

ASAIL Notes

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*you tell of those who came
too busy fingering lives with paper
to know what they can't know
From the River's Edge Elizabeth Cook-Lynn*

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ASAIL NOTES

is published three times a year for the Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures, with assistance from the Department of English, Western Washington University. Due dates for publications are October 15, February 15 and May 15. Send news-worthy materials or subscription fees to:

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Association News

Our annual business meeting in December dealt with a number of details, including the election of new officers. Hertha D. Wong is the new president, Gretchen Ronnow the new vice-president, Toby Langen the secretary and Elizabeth McDade treasurer.

Helen Jaskoski of Studies in American Indian Literatures announced her retirement as editor. She will be sorely missed, since she has worked diligently and tirelessly to bring the journal to its current prominence. Thank you, Helen.

The Executive Board will begin deliberations upon a new editor soon, and encourages members to offer suggestions, including the names of potential candidates of Native American descent. (Currently, issues through 1993 are covered with guest editors; see the Calls section.) Send your ideas to one of the officers, or to me.

Helen also came with a call for 20 donors of \$100 each to help cover the publication of the proceedings of Returning the Gift, the conference of Native American writers in Oklahoma this July. The donations would help to match a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts that will allow the journal to produce a special issue devoted to the sessions of the four-day gathering. Those willing to help should contact Helen at the Department of English, California State University, Fullerton, Fullerton, CA 92634.

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Publications

Books

Louis Owens' (Choctaw/Cherokee) first and second novels were published recently. ***The Sharpest Sight*** was the first work released by the University of Oklahoma Press under its new American Indian Literature and Critical Studies Series, Gerald Vizenor General Editor. The series is also publishing Owens critical study of Native American novels--***Other Destinies: Understanding the American Indian Novel***--this fall. His other novel, ***Wolfsong***, was published by West End Press of Albuquerque.

In late December, The Greenfield Review Press released **Linda Hogan's *Red Clay: Poems and Stories***, and ***Night Perimeter: New and Selected Poems 1958-1990*** by **Gogisgi/Carroll Arnett**. **Lance Henson's *A Cheyenne Sketchbook: Selected Poems*** will be released next month. All three books may be ordered directly from the press, 2 Middle Grove Road, P.O. Box 308, Greenfield Center, NY 12833.

Native American Women, edited by **Gretchen M. Bataille**, is to be released this month by Garland Publishing. "This pioneering volume corrects a long-standing oversight by providing basic information about noteworthy Native American women in history and contemporary America." This is, indeed, an expansive, seminal work. Also from Garland: ***American Indian Women: A Guide to Research***, by **Gretchen Bataille** and **Kathleen M. Sands**. "Social, economic, historic, anthropological, creative, and biographical aspects of Native

American and Canadian {4} women are explored in this annotated guide." To order the books, write Garland Publishing, Inc., 1000A Sherman Avenue, Hamden, CT 06514.

Forked Tongues: Speech, Writing and Representation in North American Indian Texts, by **David Murray**. Indiana University Press, 1991. (A collection of essays related to "the representation of Indians and Indianness over several centuries.")

Greg Young-Ing, Manager of Theytus Books announces the release of three new books. ***Breathtracks***, a collection of poetry by **Jeannette Armstrong** (Okanagan), ***Gatherings: The En'owin Journal of First North American Peoples--Volume II*** entitled ***Two Faces: Unnaasking the Faces of Our Divided Nations*** (edited by Young-Ing), and ***The Native Creative Process: A Collaborative Discourse*** by **Douglas J. Cardinal** (Metis) and **Jeannette Arnistrong**. As the title suggests, these two noted artists "share their visions and insights into the creative process from the perspective of their Native ancestry." Theytus Books, P.O. Box 218, Penticton, B.C. Canada V2A 6K3,

The Micmac-Maliseet Institute at the University of New Brunswick has published ***Wapapi Akonutomakonol, The Wampum Records: Wabanaki Traditional Laws***, edited by **Robert M. Leavitt** and **David A. Francis**. "***The Wampum Records*** are an original Passamaquoddy account of how the Wabanaki Confederacy originated and how it was maintained. They remain a rare example of Passamaquoddy oral history transcribed by a Passamaquoddy writer in his native language." The book is available from the Institute at the university, Fredericton, NB, Canada E3B 6E3.

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Articles

Two papers from the recent Modern Languages Association convention, "American Indian Literatures, Authenticity, and the Canon," **Rodney Simard** and "Storytelling: Tradition and Preservation in Erdrich's *Tracks*," **Jennifer Sergi**, will appear this spring in a special Native American literatures issue of *World Literature Today*.

Related Groups

The **Native American Journalists Association** produces a fine newsletter full of relevant information from around the country. **Medium Rare** provides articles on current issues, and news of employment opportunities, forthcoming events, contests and projects (such as the associations eighth annual conference in Green Bay, Wisconsin from April 29-May 2). This is a substantial, worthy newsletter. For more information, contact the N.A.J.A., School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Campus Box 287, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309.

From the fall issue of **Medium Rare**: "The premiere issue of *The Indigenous Eye*, a quarterly journal of indigenous worldview, is scheduled for release this November [1991]. *The Eye* will focus on social, economic and environmental justice issues of interest to indigenous people. . ." and also will publish "poetry, music, art and book reviews." For more information, write the editors, **Pat** (Cherokee) and **Julie** (Cherokee) **Moss**, *The Indigenous Eye*, One Plaza South, Ste. 233, Tahelquah, OK 74464.

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Calls

There are several relevant calls for papers for next year's Modern Language Associations convention in New York.

"Orality and the Construction of Indigenous Texts." **Carol Sicherman**, 25 Sutton Place, Pleasantville, NY 10570.

"Native American Autobiography." Abstracts by 20 March, **Juan Bruce-Novoa** (Spanish, U.C. Irvine).

"Cultural Sovereignty: Tribal Voices and Critical Approaches." The ways Native peoples struggle to retain their rights and cultural ways of life; how critical approaches must address tribal concerns and imperatives. Papers by 15 March, **Kathryn Shanley** (English, University of Washington).

"Native American Art and Literature." Contemporary Native visual art; the relation between verbal and visual art. Proposals, abstracts or papers, **Larry Abbott**, P.O. Box 23, Orwell, VT 05760.

"Literature in Native and Tribal Languages." Proposals by 10 March, **Hertha D. Wong** (Native American Studies, Berkeley).

"Gender and/or Gay and Lesbian Studies in Native American Literatures." Proposals by 10 March, **Hertha D. Wong** (Native American Studies, Berkeley).

Hertha Wong is also seeking papers for a special issue on Native American Autobiography in *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies*. The papers may focus "on any aspect of Native American autobiography. Essays may treat contemporary autobiographies, oral life histories recorded (in print, film, or {7} audiotape),

autobiography and material culture, autobiography theory, cultural constructions of gender and identity, or indigenous autobiography and colonialism. Interdisciplinary approaches welcome. Send vita and essay to: Hertha D. Wong, Department of English, 322 Wheeler Hall, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720. Telephone: (415) 642-4805. Deadline for submissions is 15 June 1992."

For the winter 1993 issue of *Studies in American Indian Literatures*: guest editor **Susan Gardner** "will focus on feminist and post-colonial approaches to literature as applied to American Indian literatures: at what points may these approaches intersect and affect each other?... Although we are looking for papers focusing on pedagogical applications of these various methodologies, theoretical papers are also welcome, especially those which reconsider whether 'post-colonial' designates a valid area of literary study, or if its usefulness as a term is at an end. For further information, please contact Susan Gardner, English Department, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC 28223. Telephone: 547-4208. Fax: (704) 547-4888. e-mail to fenoosjg@unccvm.bitnet."

Rodney Simard has two calls. One is for his American Indian Studies series through Peter Lang Publishing. "The series seeks to cover all aspects of American Indian history and cultures... Authors are requested to submit a letter of inquiry, a one-page abstract, the title and length of the proposed manuscript" to him at the address below. Also, he seeks "inquiries and essays that consider what has, what is continuing, and what will happen post-*Dances with Wolves*, exploring not only the cultural implications but the literary, cultural, and theoretical dimensions . . .", for a special 1993 issue of *Studies in American Indian Literatures*. Send correspondence to: Dr. Rodney Simard, {8} Department of

English, California State University, San Bernardino, CA 92407. Telephone: (714) 880-5844

William (Cherokee/Creek) and **Joanna** (Cherokee/Navajo) **Meyer** announce the first (Winter 1992) issue of *The Four Directions*, a new, all-Indian, literary magazine. For future issues, they seek poetry, short stories, articles, essays, book reviews, media reviews and commentaries, plays, childrens stories, oral histories and excerpts from longer works. This is a periodical from Snowbird Publishing Company (Snowbird Enterprises Incorporated) in which the editors call for an open forum for discussion of Native issues, and for the presentation of writings from both established and aspiring Indian writers. (A member of the Association, Rodney Simard, is on the editorial board.) For more information, a brochure on the journals aims, subscription or submission details, write to the Meyers at P.O. Box 729, Tellico Plains, TN 37385. Telephone: (615) 546-7001. Fax: (615) 524-8612.

For news of another new publication, see Publication section and *The Indigenous Eye*.

William Finlaw is seeking 250 word abstracts for the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Associations conference October 15-17 in Ogden, Utah. The subject is, of course, Native American Literature(s), but beyond this there is no specific approach other than that the final papers be no longer than 7-9 pages and take no more than 20 minutes to read. For more information or submission of the abstract, contact Professor Finlaw at the Department of English, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68588-0333. (Deadline 25 March).

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Gatherings

The American Studies Association will have its annual convention in Costa Mesa, California from November 5 to 8. This theme this year is "Exploration/Exploitation: The Americas."

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Bulletin Board

We were fortunate to have a colleague from the former Soviet Union attend the M.L.A. convention last month,. Alexandr Vaschenko looks forward to the possibility of new exchanges with those who produce and/or study Native American literatures, and offers his address to our readers with that hope in mind:

Alexandr Vaschenko
AM Gorky Institute of World Literature
25 A Vorovsky Street
Moscow 12106g
Russia

Another colleague from overseas has subscribed to *Notes* and may be interested in sharing research. David Headon has worked in recent years with Aboriginal literature, and last year published a book entitled, I believe, *North of the Ten Commandments: A Collection of Northern Territory Literature*. His address is:

David Headon
Department of English
University College
The University of New South Wales
Australian Defence Force Academy
Canberra A.C.T. 2600 Australia

The University of New Mexico Press moved its offices over a year and a half ago. Some readers may not have been notified. The new address is:

UNM Press
1720 Lomas Blvd. N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87131-1591