arold Krupat has written ***The Voice in the Margin: Native American Literature and the Canon***, a Fall 1989 release from the University of California Press.

Laura Coltelli has edited ***Winged Words: Native American Writers Speak*** for the University of Nebraska Press, forthcoming Spring 1990.

Laura Coltelli has also edited a new collection of critical essays. ***Native American Literatures Forum 1/ 1989*** is now available. Contact: (Pisa:SEU, 1989) Address: Vicolo della Croce Rossa, 56100 Pisa, Italy. Essays by: N. Scott Momaday, Larry Evers and Felipe Molina, Karl Kroeber, Kay Sands, Judith Mountain Leaf Volborth, Bo Schöler, Hartmut Lutz, Michael Castro, Jack O. Forbes, Jim Ruppert, Louis Owens, A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff, Kenneth Lincoln, Rachel Barritt Costa, Laura Coltelli, Andy Wiget, and Fedora Giordano.

Mourning Dove: A Salish Autobiography has been edited by Jay Miller and will be available in the American Indian Lives series from the University of Nebraska Press, Spring 1990.

Chainbreaker, an autobiography by Blacksnake (Seneca). recorded by Benjamin Williams (Seneca), and edited by Thomas Abler is available this Fall 1989 from University of Nebraska Press in the American Indian Lives Series.

Haunted By Home: The Life and Letters of Lynn Riggs, a biography by Phyllis Cole Braunlich, with quotations from the letters, was released in 1989 from University of Oklahoma Press.

Julie Cruikshank, Angela Sidney, Kitty Smith and Annie Ned have authored ***Life Stories of Three Athapaskan Elders***. This volume will be released in the American Indian Lives Series, University of Nebraska Press. Spring 1990.

Bruno Nettl's ***Blackfoot {4} Musical Thought*** has just been released in 1989 by Kent State University Press.

N. Scott Momaday's new long-awaited novel ***The Ancient Child*** has been released Fall 1989 from Doubleday.

Ray Young Bear's new collection of poetry ***The Invisible Musician*** will be released January 1990 from Holy Cow! Press P.O. Box 3170, Mount Royal Station, Duluth, Minnesota 55803. Young Bear's book includes a group of original Mesquakie songs translated by the author.

Joy Harjo's ***In Mad Love and Wars*** a new collection of poetry, is due out Spring 1990 from Wesleyan University Press.

Calls Conferences

MELUS' (Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States) Annual Convention will be held at the University of Illinois at Chicago, April 21-22, 1990. Sessions will include "Inventing and

Reinventing Ethnicity" with Werner Sollers and Houston Baker as panelists, and "Roots of Ethnic Literature," a session that will include American Indian Literature, chaired by Kay Sands of Arizona State University.

The second national conference of the American Literature Association will meet in San Diego, California, May 31-June 1, 1990. Papers are solicited for one or more sessions on American Indian Literature. Abstracts due by February 15, 1990. Papers due by April 15, 1990. Send submissions to:

Helen Jaskoski
Department of English
California State University at Fullerton
Fullerton, California 92634.

Topics include written literature in English, oral literature in translation, performance, and historical, linguistic, postmodern, and comparative approaches to American Indian literary texts and events.

Calls Publications

Kenneth Morrison, of Arizona State University, is soliciting manuscripts for a new series on Native American Religions that he is editing for the State {5} University of New York Press. He writes: "I'd appreciate an announcement in the *Notes*, since the series is aimed at a broad, interdisciplinary audience." Contact Morrison c/o Department of Religious Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona 85287.

Frank Stewart, associate editor of the new journal *Manoa: A Pacific Journal of International Writing*, writes that they are "quite interested in reviewing books on Native American literature, and in publishing translations from the literature." Contact Stewart c/o Department of English, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822.

SAIL has resumed publication as an independent journal. *SAIL* welcomes articles on any aspect of American Indian Literature, including traditional oral literature in translation. Send manuscripts and review copies to: Helen Jaskoski, Editor *SAIL*.

Special Request

Brian Swann writes that James Mendenhall, a member of Friends of Haskell Library, wishes to acquire donated books on history, literature and cultural issues for the Haskell Indian College library. In his correspondence to Swann, Mendenhall notes that Haskell is "the only remaining intertribal college the government still allows to remain open," and that there are no Saturday library hours. In spite of their limited holdings -- their most recent encyclopedia was printed in 1972 -- Haskell Library hopes to build a nationally recognized quality collection by 2000. Kindly

check your own personal library for duplicate creative work or texts on Native America cultures that may be gathering dust on your shelves. Bundle them up and send them to:

James Mendenhall
Friends of Haskell
811 New Jersey
Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

SAIL

Helen Jaskoski, editor of ***SAIL***, would like to announce that ***SAIL***'s production is moving in 1990 from the University of Arkansas to the University of Richmond. People renewing their subscriptions to ***SAIL*** for 1990 should send {6} checks to:

Bob Nelson
Department of English
University of Richmond
Richmond, Virginia 23173

SAIL will be publishing three special issues in 1990.

**** Classical (Traditional, Native Language) Literatures.** This issue will be focused on problems of transcription and translation, and on presenting classical literature to an English-speaking audience.

Send abstracts/papers by March 15, 1990 to:

Toby Langen
SAIL guest editor
Department of English
Western Washington University
Bellingham, Washington 98225.

**** Special Issue on Leslie Marmon Silko's *Storyteller*.** This issue will discuss the recently reprinted book by the author from Laguna Pueblo.

Send abstracts/papers by May 1, 1990 to:

Linda Danielson
SAIL guest editor
Department of English
Lane Community College
4000 E. 30th St.
Eugene, Oregon 97405.

**** Special Issue on Pedagogy.** This issue will consider any aspects of teaching Native American Literature.

Send abstracts/papers by May 1, 1990 to:

Larry Abbot
SAIL guest editor
Box 23
Orwell, Vermont 05760.

Corrections

The last issue of *ASAIL Notes* (Vol. VI No. 3) announced Ken Roemer's article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (July 12, 1989 with an incorrect title. The correct title is: "The Study of American Indian Literature Can Illuminate the Classics In New Ways."

Paula Gunn Allen's new book was also mistitled in the last issue of the *Notes*. The correct title is *Spider Woman's Granddaughters: Traditional Tales and Contemporary Writing by Native American Women*.

Clifford Trafzer and Richard Scheuerman have ceased editing a Mourning Dove manuscript that has recently been edited and prepared for publication by Jay Miller. Consequently, the information in the June 1989 *ASA1L Notes* {7} about the Trafzer/ Scheuerman work is no longer accurate

Colleagues and Programs Overseas

This winter our international mailing list includes new subscribers from Bolivia, Italy and Germany. Whereas approximately half of our fifty "foreign" subscribers reside in Europe, other subscribers abroad live in Japan, India, China, the Soviet Union, Greenland, and, closer to home, Mexico and Canada. As we move into the new decade of the 1990's, American Indian Literatures are being heard, read, and taught from Milan to Moscow to Tokyo.

Wolfgang Hochbruck of Freiburg University writes that "the second German doctoral dissertation about Native American Literature was released earlier this year (1989)." Frauke Zwillus's dissertation published as a book is entitled: *'Today Talks in Yesterday's Voice': Zentrale Themen und ihre erzählerische Gestaltung im indianischen Roman der Gegenwart*. [Focal themes of contemporary Native American novels and their organization in narrative] Frankfurt/Bern/New York: Peter Lang, 1989. Hochbruck comments that the method is structuralist. The product provides new insights into the literary work(wo)manship of the respective authors." Zwillus's book discusses Momaday, Welch, Russell, Silko, Vizenor, Erdrich, Allen and Hale. At the 10th American Indian Workshop in Vienna, Zwillus gave a paper on the topic of her thesis.

Laura Coltelli writes from the Università Di Pisa in Italy that during the 1988-1989 academic year Larry Evers and Elaine Jahner lectured for the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Department of English, Seminar on Native American Literature. Evers and Jahner were joined at the Università Di Pisa by Joy Harjo who gave poetry readings. Coltelli's two new books--*Native American Literatures* and *Winged Words: Native American Writers Speak* are noted in the "books" section of this issue.

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Please send us announcements of important events in your country or community.

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