

ASSOCIATION FOR STUDIES IN AMERICAN INDIAN LITERATURES, Newsletter 73-1
January 12, 1973 P.O. 26723, El Paso, TX 79926

Dear Friends:

Sorry that the list is slow in coming out. I have been travelling & I wanted to include this open letter with the list.

First I have written to Norton, but I believe that it would be beneficial if as many of you wrote as possible. The pressures will be more obvious. I have also written to CCCC, NCTE, CEA, asking that our group be given space at their meetings and room on their programs. This should give more people an opportunity to find out about us and also some of us more opportunities to meet. There is an obvious need for organization, analysis, discovery.

Second I would like to suggest that each of you, as well as any that you know who might wish to join our organization, might send a one page brief on yourself. What are you teaching, studying, etc.? What resource might you offer to the rest of us? Do you know of books, sources, bibliographies, we might use? Are you a specialist rather than an amateur? Are you an Indian, or can you suggest Indian teachers, writers, editors, that might help? So, if you can send in a brief indicating what you have to offer and what you want, it can help us to continue.

Third I suggest that we draft Leslie Silko, Laguna Pueblo teacher, storyteller, poet, and Dr Larry Evers, post-doctoral fellow in American Indian Studies at the University of Chicago, as vice-chairmen, and Wayne Franklin of Washington & Jefferson College (who is duplicating and mailing out these newsletters) as secretary. I hope that they will accept until we have our organizational meeting and election at next year's MLA.

Meanwhile I suggest that we expand QUETZAL: A JOURNAL OF NATIVE AMERICAN ARTS to include an additional issue each year devoted to scholarship and reviews. Hopefully this extra issue paid for by the association or some other outside source. The regular three issues will concentrate on poetry early and contemporary, and in English and Indian languages), stories, some reviews, and art and brief articles appropriate to the journal written by American Indians. The new issue will be open to all scholars. The editorial board will remain essentially the same. Also I should like all of you thinking seriously of using QUETZAL in your classes next year, or in the summer, to order in advance so that we might run a larger printing.

I shall look forward to hearing from you all. Your mini-biographies, bibliographies, questions, everything. If you wish to ask about certain texts or other books, please do so; and our newsletter will try to include replies, short reviews.

Perhaps I will see some of you at the CCCC in April, if I make it. I hope to see all of you, and many more, at Chicago. I suggest that we ask for space for our association to provide time for larger matters and continue the seminar to focus on specifics.

Several people at the seminar suggested that we ask for donations to help get through the first year. So, do what you will. If there is excessive money, we will use it for a party next MLA.

Randall C. Ackley, Chairman

Membership List, ASSOCIATION FOR STUDIES IN AMERICAN INDIAN LITERATURES
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Randall Ackley, Chairman
P.O. Box 26723
El Paso, Texas 79126

Editor, AKWESASNE NOTES
Rooseveltown, New York 13683

Carlene Blanchard
American Studies
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403

Roger Buffalohead
Department of Indian Studies
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Lee A. Burrell, Jr., Dean
College of Liberal Arts
Farleigh Dickinson University
Rutherford, New Jersey 07070

Jeanette Costa
INDIAN HISTORIAN
1451 Masonic Ave.
San Francisco, California 94117

Adolph Dial
American Indian Studies
Pembroke State University
Pembroke, North Carolina 28372

Elizabeth Diggs
English Department
Jersey City State College
Jersey City, New Jersey 07305

Maurice Duke, Editor
Resources for Amer. Lit. Study
Virginia Commonwealth University
901 W. Franklin
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Robert H. Elias
English Department
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York 14850

Larry Evers, Vice Chairman
University of Chicago
1126 E. 59th St.
Chicago, Illinois 68637

Sally Fisher
419 W. 119th St.
New York, N.Y., 10027

Wayne Franklin, Secretary
English Department
Washington and Jefferson College
Washington, Pennsylvania 15301

B. David Giorgio
English Department
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta CANADA

William W. Hoffa
Literature/Humanities
Kirkland College
Clinton, New York 13313

Charles Johnson
Humanities Division
Mattatuck Community College
Waterbury, Connecticut 06759

John F. Kerr
245 N. Oak Park Blvd.
Grover City, California. 93433

Byron Koh
Springfield College
Springfield, Massachusetts 01109

Robert W. Lewis
English Department
University of North Dakota
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201

Martin Luschei
English Department
California Polytechnic State Univ.
San Luis Obispo 93401

Alan McGill
English Department
Skidmore College
Saratoga, New York 12866

Inez Martinez
(Kingsborough Community College)
368-11th St.
Brooklyn, New York 11215

{3}

John Milton
English Department
University of South Dakota
Vermillion, South Dakota 57069

N. Scott Momaday
English Department
New Mexico State University
University Park, New Mexico 88001

Sister Eileen Neville
Mt. Marty College
Yankton, South Dakota 57078

Alfonso Ortiz
Anthropology Department
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

Simon Ortiz
2104 Lead SE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87016

Harry Paige
Humanities Department
Clarkson Institute of Technology
Potsdam, New York 13676

Kenneth M. Roemer
English Department
University of Texas at Arlington
Arlington, Texas 76010

Ruth Roessel
Navajo Community College
Chinle, Arizona 86503

Cal Rollins
Institute of American Indian Arts
Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Kenneth Rosen
Dickinson College
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013

Stanley Schatt
English Department
University of Houston
Houston, Texas 77004

Per Seyersted
American Institute
University of Oslo
Oslo, NORWAY

Priscilla Shames
Radcliffe Institute
3 James St.
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Joan R. Sherman
(Rutgers)
20 Kendall Avenue
Maplewood, New Jersey 07040

Leslie Silko, Vice Chairman
Navajo Community College
Chinle, Arizona 86503

Alexander Thomson
Apt. 4C
1450 Palisade Avenue
Palisades, New Jersey 07024

Thomas K. Zaniello
Humanities Department
North Kentucky State
Highland Heights, Kentucky 41076

Paul Zolbrod
English Department
Box 171
Allegheny College
Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335