

AISNA NEWSLETTER

American Studies in Italy

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Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues:

AISNA was founded thirty years ago, in 1973. Therefore this year's Biennial Conference will be an occasion to take stock and look towards the future. We have organized a round table on "Thirty Years of American Studies" (November 6), at which some of ASNA's founders and former Presidents will speak. Then, on November 7, there will be a workshop on "AISNA At Thirty: Aspects and Breakthroughs of American Studies in Italy." Finally, on Saturday November 8, a round table discussion will address "The Future of American Studies." We look forward to a lively exchange and we very much encourage you to participate.

In 2003 AISNA has been able to publish and distribute to members two major volumes of proceedings, *America and the Mediterranean* and *America Today*. We have been less successful with renovating the AISNA Journal, but we hope that the publication of the Conference Proceedings in which many members are contributors will compensate for this so far unresolved issue.

The 2003 Conference is being organized by the Board, because no university was able to welcome us this year. It is important that we start thinking of where to go with our annual meeting for 2004 (in which the new President and Board will be elected) and potential hosts for the 2004 and 2005 Conferences are invited to make proposals. The 2003 Conference will have to take place in somewhat reduced circumstances, but, as the program shows, lectures and workshops promise us a stimulating 30th Anniversary reunion. Americanists in Italy are still struggling with our outdated university system to create new programs in American Studies. I am happy to note that in many universities, students of English now choose freely between British and American literature and culture, except in those places where old privileges are being kept at all cost, especially at the cost of good sense. The AISNA Board is monitoring closely developments in teaching curricula at the school and university level and keeps in touch with the Embassy of the United States in Rome and with Consular Offices through Italy, that are trying to help us, and are generously

sponsoring our 30th Anniversary Conference (support also comes from Roma 1, Roma 2, Roma 3, Genova, and, hopefully, MIUR). We have tried to make the present Newsletter more informative, with your help. Please excuse omissions and inaccuracies.

At the Rome conference we will have the opportunity to meet distinguished scholars from abroad, like the three plenary speakers and the foreign participants in our workshops, among them Ron Bush, Chair of American Literature at Oxford, England, Jonathan Culler of Cornell, and Rodica Mihaila, of the University of Bucharest, President of the Romanian Association of American Studies, and member of EAAS Board, whom we are very pleased to welcome. A letter from Rodica Mihaila to the Romanian Association is included in this Newsletter for your information.

Tiziano Bonazzi, our EAAS Representative, has ensured that AISNA will prominently participate in the EAAS Conference in Prague, April 2-5, 2004. Mario Maffi will be one of the plenary lecturers; Cristina Giorcelli, Lina Unali, Marizio Vaudagna, Maria Cristina Iuli are chairing workshops. We are all thankful to Tiziano Bonazzi and to AISNA speakers and chairpersons for their excellent work. The deadline for participation in the workshops was September 1, but I encourage you to contact the chairpersons in case there are still some vacant slots.

AISNA is one of the sponsors of the Emerson 2003 conference (Rome, October 16-18, 2003), which will be of great interest. Many of us will meet there and make final arrangements for AISNA's own conference on November 6-8. I look forward to meeting all of you there and collaborating to make our Association always more active and representative. Our Conference title, "Ambassadors," should be sufficiently evocative of the past (the lessons of the masters) and the future (opening new territories to American Studies), and of the significance of AISNA.

Massimo Bacigalupo
AISNA President
September, 2003

AISNA Biennial Conference

Ambassadors: American Studies in a Changing World

6-8 November 2003
Roma, Centro Studi Americani, Via
Michelangelo Caetani 32

Thursday, 6 November 2003

9:00-9:30 Welcome Addresses

9:30-10:30 Plenary Session
 Tiziano BONAZZI (Università di Bologna)
 "One Civilization, Divisible: Studying the United States from within the West"

10:30-13:30 Parallel Sessions
Workshop 1: Italian American Cultural Representations of Italy
 Co-chairs: Giuliana MUSCIO (Università di Padova) John Paul RUSSO (University of Miami, Florida)
 Andrea CAROSSO (Università di Torino), "Simulations of Italy in Contemporary North America: Las Vegas and other non places"
 Simona FRASCA (Università di Napoli Federico II), "An Example of Musical Syncretism: the Emigration of Neapolitan Popular Song to the United States at the Beginning of the 20th Century"
 Giuliana MUSCIO (Università di Padova), "Santa Lucia Luntana and the Italian American Film Production in New York in the Early 1930s"
 Federico SINISCALCO (Università di Siena), "In the 'Old Country': Memories to Pass On"
 Maria Anita STEFANELLI (Università di Roma Tre), "Lawrence Ferlinghetti's 'Surreal Migrations'"

Workshop 2A: Transatlantic Communication and the Unmaking of the World
Co-Chairs: Salvatore PROIETTI
Igina TATTONI (Università di Roma "La Sapienza")
 William BOELHOWER (Università di Padova), "Migrant Autobiographies: Others and the Absolutely Other"
 Paola CASTELLUCCI (Università di Roma 1), "Call It Bit: Henry Roth and Don DeLillo on the Net"
 Antonella D'AMORE (Università di Roma 1), "Meeting the Other: Bruce Springsteen's Community Ideal after September 11"
 Marina DE CHIARA (Università di Napoli IUO), "In the Cage: A Modern Odyssey"
 Felice DE CUSATIS (Università di Roma 3), "Two Acts of the Same Play: Fiction and Reality in Susan Sontag's 'In America: A Novel'"
 Elèna MORTARA (Università di Roma 2) "Philip Roth Unmasked: 'Last Great Transatlantic Ambassador of American Literature'?"

Workshop 3A: U.S. Mediatic Ambassadors From the Cowboy to the DJ: Towards a Hermeneutic of Pop Icons?
Chair: Luca BRIASCO (Roma)
 Mattia CARRATELLO (Roma), "The Confidence-Man as American Icon"
 Peter GARDNER (Saint Mary's College Rome Program), "Class Acts: The Working Class as an Invisible Icon"
 Paolo PREZZAVENTO (Ascoli Piceno), "The Cowboy as a

queer conglomerate: Pat Garrett & Billy the Kid"
 Umberto ROSSI (Roma), "The DJ: the Ambiguous Spokesperson"
 Roberta FORNARI (Università di Roma 1), "The Tycoon as Pop Icon Between Reality and Fiction"

14:30-16:30 Plenary Session:
"30 Years of American Studies in Italy"
Chair: Sergio PEROSA (Università di Venezia)
 Speakers: Claudio GORLIER (Università di Torino)
 Agostino LOMBARDO (Università di Roma 1)
 Anna Maria MARTELLONE (Università di Firenze) Stefania PICCINATO (Università di Perugia)
 Bianca Maria TEDESCHINI LALLI (Università di Roma IUSM)

17:00-20:00 Parallel Sessions
Workshop 4: Ambassadors Within/From the Academy
Co-Chairs: Giovanna FRANCI, Franco MINGANTI (Università di Bologna)
 Giovanna FRANCI (Università di Bologna), "Roaming International Ambassadors: The Impact of Faculty and Student Exchange in a Globalized World"
 Franco MINGANTI (Università di Bologna), "On Teaching 'Italian Cultural Studies' for English-Speaking Student Communities"
 Mark BERNHEIM (Miami University, Ohio), "The Introduction of Italian Cultural Identities - Specifically Religious and Ethnic - into the Curriculum of a Midwestern State University through Educational Exchange"
 Roberta WALDBAUM (University of Denver), "When the Other Becomes Us: Ethics, Social Responsibility, and International Service Learning"
 Rodica MIHAILA (University of Bucharest), "Beyond Cultural Diplomacy: Creating American Studies Programs in post-Communist Eastern Europe"

Workshop 5: Democracy in America After Two Centuries
Co-Chairs: Ferdinando FASCE (Università di Genova), Alessandra LORINI (Università di Firenze)
 Raffaella BARITONO (Università di Bologna), "Creating Democracy: Women Reformers and the Debate on Democracy (1900-1930)"
 Ferdinando FASCE (Università di Genova), "Exporting Democracy? America's Town Meeting of the Air Going Global in the Aftermath of WW2"
 Daria FREZZA (Università di Siena), "Elite and Mass Democracy in the American Public Discourse of the First Half of the Twentieth Century"
 Alessandra LORINI (Università di Firenze), "Race, Gender and American Democracy: Women Anthropologists, Missionaries and Travellers in the Early Twentieth Century"
 Elisabetta VEZZOSI (Università di Trieste), "Before and After Welfare Reform: The Rhetoric and Practice of Democracy"

Workshop 6: What Was Modernism?
Co-Chairs: Stefano M. CASELLA (IULM Feltre) Gregory DOWLING (Università di Venezia)
 Jonathan CULLER (Cornell University), "The Problem of Modernism"
 Ron BUSH (Oxford University), "Modernist Poetics"
 Anderson D. ARAUJO (University of Western Ontario), "Blast, Futurism, and the Cultural Mobility of Modernist (Inter)Texts"
 Antonella FRANCI (Syracuse University in Florence), "Mina Loy's Prose Drafts: The Unfinished Script of a Modernist"
 Paola NARDI (Università Cattolica, Milano), "Marianne Moore: Ambiguous Modernism"

Paola LORETO (Università di Milano), "In the Modernist Grain: Amy Newman's Poetry and the Language of Impermanence"

Andrea MOLESINI (Università di Padova), "Translating *Omeros*: Derek Walcott as Anti-Modernist"

Friday, 7 November 2003

10:30-13:30 Parallel Sessions

Workshop 2B: Transatlantic Communication and the Unmaking of the World

Co-Chairs: Salvatore PROIETTI

Igina TATTONI (Università di Roma "La Sapienza")

Sonia DI LORETO (Rutgers University), "Pirates and Ambassadors: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson in Europe."

Giuseppe LOMBARDO (Università di Messina), "Melville's Transatlantic Negotiations: Israel Potter as an Expatriate Prototype"

Giorgio MARIANI (Università di Roma 1), "Reversing the Captivity Narrative: James Welch's 'The Heartsong of Charging Elk'"

Salvatore PROIETTI (Università di Roma 1), "The Middle Passage and the Remaking of the World: DuBois and After"

Cinzia SCHIAVINI (Università di Milano), "My City of Ruins: American Topographies and European Heritage in Herman Melville and Edgar Allan Poe's Urban Landscapes"

Igina TATTONI (Università di Roma 1), "Thomas Merton's 'Seeds of Destruction'"

Workshop 3B: U.S. Mediatic Ambassadors From the Cowboy to the DJ: Towards a Hermeneutic of Pop Icons?

Chair: Umberto ROSSI (Roma)

Pierre LAGAYETTE (Université de Paris 4-Sorbonne), "From *Scarface* To *Bugsy*: Gangsters as Enduring Icons of The American Dream"

Mattia CARRATELLO (Roma), "The Confidence-Man as American Icon"

Luca BRIASCO (Roma), "The American Baseball Hero"

Valerio M. DE ANGELIS, (Università di Macerata), "Super-Ambassadors: How Comic-Book Heroes Export American Values"

Stephen PERRIN (Liverpool Hope University College), "Transcendental Manson: Mirroring the Mainstream"

Workshop 7: Ambassadors from Within: The National and International Critical Impact of African American Studies

Co-Chairs: Paola BOI (Università di Cagliari), M. Giulia FABI (Università di Ferrara)

Alessandro PORTELLI (Università di Roma 1), "The Impact of African American Studies in Italy: A Historical Outline"

Emil SIRBULESCU (Università di Craiova, Romania), "Ambassadors on Duty: The Impact of African-America on the Perception of Race in Romania (Communist and Post-Communist)"

Christopher MULVEY (King Alfred's College, Winchester), "African American Ambassadors to Europe: Pre-Civil War Representations of Race"

Dominique MARCAIS (Université d'Orléans), "The Impact of African American Studies on the Interpretation of Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick* and 'Benito Cereno'"

Annalucia ACCARDO (Università di Roma 1), "Grace Paley: 'Passings' between Jewish and African American

Cultural Paradigms"

Workshop 8: AISNA at Thirty: Aspects and Breakthroughs of American Studies in Italy

Chair: Massimo BACIGALUPO (Università di Genova)

Luca CODIGNOLA (Università di Genova), Ferdinando FASCE (Università di Genova), Matteo SANFILIPPO (Università di Viterbo), "Thirty Years of American History in Italy"

Renzo S. CRIVELLI (Università di Trieste), "Rolando Anzilotti"

Fedora GIORDANO (Università di Torino), "Elémire Zolla"

Gabriella MORISCO (Università di Urbino), "Glauco Cambon"

Massimo BACIGALUPO (Università di Genova), "Izzo & Pound"

Francesco PONTUALE (Università di Cassino), "In Their Own Terms: Italian Histories of American Literature"

Plenary Session

Amy KAPLAN (University of Pennsylvania - President A.S.A.)

"The Question of Empire and the International Turn in American Studies"

17:00-20:00 Assemblea Annuale dei Soci
AISNA

20:30 Conference Dinner

Saturday, 8 November 2003

9:00-10:30 **Plenary Session**

Bart EECKHOUT (Ghent University, Catholic University of Brussels, Belgium)

"Why Would the Spatial Be So Special? A Critical Survey of the Spatial Turn in American Studies"

10:30-12:30 **Plenary Session: "The Future of American Studies"**

Chair: Massimo BACIGALUPO (Università di Genova)

Speakers: Tiziano BONAZZI (Università di Bergamo) Bart EECKHOUT (Ghent University)

Amy KAPLAN (University of Pennsylvania)

Rodica MIHAILA (University of Bucharest)

Maurizio VAUDAGNA (Università del Piemonte Orientale)

12:30-13:30 Discussion
End of Conference

AISNA Website

This is the web site of A.I.S.N.A.: www.aisna.org. It includes a Calendar of Forthcoming Conferences, and links to American Studies Sites and to AISNA publications. Please check your data and send comments to the AISNA President and Treasurer.

AISNA Publications

America Today. The Proceedings of the 1999 AISNA Conference in Siracusa, edited by Gigliola Nocera, are in the process of being mailed to members, together with the complimentary issue of *EJAC* 22.2 (2003)—see below. Please advise Gabriella Ferruggia if you have not received your copy by October 30.

Ambassadors. American Studies in a Changing World. Panelists are invited to send their papers to workshop chairs by 30 January 2004, following guidelines that will be distributed shortly. Workshop coordinators will edit the contributions, check their conformity to guidelines, and send them by 1 March 2004 to Massimo Bacigalupo.

Fulbright Scholars in Italy

Prof. Elizabeth Turner

University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

Fulbright Senior Scholar, Università di Genova

Teaching and Studying the South in Liguria

From the moment I arrived in Italy, I never lost sight of the similarities between Liguria and the southern United States and have found many parallels between the two regions. Don Doyle has written of another kind of analogy between Italy and the United States (*Nations Divided: America, Italy, and the Southern Question*), one that takes politics and nation making into account. But I found that the folk culture of Liguria reminded me of southern folkways. In the hills behind the coast there exist towns and villages, hamlets really, where generations of Italians have lived. Newcomers to those parts are labeled as foreign even though they are Italian. Calabrians, for example, though they may live out their lives there are considered foreign and slightly suspect. They speak a different dialect and they may have suspicious ties to organized crime, goes the thinking of many a Ligurian. Southerners used to be like that too before cities such as Houston sprang up over oil, railroads, and shipping.

Ligurians in the villages of, say, Don Pietro or Cicagna always keep a garden, an orto, and the fresh produce from this well tended plot of land, often carved out of the mountainside, yields fresh produce the year round. I don't know any rural southerners who don't have a garden, even though they can buy what they need at the closest Wall Mart. Ligurians make delicious food from the most meager ingredients; pesto, foccacia, ravioli. And while southern cooking can't rival Italian, southerners too have made do with what they can take from the earth. The best of southern cooking includes cornbread, greens, and fried okra. Ligurians build summer rusticos and spend their weekend days tending olive groves or vineyards, producing oil and wine for home consumption. Southerners don't have olive groves, but they have never been far from the countryside with cabins and hunting lodges, and they build barbecues into the earth to roast

soul food, a term enjoyed by black and white southerners alike.

In the hard times of southern history, black and white poor families have used their limited means to advance themselves; first buying a few chickens, then expanding their flock and purchasing a pig. With the sale of piglets to neighbors and by saving, maybe they could buy a cow. Once they had raised enough livestock, they managed to acquire a chattel mortgage from the bank, giving them cash to put a down payment on some land, or to build a church or a school. In this way, a domestic economy allowed families to survive and thrive, to own land, to give to their children's future. I see the same historical process for Ligurians. Accumulating poultry, making cheese, preserving tomato sauce (sugo) for winter evenings, making pasta, growing lemons -- home economies have made it possible for rural families to live well and move ahead. These are the observations of a historian who sees gender as an underlying theme in all parts of the globe, and the domestic economy, largely orchestrated by women, as instrumental to the macro economies of the world. Truly all is one when we look out across continents and oceans.

Some of these observations are going into my next book. I am continuing to work on *Women and Gender in the New South*, and have signed a book contract on this topic thanks to the time for writing afforded in Italy. The students at the University of Genoa were extremely helpful in their enthusiasm and feedback on this subject, and I owe them a debt of gratitude for their understanding and attention. At the end of the semester, when oral exams were given (a novelty for American professors), they surprised me with their knowledge of the subject. Students in Italy are expected to be examined orally and they are used to it, but I daresay it would floor American students to have to take the same kind of examination. Some students from the University of Genoa will continue their studies in southern universities, thanks to the Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies and the hard work of Professor Valerie Lerda. It is important for students -- Italian and American -- to study the history, language, and culture of the "other", to find in their own observations the commonalities and the differences. But most important we must keep in mind that southerners and Ligurians indeed have much in common.

Prof. Jeffrey C. Stewart

Professor of History and Art History, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

Fulbright Lecturer in American Intellectual History, January to June 2003

A Black Fulbrighter in Rome

How does one describe a beautiful experience? All of the words never quite convey the exhilaration of living through a period of struggle and elation, which is, or at least was, my experience as Fulbright Lecturer in the Department of American Studies at the University of Rome. Let me begin at the beginning. Every Fulbright is an escape. I left behind my university, committee meetings, all-too-familiar students, faculty skirmishes, academic intrigue, plus beloved family and friends, to

expatriate myself for 6 months in a city and a country I had only visited once before in 2000. Why do this? Because, after teaching 20 years at George Mason University, I felt I had begun to dig a rut where before I had run in a groove. Like many successful, tenured, full professors at American universities, I had been seduced by seniority into taking on administrative leadership responsibilities, specifically in my case, directorship of the African American Studies Program. The program was laudable, even exemplary, but increasingly I felt that it was going nowhere, that within the context of the university politics in which all such programs are enmeshed, the future was less promising than the past. I had to get out, look at it, and my self, from the outside, breathe, and then consider where, as a university professor, I was going to go. My Fulbright in Rome gave that new vantage point from which to see anew.

Arriving on January 4th to start teaching at Rome Tre on January 6th was not, I realized afterwards, the best strategy. I arrived discombobulated. Disoriented. And tired. Not sure even how to get to the university from the apartment I had rented from abroad, I was rescued through the kind assistance of the Fulbright Commission in Rome who called me, told me how to use the subway system, when to get to the university, and introduced me to my supervisor, Dr. Cristina Giorcelli, who became my unfailing supporter at the University and throughout my stay.

But no one could prepare me for the eager faces that awaited me when I rolled into my first class, a graduate seminar in American Intellectual History. The students, fluent English, seemed to hunger for contact with a real American to tell them the real deal about America. I had not calculated that the brewing controversy over America's planned invasion of Iraq had had the effect of heightening interest in America, both negatively and positively, among Italians. I also found that my students were not only quite knowledgeable about the geopolitical situation of America, the United States, and Middle East politics, but also ready to mix it up about American policy and thinking in the post-20th century world. These Italian students devoured books like Jill LePore's The Name of War on how war against the Native Americans--and writing about that war-- gave Americans their first post-British identity; or Lawrence Levine's classic, Black Culture and Black Consciousness, on how a different American Mind had emerged among American slaves and newly freed blacks that contradicted the prevailing ideology that America was always the land of the free and the equally treated. These Italian students were more willing to embrace criticality in their assessment of American foibles and advantages than my own students had been at George Mason University.

Even more stimulating were my third year graduate students, who easily read in English the long novels and critical studies of the Harlem Renaissance, the black arts movement of the 1920s, and added to my understanding of those texts by comparing them with similar texts in Latin American literature, by contrasting literary with filmic treatments of the "New Negro," and by challenging me about the representation and subjectivity of black women in the Harlem movement. My rethinking of what was important in American culture continued with my

undergraduate students, who tackled such serious African American literature as Lorraine Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun and such humorous social criticism as Michael Moore's Stupid White Men. After those first couple of harried, confusing, disconcerting, but exhilarating weeks, I began to settle down and realize that I was having a different kind of teaching experience, one in which I was running ahead of my students, searching out new texts in English in Rome--sometimes a daunting task-- and enjoying a more dialogic engagement with my students than what I had experienced in the United States.

I also realized something else: as a Fulbrighter, I represented the United States in Italy in a way I had not anticipated. During a luncheon with the Anne Callaghan and Maria Paola Pierini in Cultural Affairs at the United States Embassy in Rome, I was asked to lecture to several Italian universities whose English speaking students were very interested in African American Studies. I learned that there was great interest in African American literature and culture among Italian students, driven by their exposure to African American authors like Toni Morrison, James Baldwin, and Ishmael Reed, their listening to rap music, and of course, their consumption of the crossover white rap star, Eminem, whose film autobiography, 8 Mile, opened while I was in Rome. With barely a month under my belt in Rome, I was off to Palermo, Messina, Salerno, and Naples to lecture not just on African American literature, but also on the role and place of minorities in American society. Such trips, expertly coordinated by Gloria Berbena, Public Affairs Officer in Naples, allowed me to form relationships with warm and engaging professors at other universities, although often without enough timeto see all of the historic landmarks recommended by my Rome Tre adviser, Cristina Giorcelli.

The talks were also challenging in another sense: although the various American literature departments welcomed my talking about the Harlem Renaissance, they also wanted me to relate my work to what they were studying, which required more research. Particularly daunting was a trip to Naples in which Prof.ssa Annamaria Cataldi Palombi at Suor Orsola Benincasa University had asked me to relate the Harlem Renaissance to Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn, and Prof.ssa Marie Helene Laforet at *Orientele* University asked me to connect my topic to Postcolonial Literature--to be delivered all on one day! After reacting for a moment--why isn't African American literature worth studying on its own terms?--I dug in, researched both topics, and developed a set of unique analysis of both Huckleberry Finn and the Harlem Renaissance from the perspective of postcolonial literature.

But the most challenging aspect of my visits was delivering these lectures during the American invasion of Iraq. The day that I arrived at *Orientele* University, the head of the university had shut down it down in protest against the war, and some of the students who came said they had debated not coming to the talk because of the war. Those who came were reassured by the PACE flag I had draped over the table. Inevitably, I was asked about American foreign policy, why a black man like Colin Powell was on the side of Bush and the War, why there was no general black outcry against the war, etc.--

questions that revealed that Italian notions of how race factors into American life were at times as naive as well as they were sophisticated.

By the time I was to depart from Rome, I was filled with deep sadness. I had formed strong professional associations and friendships with faculty and students I did not want to lose. I also had an epiphany: I had begun to shift my perspective on some of the intellectual issues I had been wrestling with when I arrived. Because of my lecture tours, I had begun to think of my work in the Harlem Renaissance in a more global context. Upon my return to George Mason University, I resigned my directorship of African American Studies, in part because I wanted to build on collaborative relationships I had established in Italy in ways that would preclude constant involvement in university politics. I had rekindled my love of teaching and also developed a new research interest from my challenging preparations for Naples. Working now with Professor Giorcelli, my supervisor at University of Rome Tre, but also with Professor Ian Chambers, whom I met at the Orientale University, I have developed a conference to bring Italian and American scholars together to study American culture from a more global, postcolonial perspective. Beyond the intellectual renaissance, I had experienced in Italy a renewed sense of the beauty of the life of the mind, especially when seen through the lens of collaborative scholarship and pedagogy. For that, and more, I remain enormously indebted to the Fulbright Program in Italy.

Conference Participation

Edoarda Grego, Independent Scholar
Southern Races and Southern Questions in Woolson's Fiction

I took part in two conferences in the U.S.A.: in Cleveland (Ohio), October 13-14, 2000, and in Asheville (North Carolina) October 31-November 3, 2002. These conferences were organized by the "Constance Fenimore Woolson Society", formed by a group of scholars, mostly academics - one of them has recently become Associate Provost of Academic Programs at West Virginia University. They first met in 1994, the centenary of the death of Woolson, in order to promote the study of Woolson's writing by gathering together those interested in her and in 19th-century writers. They decided to hold a biennial conference in places connected to Woolson and to promote each other's scholarship through the conference atmosphere. I took part in these meetings because my "tesi di laurea" (1999 - discussed with Leonardo Buonomo) was on Woolson's Italian short stories. My first paper was "The Intrusive Landscape Designer: Recreating 'The Front Yard' in Assisi", a text analysis of Woolson's "The Front Yard"; the second, "Down South: 'Southern Races' and Southern Questions in Woolson's Fiction", was about the difference between Woolson's interest in the history of the Reconstruction of American South and her lack of interest in the Italian history of the same period; both were published in *Prospero*, 2000 and 2002, respectively. The last conference in Asheville was then the fifth. It was called "Reconstructing the American South: Constance

Fenimore Woolson and Her Contemporaries, 1865-1890". I found particularly interesting the updating on Woolson's archives and two papers about *For the Major*, a 'novelle' I was then translating. Afterwards I sent it to Sellerio with an introduction. What seemed to me very creative was a comparison between one of Woolson's short stories, "A Florentine Experiment," and Dante's *Vita Nova*.

Gabriella Morisco, Università di Urbino
Courts and the Ideal City

The International conference "Courts and the Ideal City" was held at the University of Urbino on November 15-17, 2002, as a result of a collaboration between the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and the University of Urbino. Its title derives from the fact that Urbino represents one of the greatest moments in Renaissance civilisation, with its Palazzo Ducale hosting the famous painting "La città ideale" (The Ideal City), a significant example of an abstract conception of the urban world. Ideal cities have always been created in history alongside their real counterparts, as a reaction to the latter and as a reflection of the profound need to overcome and reconcile the dramatic contradictions of an increasingly complex human cohabitation. In time, the city has become a metropolis and the skyline has changed: buildings of brick and stone have been replaced by skyscrapers of cement and glass in a variety of colours, but both models coexist in our minds and in our cultures. If Urbino, with its palace, outer walls and green surrounding hills represents perfectly the total harmony between the natural and urban areas in fifteenth-century Europe, the American metropolis equally well represents the composite, multiethnic lack of harmony in the twenty-first century. Models of the ideal city were examined from the literary, historical, artistic, architectural, juridical, philosophical and archeological point of view.

Maria Anita Stefanelli, Università di Roma 3
Cultural Icons: City Lights and the Pocket Book

The Conference on City Lights took place in Rome December 12-14, 2002. The contributors (Larry Smith, Ann Fisher-Wirth, Giulia Lanciani, Stephen Barber, Cristina Giorcelli, Anne Waldman, A. Robert Lee, Maria Vittoria D'Amico, Sara Antonelli, Adina Ciugureanu, Marcus Williamson, Francesco Dragosei, Giancarlo Santalmassi, Giuseppe Marchetti Tricamo, Massimo Bacigalupo, Andrea Mariani, Nick Selby and Maria Anita Stefanelli) focused on one or more of the manifold aspects that the City Lights collection suggested to them, ranging from the historical and political account of the San Francisco Poetry Renaissance to a close analytical reading of one of the Pocket Poets series. The literary and cultural research was enriched by the inquiry into the economic and technological aspects involved in the overall publishing project. Ann Waldman and Inge Elsa Laird were seen in performance. The editing of the papers is in progress.

Fedora Giordano, Università di Torino

Indian Stories, Indian Histories. Storia e storie degli Indiani d'America

The American Indian Workshop, an offspring of EAAS devoted to Native American Studies now in its 24th year, met at the University of Torino in an interdisciplinary convention organized by Fedora Giordano and anthropologist Enrico Comba (8-10 May 2003). The meeting attracted fifty speakers from Italy, Europe, the US and Canada concerned with either stories or histories in the academic sense, but also trying to weave the two innovatively together to produce theoretical insights about their dialectic, or to break down their presumed boundaries by emphasizing, for example, that ceremonies and songs are threads of the historical and narrativized Lifeworld. After Fedora Giordano's introductory speech, in which she also honored the memory of Elémire Zolla (1926-2002), the keynote address was given by Linda Hogan (sponsored by Milan US Public Affairs Office) who remembered the stories of her Chickasaw father, and the impact of Oklahoma Indian Schools on her grandmother. Native literature, history, painting, sculpture, artefacts, origin stories and sacred places, songs, ceremonies, social and gender roles, culture contacts and hybridization were at the center of the discussion. Among the events, a special panel to honor Louis Owens, organized by John Purdy (Washington State U.) and chaired by Gaetano Prampolini (U. of Florence) with the participation of Louis LaLonde (SUNY at Oswego), John Purdy (Washington State U.), Paul B. Taylor (U. Geneva) and Elvira Pulitano (U. Geneva). To quote a few among many distinguished speakers, leading theorist of Native American literature Arnold Krupat (College of St. Lawrence), ethnologists Arnold Graburn (Berkeley), Molly Lee (Alaska), Aldona Jonaitis (U. B.C.) and Christian F. Feest (Frankfurt), cultural historian Bernadette Rigal-Cellard (Bordeaux), Catlin's specialist Colin Taylor (Hastings). A special guest was writer Ernesto Ferrero (*L'anno dell'indiano, Einaudi, 2002*). AISNA members Naila Clerici (Genoa), Marina Gradoli (Perugia) and Franco Meli (Milan) also took active part in the discussion. Younger scholars were given opportunity to present their current research in Native American studies outside the conference theme in a special session.

Massimo Bacigalupo, Università di Genova

Cultural Interactions: 50 Years of American Studies in Germany

The German Association for American Studies celebrated its 50-year anniversary at the Annual Convention in Munich, 10-13 June 2003. The venue was the Amerika-Haus and the Conference opened with a lively panel on American studies in Germany which addressed anti-American attitudes among politicians and persisting widespread ignorance of American culture in Europe, besides the brilliant history of the German Association (which published an excellent annual register of all academic activity in American studies in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland). I was happy to represent AISNA at this Convention and thankful to our sister association for its hospitality.

Ezra Pound and American Identity

The 20th International Ezra Pound Conference, excellently organized by Hugh Witemeyer of UNM, took place in Sun Valley, Idaho, July 2-5, 2003. Plenary papers and readings were given by Denis Donoghue, Mary de Rachewiltz, Robert Creeley and Lawrence Ferlinghetti, among others. Participants came from the USA, Britain, Romania, Italy, Japan, China etc. On July 4 Participants visited Hemingway's tomb in Ketchum and the Ezra Pound House in Hailey, which is now the Hailey Cultural Center. For information: Ezra Pound Association, P.O. Box 1482, Hailey, Idaho, 83333. In the last session, participants voted to hold the 21st Ezra Pound Conference in July 2005 in Rapallo.

Elena Lamberti, Università di Bologna

Memories and Representations of Wars: Comparing WW1 and WW2

Since the publication of Paul Fussell's book on WW1 (*The Great War and Modern Memory*, 1975, a book that retraced the impact of world war on collective memories and cultures starting from neglected sources such as novels, diaries and letters of soldiers and writers), the theme of war memories has become one of the *topoi* of contemporary historical research. Recent studies have in fact brought to light themes that have been neglected by traditional historiography, such as the psychological and ideological dimension of sacrifice, the degradation of soldiers to a primitive status, the creation of new myths and new superstitions, the loss of juvenile innocence. Similarly, other fields of research have started to approach the theme of War memories and representation according to this new historiographic approach, therefore bringing to light other forms of narratives (life histories, diaries, commemorative pamphlets, autobiographies), as well as a cross-reading of war novels and other forms of bearing witness ("Counter-Memorials," oral histories and interviews, but also movies and documentaries). These preliminary speculations provided the background to the International Symposium on "Memories and Representations of Wars: Comparing WW1 and WW2" (Bologna, 19-20 September 2003), sponsored and organised by the European Thematic Network on Cultural Memory 'ACUME' and the University of Bologna. The ACUME Network groups about fifty European Universities and aims at investigating the idea of "Cultural Memory" across Europe, by "Cultural Memory" meaning a heritage that, in time, each nation has created in order to mould, preserve, defend or question its own identity (for additional info see: www.lingue.unibo.it/acume).

The symposium was part of a research project dedicated to the idea of bearing witness and focused on the comparison of war memories related to the two World Wars at a European and international level. It brought together scholars from various disciplines, because the studies on war memories are first of all studies of cultural history: due to the 'literary characters' of many of the available 'sources', they envisage a comparison among historians, as well as scholars in the humanities and in the visual arts. Speakers included Arancha Aranzazu Usandizaga (University of Barcelona), Roberto Balzani (University of

Bologna), Atonia Baraldi (Istituto Professionale Maffeo Panatleoni Frascati), Marianne Børch (University of Southern Denmark), Antonella Bonvini (ISREBO), Adriana Corrado (Istituto Universitario Suor Orsola Benincasa), Alberto De Bernardi (Università di Bologna), Daniela Fortezza (Università di Bologna), Vita Fortunati (Università di Bologna), Giovanna Franci (Università di Bologna), Cesare Jacobazzi (Università di Modena), Antonio Gibelli (Università di Genova), Oliver Janz (Freie Universiteit Berlin), Alan Judd (writer, UK), Jonathan Kear (University of Kent), Elena Lamberti (University of Bologna), Sara Pesce (University of Bologna), William Rivière (University of Urbino), Rossella Ropa (ISREBO), Max Saunders (King's College London), Monica Spiridon (University of Bucharest), Claire Thake Vassallo (University of Malta), Maurizio Vaudagna (University of Turin).

Coherently, the seminar offered an interdisciplinary discussion concerning differences and similarities between WW1 and WW2 memories. The most recent studies have, in fact, proven that these two terrible war experiences, even though they deeply differ depending on historical reasons and war strategies, are nevertheless strongly linked: WW1 has anticipated some disquieting phenomena which fully exploded during WW2, such as the ideological manipulation of events, as well as of the disturbing phenomenon presenting war as a 'show' to display and emphasise, a phenomenon facilitated, if not created and conditioned, by new forms of communication (radio, photography, cinema are all media that contributed to change the 'image' of war as well as its narration). Presentations discussed a wide range of topics, moving from the consideration that the acts of remembering, writing and representing war cannot be disjointed from ethical and complex questions related to the difficulty of finding a balance between one's own search for truth and the responsibility of *being true*. Abstracts are available online.

(http://www.lingue.unibo.it/acume/ww1_ww2.htm).

In particular, concerning North American studies, the focus was on the impact of the two world wars on the making of a new US 'identity', moving from the reading of anti-rhetorical novels of both post-war periods (Dos Passos, Hemingway, Vonnegut among others). The cross-reading of war narratives was therefore placed against the different role played by the United States in the first and second World War, and aimed at discussing the meaning of war experience *per se*, as well as the effects that these wars had on the making of the 'new America'. Remembering and bearing witness on the experience of war was the means of both following the writer's own identity forming process, and of interpreting the United States context then in progress. Also, the role of Hollywood as a cultural mediator for these two war experiences was at the core of another discussion on the creation of 'artificial memory': towards the end of the 20th century, movies and documentaries created and produced by those who had not experienced the war become, in fact, ways to forge and mould a palimpsest of 'fixed icons' which trouble, complicate and condition the reception of the war experience, as well as the related political, ideological and social issues.

The symposium offered also an overview of some ways of preserving and teaching war experiences in schools, therefore offering an interesting link among various educational agencies. ISREBO (Institute for the History of Contemporary Society Resistance in Bologna) presented the results of an important survey carried out in collaboration with teachers of Italian Schools and Maltese scholars introduced a research project dedicated to the preservation of oral sources on WW2 in Malta. In particular, this latter experience brought an interesting cross-reading of popular and oral sources and literature, with a special focus on Thomas Pynchon's *V*.

The symposium was concluded by a round table dedicated to *Bearing Witness and Imagining War: History or Fiction?*, featuring writers Alan Judd and William Rivière, authors of novels that have discusses world wars 'à rebourse'. Which are the difficulties, the ethical responsibilities related to bearing witness of war experiences through creative writing? What is it that moves a writer, today, to write about WW1 and WW2, but also which are the risks of fictionalising a war experience whose memory is more and more confined to indirect sources? Can revisionism be perceived also as a consequence of 'artificial memory' as brought about by imaginative writing or artistic experiences? What is today the status of historical war novels? Needless to say, each of these questions envisages more than a plain answer; and yet to ask oneself these questions is still something that should not be avoided, especially today when war seems to be more and more a way of being of the modern world, and destructions, massacres have by now become customary scenarios. Hemingway had already understood this. Calvino wrote that Hemingway's greatness really consists in having understood and having voiced an uncomfortable truth, that is that even if one does not take the side of massacre, one has to admit that massacre has become "contemporary man's natural scenario". According to Calvino, Hemingway's great intuition was precisely in perceiving war as "the most truthful image, as the normal reality of the bourgeois world in the imperialistic age"; if this is true, even a symposium on bearing witness on memories and representations of wars can become a brave and necessary act.

Conferences 2003

October 2-16-23-30. Per un profilo della cultura letteraria inglese e americana. Genova, Accademia Ligure di Scienze e Lettere. Talks by F. Marengo, G.Sertoli, L. Villa, M. Bacigalupo.

October 3-4. Psicologie e identità. Università di Bergamo, Piazza Vecchia 8. Information: Pietro Barbetta, Mario Corona.

October 9-10. Da Ulisse a... Il viaggio nelle terre d'oltremare. Imperia, Polo Universitario. Speakers

include: M. Bacigalupo, J. Culler, J.P. Russo, Wallis Wilde-Menozzi. Information: [Giorgetta.Revelli\[at\]unige.it](mailto:Giorgetta.Revelli[at]unige.it)

October 11-12. Percorsi culturali e identitari vissuti dai Nativi Americani. Centro Studi e Congressi Provincia di Cuneo. Speakers: Delores J. Huff (Cherokee), Naila Clerici, Gilbert Douville (Lakota), Camilla Novelli. Information: Naila Cleirici, [naila\[at\]cisi.unito.it](mailto:naila[at]cisi.unito.it).

October 16-18. Emerson 2003. Università di Roma "La Sapienza". Sponsored by AISNA. Information: [giorgio.mariani\[at\]uniroma1.it](mailto:giorgio.mariani[at]uniroma1.it)

October 24-25. L'aforisma, forme brevi fra antico e moderno. XXX Premi Internazionali E. Flaiano, Pescara, tel. 085 4517898. www.premiflaiano.it.

October 29-30. Keeping the Beat: Music, Cultures, Societies. A Milan Group Seminar (Via Festa del Perdono 7, Milan). In collaboration with Università degli Studi di Milano, Dipartimento Storia della Società e delle Istituzioni, Université Paul Valéry (Montpellier III), Dottorato in "Storia del Republicanesimo e del Costituzionalismo". Speakers: Fabio Treves, Jack Goodfellow, Augusta Molinari, Roberto Chiarini, William Riches, Elodie Chazalon, Matteo Ceschi, Gianmaria Bergamaschini, Alice Echols, Ronald Hoffman, Larry Portis, Pietro Adamo, Mark Fannin, Therese Smith, Loretta Valtz Mannucci, S. Delfino, A. Riosa, M. Debouzy, S. Ullmo, J. Mackenthun, S. Castillo, D. Greenberg, M. Sobel (Haifa). Information: Marco Sioli [marco.sioli\[at\]unimi.it](mailto:marco.sioli[at]unimi.it)

November 6-8. Ambassadors: American Studies in a Changing World. AISNA Thirtieth Anniversary Conference. Roma, Centro Studi Americani. Supported by United States Embassy, MIUR, Roma 1, Roma 3, Genova. Plenary talks by: Mario Corona, Amy Kaplan, Bart Eeckhout, David Thelen. Round-table on "Thirty Years of American Studies in Italy" with Sergio Perosa (chair), Claudio Gorlier, Agostino Lombardo, Anna Maria Martellone, Stefania Piccinato, Bianca Maria Tedeschini Lalli. Information: [37237\[at\]unige.it](mailto:37237[at]unige.it)

November 14. Seminar on *The Wings of the Dove*, To Honor Sergio Perosa. Dipartimento di Studi Anglo-Americani e Ibero-Americani, Università di Venezia, Cà Foscari. Information: [mamoli\[at\]unive.it](mailto:mamoli[at]unive.it).

November 20-21. Geoffrey Hartman, Sterling Professor of English and Comparative Literature (Emeritus), Yale University, and Co-Founder and Project Director of the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale University, will be in Bologna as a guest lecturer in the month of November 2003. Author of a long list of books on literature and criticism, including the recent *Scars of the Spirit* (2002), Professor Hartman will offer two lectures, respectively on the issue of cultural memory in relation to oral testimony and videotaping survivors of the Holocaust, and on the act of reading/interpreting literature in a broader context. Information: Giovanna Franci ([gfranci\[at\]lingue.unibo.it](mailto:gfranci[at]lingue.unibo.it)) & Elena Lamberti ([elambert\[at\]lingue.unibo.it](mailto:elambert[at]lingue.unibo.it))

November 27-28. International Conference Quale Occidente - Occidente perché. Dipartimento di Politica, Istituzioni, Storia - Università di Bologna. Speakers: Tiziano Bonazzi, Franco Cardini, Matthew Connelly, Simon Serfaty. Lorenzo Ornaghi, Marcello De Cecco, Alberto Quadrio Curzio, Robert Young, Nasr Abu Zayd.

December 2-3. La città come testo. Università di Trieste, 2-3 dicembre 2003. Information: [crivelli\[at\]units.it](mailto:crivelli[at]units.it)

Forthcoming Conferences 2004

March 24-27. Interdisciplinary Approaches to Short Fiction Theory and Criticism. University of Salamanca. <http://www.usal.es/shortstory>. See website for guidelines. Deadline for proposals: 9 December 2003. Information: [shortstory\[at\]universitas.usal.es](mailto:shortstory[at]universitas.usal.es)

April 2-5. America in the Course of Human Events. EAAS Biennial Conference, Prague.

Information: <http://www.eass.info>. *Among Parallel Lectures, Mario Maffi (Università di Milano) will speak of "The Confidence River: the Mississippi and 'Its Inimitable Gothic Script.'" The following workshops will be chaired by Italian scholars: History and Pre-History: Literary Works Between the Two World Wars (Giorcelli); Historical, Social and Literary Asian American Perspectives at the Turn of the Century (Unali); Work and Welfare across the Atlantic: Influences and Comparisons in Europe and in the United States (Vaudagna); Trauma, Memory, History (Iuli).*

April 8-10. Wallace Stevens Conference: The Poet of Poets in Connecticut. A Conference at the University of Connecticut at Storrs, to celebrate the 50 years of publication of *The Collected Poems of Wallace Stevens*. For information write to Glen MacLeod, 79 Whitman Avenue West Hartford, CT 06107, [glen.macleod\[at\]uconn.edu](mailto:glen.macleod[at]uconn.edu).

April 22-25. Narrative: An International Conference. Burlington, Vermont, April 22-25, 2004. Deadline: October 15, 2003. Narrative Conference, Department of English, 400 Old Mill, University of Vermont, Burlington VT 05405. [narrative.conference\[at\]uvm.edu](mailto:narrative.conference[at]uvm.edu). For further information, contact Anne Moore at the above email address.

American Historical Association. Dear colleagues: A colleague in the U.S. and I are planning to submit a panel proposal for the American Historical Association conference in San Francisco, in April 2005. The idea is a session on teaching the history of the 1960s. Since I teach this period in Mexico and he does in the US, we thought we would like to include one or two more persons to speak on teaching the Sixties in a European university. If any of you is interested and can fit into such a panel, we would like to hear from you soon and discuss the idea further. As officers of the American Studies Association of your country I would like to ask you to please distribute this

message among your members.--Avital Bloch
avital_bfat@yahoo.com

Some Forthcoming U.S Conferences John Paul Russo, University of Miami

The academic year 2003-2004 is conference-rich in topics of interest to AISNA scholars in history, literature, and cultural studies. Here is a brief sampling. President Herbert Hoover's response to the Mississippi Flood of 1927 will be the theme of a conference entitled "**Rising Tide: The Politics of the Mississippi**" at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum in West Branch, Iowa, on 10 October 2003. This year the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association will take place in Hartford, Connecticut on 16-19 October. The subject of the conference is "**Violence and Belonging.**" Then, on 25-26 October, the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites will hold its first national conference on "**Women's History Sites: Preserving & Making History**" in Washington, D.C. On 13-14 November 2003, the Institute for African American Studies at the University of Connecticut, Storrs hosts a conference on "**The Black Power Movement in Historical Perspective: Dialogues on Race and American Society.**" On 11 March 2004 the Cushway Center for the Study of American Catholicism and the African American Studies Program at the University of Notre Dame will sponsor "**Uncommon Faithfulness: The Witness of African American Catholics.**"

April is the busiest month: on 1-3 April 2004 the African/African American Studies Program at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth will hold the 4th Biennial Conference on the general theme of "**Brown v. Board of Education: A Reflection on Fifty Years.**" The Annual Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference will meet this year on 7-10 April 2004, in San Antonio, Texas. Calls for papers have already gone out for panels, including "Remembering the Alamo: Foundational Fictions, Cultural Memories, and Legacies of Manifest Destiny"; "Popular Culture in the Era of Theodore Roosevelt"; "Biography and Popular Culture"; and "American Meta-Fiction: Since 1945." On 24 April 2004 the Department of History at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst will host a conference on the subject of "**North American Sexualities/Post World War II.**" Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation will be the subject of a conference at East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina on 17 September 2004. For more information on these and (many) other conferences, including panels and workshops, calls for papers, deadlines, email addresses of conference organizers, panel organizers, etc., click on to h-net.org/announce/; then proceed to click on the appropriate menu selection. Journals in American Studies, history, and literature are well known.

AISNA members may also be interested in journals welcoming submissions in the fields of Italian American history, literature, society, and culture. These include *Italian Americana* edited by Carol Bonomo Albright and John Paul Russo; *VIA (Voices in Italian Americana)*, edited by Anthony Julian Tamburri, Fred Gardaphe, and

Paolo Giordano; and *Italian American Review*, edited by Philip V. Cannistraro c/o John D. Calandra Italian American Institute. See the journals' respective websites for further information. (John Paul Russo, Univ. of Miami, Florida)

Notebook

A selection of papers from the "**Henry James Today**" International Conference of the Henry James Society (Paris 5-9 July 2002) is forthcoming as a special issue of *Igitur*, to appear in Fall 2003. Contributors to the issue, edited by Donatella Izzo with a foreword by Pierre A. Walker and Greg W. Zacharias, include Leonardo Buonomo, Anna De Biasio, Susan E. Gunter, Tessa Hadley, Kris Olson Lauer, Julie Rivkin, Stuart Robertson, Sheila Teahan, and Ivy Wilson. Copies can be ordered from the publisher: Nuova Arnica Editrice, via dei Reti 19/a, 00185 Roma, Italy; tel. And fax: +39-06-4441611, e-mail: [n.arnica\[at\]flashnet.it](mailto:n.arnica[at]flashnet.it)

The Keats-Shelley Association in Rome, to celebrate its centenary, organized a **Poetry Conference & Festival** at the British School of Rome, October 12-14, 2003. The speakers (Philip Hobsbaum, Tom Paulin, Duncan Wu, etc.) were all from Britain, Anthony Hecht having pulled out, but in their talks on Wordsworth, Keats et al. American poetry was often referred to, especially Wallace Stevens. Some controversy was aroused by neo-historicist (political) readings of classics like Keats's "Ode to Autumn." The Keats-Shelley House at Piazza di Spagna has some interesting charts on early American visitors in Rome.

Oreste Borri, a senior painter from Montevarchi, exhibited a series of works dedicated to Ezra Pound at the **Gabinetto Vieusseux**, Florence, under the title "6+5 riflessioni sui *Canti pisani*." Massimo Bacigalupo, art critic Alessia Lenzi, and scholar Mario Curreli spoke at the opening on Sept. 18, 2003.

Mary Rudge de Rachewiltz, daughter of Ezra Pound, was awarded the **Lerici-Pea Prize** for an unpublished sequence of poems in Italian, Lerici, September 27, 2003. The main prize went to the Argentine poet Juan Gelman. This was the fiftieth anniversary of the Premio LericiPea. Mary de Rachewiltz's last publication in English is *For the Wrong Reason: Poems* (New York: Edgewise Press, 2002).

Nazione guerriera. Il militarismo nella cultura degli Stati Uniti (Colonnese, 2002), by **Gordon Poole**, alla sua seconda edizione, ha vinto il premio annuale "Vittoria Giuliani Sostegni" per libri sul tema: "I diritti e le lotte per la libertà". E' stato conferito il 30 agosto 2003 a Folgaria (TN).

Passing and the Rise of the African American Novel (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2001) by M. Giulia Fabi was selected by *Choice* (the journal of academic librarians) as one of its Outstanding Academic Books of the Year, a

distinction earned by only about 5% of all the scholarly books published each year in the United States. The selection was announced in the January 2003 issue of *Choice*.

Miami University of Ohio, Bologna. Miami University of Ohio offers each summer a seven weeks program in Italian Studies, conducted in English, at the undergraduate level. For summer 2004 circa 50 American students will take courses in journalism, art history, and European cinema while living in central Florence. They have weekends for independent travel. The Program Director often invites Italian professors accustomed to teaching in English to give guest presentations on some area of introductory level contemporary interest, and can offer hospitality and payment for a brief stay in Florence. The Program runs in July and August and is located in Santo Spirito in the Oltrarno zone of Florence. The Director would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in this program in international educational exchange.-- Dr. Mark Bernheim, Miami University-Ohio.
<bernhema[at]muohio.edu>

American Studies Discussion List. AISNA Members interested in becoming part of the "Studi americani" discussion list initiated in 2002 should address inquiries to: [studiamericani-owner\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:studiamericani-owner@yahoo.com)

Romanian American Studies Association

RAAS, Romanian Association for American Studies, is building its website: www.american-studies.ro. Soon it will be ready and it will also contain the electronic version of the RAAS newsletter.

Letter from the Rodica Mihaila, President, to Members of RAAS

Dear Colleagues,

One of the main concerns of the Association is to keep all our members currently informed, mainly through electronic mail, of what is going on in our field. Hoping that we have been quite efficient in this respect, instead of giving you more news now, I would rather speak in more detail about those RAAS activities that seem to have more relevance for the future, offering our members excellent professional opportunities.

In March, I attended the EAAS board meeting ably hosted in Athens by the Hellenic Association for American Studies (HELAAS) and co-sponsored by the American College of Greece, the Onassis Foundation, the Athens chapters of the Indianapolis University and the University of LaVerne. Preceding the 2004 EAAS biennial Conference "America in the Course of Human Events: Presentations and Interpretations" to be held in Prague, April 2-5, the meeting established new guidelines for the

workshops, emphasizing the need to encourage European approaches to American Studies as well as "conceptual and philosophical perceptions" alongside discussions of various significant aspects of the American experience. After a thorough selection process, the board selected 8 parallel lectures, three shoptalks and 26 out of 47 workshop proposals. The selected proposals will be published in the May issue of the EAAS Newsletter. Encouraging our members to submit proposals for individual papers to the workshop organizers, I must, however, admit I was somewhat disappointed to see that there were no proposals for lectures and/or workshops coming from Romania.

A substantive decision of the Board was the unanimous acceptance of the Russian Society for American Studies as the twenty-first member of the EAAS. Among other issues of special interest to our members was the report from the Executive Board regarding the EAAS 2003 Grants Allocations. The Board awarded one Intra-European and three Trans-Atlantic Travel Grants, the Intra-European one (for research in England) being given to our colleague Dan Horatiu Popescu. After Bogdan Barbu in 2001 and Ludmila Martanovski in 2002, he is the third RAAS member to be awarded an EAAS Travel Grant. If you qualify for a 2004 grant, don't hesitate to apply for it. Along the same line I would like to mention that several RAAS members have received funding to participate in various international conferences and seminars after they applied for it following the announcements received from our association.

Apart from its semi-annual Newsletter, *American Studies in Europe*, and the *European Journal*, the first edition of which was distributed to all our members for inspection, as agreed in Athens, the EAAS has already offered its members another important information and communication tool – a new expanded and updated website (<http://www.eaas.info>). It provides information about EAAS, Conferences and Events, EAAS-L Distribution List, EAAS Newsletter (including the May 2003 issue), EAAS Travel Grants, Book Reviews and Links.

In May, members of the RAAS joined in celebrating the tenth anniversary of the U.S.Fulbright Commission and forty-three years of Fulbright activity in Romania. The RAAS-Fulbright Biennial Conferences in 2000 and 2002 were presented as examples of successful educational and cultural exchanges between the U.S. and Romania. You will find more details about the celebration later in this Newsletter.

The RAAS will hold its Third Biennial Conference "Our America: People, Places, Times" next February in Bucharest. The Conference will also host the RAAS General Meeting on the agenda of which we included reports on the RAAS activities since 2002 and the new RAAS board elections. We count on the participation of many of our colleagues from across Romania and from abroad and we hope to make the Conference, as in the past, a challenging forum for cross-cultural discussion. In the meantime, we'll try to keep you informed of all the

events that may be of interest to our whole community of American Studies scholars.

--Rodica Mihaila, RAAS President, 27 May 2003

Visiting Scholars

Ellen DuBois of UCLA will be Fulbright Professor at the Facoltà di Scienze Politiche of the University of Bologna, for spring 2004. Prof. DuBois is a major scholar in US women's history. She has published, among others: *Woman Suffrage and Women's Rights* (New York University Press, 1998); *Harriet Stanton Blatch and the Winning of Woman Suffrage* (Yale Univ. Press, 1999); *Feminism and Suffrage: The Emergence of an Independent Women's Movement in America, 1848-1869* (Cornell Univ. Press, 1999). Professor Du Bois will lecture on "Women's suffrage and women's rights".

Jonathan Culler of Cornell and **Ron Bush** of Oxford University are spending their 2003-2004 sabbatical in Rome. Culler is one of the speakers in "Da Ulisse a..." (Imperia, 9-10 October, 2003). Bush and Culler will be giving papers at the AISNA Biennial Conference "Ambassadors" (Rome, Centro Studi Americani, Nov. 6-8, 2003).

Jacques R. Pauwels. Born in Belgium, Pauwels has lived in Canada since 1969, where he teaches European history in York, Western Ontario, and Toronto Universities. Among his books are *Women, Nazis and Universities* (Greenwood Press, 1984), and *Il mito della guerra buona. Gli Usa e la Seconda guerra mondiale* (tr. Silvio Calzavarini, Roma, DATANEWS editrice, 2003; original edition, Antwerpen, 2000). His thesis is that there are no good wars. His broad, rigorous, well-documented study holds that the US intervention in World War II was not only or even mainly about overthrowing Nazi-Fascism but due above all to the need of American capitalism, after the depression years, to strengthen its productive system and extend its influence world-wide. Here Pauwels finds the origins of present-day globalization. Especially shocking are two long chapters on the ongoing presence of US capitalism in Nazi Germany, continuing throughout the war years. The book is pugnacious and courageous, decidedly not mainstream, and has already been published in Canada, Spain, Great Britain, and Germany, where it has been very well received. When it first came out in Belgium it was on the European non-fiction best-seller list for four months. The author will be in Europe, including Italy, in October, where presentations and debates have been organized. Information: go.poole[at]libero.it

Journals

EJAC - European Journal of American Culture

AISNA Members have received the 2003 issues of *EJAC* free of charge. It is hoped that they will subscribe and submit papers to this exciting journal. Here is a note from

the Editor, G.H. Bennett.

Dear AISNA Members:

It is customary for new editors to say hello and put out a call for papers, but in view of the subject of the journal "Hi" would seem more appropriate. I have taken over the editorship of *EJAC* from Professor Richard Ellis of Nottingham Trent University, and in saying "Hi" I would like to thank him for all the work which he has put into the journal over so many years. Having begun to step into his shoes I realise the full extent of his commitment and professionalism.

I will be joined by two assistant editors, Dr. Mark Whalan (Exeter) and Dr Liam Kennedy (Birmingham) and together we will be giving the journal a subtle tweak or two. In addition to the staple fare of the journal (scholarly articles and book reviews) we want to broaden the focus of the journal. In particular we want to include spaces for comment and reply so that developments in American culture can be highlighted and discussed as they are happening rather than retrospectively.

Unsurprisingly our aim is academic excellence (and all our articles are refereed), but what we also seek is relevance and readership across Europe. We want articles that are credible in terms of the research assessment exercise but we also want to build a journal that undergraduates, postgraduates and academics from a range of disciplines find truly useful and interesting. We hope you enjoy our first new 'issue'.

In detail our aims might be defined as:

- Through the publication of long articles (circa 6,000-8,000 words), to facilitate the academic study of all aspects of American culture, both modern and historical, particularly in newer fields of academic enquiry such as film and new media. Articles may approach their particular subject matter from one discipline or from several.
- Through the publication of shorter comments and responses, to foster academic debate about ongoing developments in modern American culture.
- Through the publication of reviews, to review current scholarship within the broad field of American culture, both modern and historical.

Our principles are:

- To paraphrase Jefferson's words 'all men [and women] are created equal' and that academic excellence does not reside solely within the ranks of established scholars. We are willing to consider articles from all sections within the academic community, and from beyond it.
- To be neither pro-American or anti-American in our editorial direction.
- To value the European perspective on American culture. European culture has fostered the development of American culture, which in turn has fostered the development of a global culture in which Europe is enmeshed.

If you have an article for potential publication in the journal, would like to suggest a short comment under 2 above, or are seeking to have a book reviewed in the journal you should contact me at:

University of Plymouth, Douglas Avenue, Exmouth,
Devon, EX8 2AT, H1Bennett[at]plymouth.ac.uk

Best wishes,
Dr. G.H. Bennett

RSA/AISNA Journal

Members of AISNA (and EAAS) who would like to receive back issues of *RSA Journal* or need extra copies should write Gabriella Ferruggia (Gabriella.Ferruggia[at]unige.it). Back copies of several issues are available.

RSA/AISNA Journal **Call for Articles**

The *RSA/AISNA Journal* Board has worked on the new editorial plan and on the next four issues of the journal, which will include both a monographic section and a general section. All AISNA members are invited to cooperate by submitting articles and review essays in order to make *RSA/AISNA Journal* representative of American studies in Italy. Cooperation is also needed to find unpublished texts (poetry, fiction, documents etc.). Articles should be written in English, according to the latest MLA style sheet. Proposals and articles for the monographic section should be sent to the Guest Editor, while those for the general section should, and sent to all members of the Editorial Board:

<mamoli[at]unive.it>, <bonazzit[at]spbo.unibo.it>,
<pisapia[at]uniroma1.it>, <balestra[at]unisi.it>,
<ugo.rubeo[at]uniroma1.it>, <mario.maffi[at]unimi.it>,
<andonno[at]ilenic.unile>

#13 "American Culture and the Theme of Destruction" is now in preparation. The deadline for submission of articles is 10 January 2004.

Next issues:

#14 "Poetry and History". Send proposals by 30 January 2004 to Massimo Bacigalupo, 37237[at]unige.it.

#15 American Constructions of Europe. Send proposals by 30 June 2004 to Tiziano Bonazzi, bonazzit[at]spbo.unibo.it.

#16 "American Spaces: Horizontal and Vertical." Send proposals by 30 September 2004 to Mario Maffi, mario.maffi[at]unimi.it

Membership Renewal

AISNA Members are reminded to pay their dues as soon as possible, by remitting €42 for 2003 and €60 for 2004 to AISNA President Massimo Bacigalupo, c/o CARIGE, Piazza S. Sabina, 16124 Genova, ABI 6175, CAB 01408, CC 12332/80.

You can also send a non-transferable check made out to Gabriella Ferruggia to: Salita Superiore S. Rocchino 35/6, 16122 Genova.

As of 2004, **graduate students, dottorandi** and **assegnisti** are offered a special membership fee of €35, upon presentation of proof of their status to the Treasurer.

If you do not want to worry every year about renewing your membership, we encourage you to place with your Bank a YEARLY STANDING ORDER for the sum of €60 made payable by the end of January to the account of the Treasurer, details as above.

We remind you that only members in good standing will receive *RSA Journal* and the Proceedings of the 2003 *Ambassadors* conference. Membership in AISNA includes membership in EAAS and the possibility to participate in EAAS Conference and to receive the *EAAS Newsletter*.

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Poem

Louise Glück, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet who teaches at Williams College in Massachusetts, will be the next U.S. poet laureate. The Librarian of Congress, James Billington, hailed her "strong, vivid, deep poetic voice."

COTTONMOUTH COUNTRY

Fish bones walked the waves off Hatteras.
 And there were other signs
 That Death wooed us, by water, wooed us
 By land: among the pines
 An uncurled cottonmouth that rolled on moss
 Reared in the polluted air.
 Birth, not death, is the hard loss.
 I know. I also left a skin there. --Louise Glück

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