

Spring 1961  
Central Mississippi Valley American Studies Association (CMVASA)  
Bulletin

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CMVASA BULLETIN

- The increased size of the Journal is due simply to the fact that the Editor does not want to build up a two year backlog of accepted articles. While we are pleased to be able to provide an unusually big issue, we make no promises for the future. You might say that after a profitable first year, the organization is declaring a dividend.
- There is still talk about going quarterly. The limiting factor at present is simply the Editor's capacity for work. But circulation is large enough to justify more frequent publication, and we think that we can cover the expense: the Journal, while not rich, is clearly in the black, a rare place for a scholarly magazine to be.
- The program for the CMVASA annual meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, March 25, 1961:

First Session . . . . . Chairman: Stanley Urban

Welcome: Edward F. Grier

Speaker: James C. Malin

Topic: Kansas: Some Reflections on Cultural Inheritance  
and Originality

Discussants: Nyle Miller, Robert Johannsen

Luncheon

Presidential Address: Wayne Wheeler

Second Session . . . . . Chairman: Gerald Bernstein

Speaker: Kenneth J. LaBudde

Topic: Regionalism in American Painting: Some Cultural  
Speculations

Discussants: R. J. Hunt, Ross E. Taggart

- The Editorial Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Harry M. Campbell to the staff of the Journal. Professor Campbell, who is Chairman of the Department of English, Foreign Languages and Speech at Oklahoma State University, succeeds Professor John Q. Reed as Reader in Literature. We would also like to thank Professor Reed, who waded manfully through the tide of articles in literature which rolled in following the famous (and unfortunately misleading) notice in PMLA.

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- March 31, 1962, is the date of the next annual meeting. The place is Ames, Iowa; the topic is not yet set.
- A reminder to libraries and librarians: starting with our next issue, our name will be Midcontinent American Studies Journal. Same old format; same elegant contents; cast of thousands. The association is to be known as the Midcontinent American Studies Association, or, for short, MASA. MASA's in the cold, cold . . . .
- Flattering things have been said about our Twain issue, and in at least two places it has actually been used as a text. The feeling seems to be that the issue contains articles which are 1) intelligible to the "lay" reader because they were written not for literature specialists but for an American Studies audience, and 2) coherent in their view of Twain. The man who heard the "sirens of progress," it would seem, could well have lived in the house in Hartford. Several readers have suggested that we attempt to interest a publisher in making it available as a text. Our feeling is that no publisher would ever want to reprint an issue of a scholarly journal. But we could do this: 1) add to the original text Donald Welsh's fine paper, "Sam Clemens' Hannibal," which we are planning to print in a later issue, along with a brief new introduction for students and a bibliography, and 2) have the Press run off a few hundred copies from the masters which we already own. This would not cost us too much, but to do it we would first have to be certain that we could sell enough copies to pay the bill. So, if you would like to give the book a try as a text, would you send a note to Jerzy Hauptmann, at Park College, Parkville, Missouri, telling him how many copies you think you'll need? If we get enough orders, we'll go to press. The cost to students should be about \$1.00 or \$1.50, I should think, and of course we'll provide you with a desk copy. The book will work well in an American Literature class, in American Civilization (I've tried it myself; it is better for this purpose than any of the casebooks or source-books), in Twain seminars and in Intellectual or Cultural History courses. If we do print it, we could have it ready for classroom use in time for the fall semester of 1962. Needless to say, the Journal can use any slight profit which we may realize on the venture.

(Continued on inside back cover)

- We have been very pleased by the fact that contributions to the Journal have come from all over the country. The present issue, as one would expect, is written for the most part by people in Kansas, but in general we have had excellent geographic distribution. Indeed, the CMVASA region has, if anything, been underrepresented. So we would like to renew our invitation to CMVASA members to submit manuscripts.
- Sad to say, we have become one of those journals with a backlog of articles. But the backlog is sizeable only in literature, and we hope to wipe it out with an oversize issue this spring. Fields in which we very much want articles: Art History, History of Science, Music History, Folklore, Sociology, Anthropology. We insist only that the articles be straightforward in style and interdisciplinary in interest.
- Members in the fields named above are also cordially welcomed. The ASA has always been a little too heavy in History and Literature; our chapter is especially heavy in Literature.
- We are pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Robert W. Johanssen of the Department of History of the University of Illinois to the post of Reader in History for the Journal. He succeeds Father Martin F. Hasting, S. J., Dean of the College, the University of Saint Louis, to whom we extend thanks for two years of faithful and perceptive service.
- This special Centennial Issue of the Journal is going to a much larger audience than usual because of special orders and bookstore sales. We would like to invite those of our new readers who are interested in good discussions of aspects of American Studies to become regular subscribers. The cost is just \$1.50 a year. Checks should be made out to the Midcontinent American Studies Journal, and mailed to Professor Jerzy Hauptmann, Park College, Parkville, Missouri.
- We've had extra copies of this issue run off, and can fill orders promptly. The price is 75¢; send checks to Professor Hauptmann at the address given above.
- On the cover: The Lawrence ice-house after the Tornado of 1911.