



ALS-MLA

American Literature Section of the
Modern Language Association

Annual Report, 2003

Compiled by
Sheryl L. Meyering & Brian Abel Ragen
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

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American Literature Section, 2003

Chair: Carla Kaplan (U of Southern California)

Executive Coordinator: Sheryl Meyering &
Brian Abel Ragen (Southern Illinois U Edwardsville)

ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Elected Members:

Ramón Saldívar (Stanford U), 2001-2003
Richard Kopley (Penn State U), 2002-04
Mary Loeffelholz (Northeastern U), 2002-04
Gillian Brown (U of Utah), 2003-05
Lisa Lowe (U of California, San Diego), 2003-05

Division Chairs:

American Literature to 1800

Gordon M. Sayre (U of Oregon)

Nineteenth-Century American Literature

Carla L. Peterson (U of Maryland, College Park)

**Late Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century
American Literature**

Kenneth W. Warren (U of Chicago)

Twentieth-Century American Literature

Sharon Patricia Holland (U of Illinois, Chicago)

Black American Literature and Culture

William J. Maxwell (U of Illinois, Urbana)

American Indian Literatures

Robert Dale Parker (U of Illinois, Urbana)

Asian American Literature

Karen K. Su (U of Pennsylvania)

Chicana and Chicano Literature

Amelia María de la Luz Montes

(The chair, executive coordinator, and editor of *American Literature* are also members of the Advisory Council.)

ALS-MLA STANDING COMMITTEES:

Nominating Committee:

Mary Loeffelholz, Chair
Ramón Saldívar
Lavina D. Shankar (Bates C)

Foerster Prize Committee:

Dana Nelson (U of Kentucky), Chair
Judith Jackson Fossett (U of Southern California)
Robert Corber (Trinity C)

Hubbell Award Committee:

Rafael Pérez-Torres (UCLA), 2003 Chair
Richard Millington (Smith C), 2004 Chair
Cheryl A. Wall (Rutgers U), 2005 Chair
Joel Myerson (U of South Carolina), 2006 Chair
Viet Nguyen (U of Southern California), 2007 Chair

EDITORIAL BOARD, AMERICAN LITERATURE

Houston Baker (Duke U), Editor
Priscilla Wald (Duke U), Associate Editor
Lois Brown (Mount Holyoke C), 2003
Russell J. Castronovo (U of Wisconsin, Madison), 2003
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Christopher Newfield (U of California, Santa Barbara), 2003
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Susan K. Harris (U of Kansas), 2005
David Kazanjian (Queens C, CUNY), 2005
Leland Person (U of Cincinnati), 2005



The Hubbell Medal 2003

The Hubbell Medal committee for 2003 comprised Rafael Pérez-Torres (Chair), Richard Millington, Cheryl A. Wall, Joel Myerson, and Viet Nguyen. It selected Houston A. Baker as this year's winner of the American Literature Section's award for lifetime achievement in American Literary Studies.

Citation for Houston A. Baker, Hubbell Award, 2003

It is my singular pleasure and honor to present the Jay B. Hubbell Award to my friend, mentor and colleague Houston A. Baker. As you know, the Hubbell Award recognizes those exceptional scholars who have made a striking contribution to the study of American literature over the course of their careers. In this instance, the award will have to suffice for a man whose contributions to American literary studies could encompass two, and most likely three careers.

Houston Baker has since 1999 been the Susan Fox Beischer and George D. Beischer Arts and Sciences Professor of English and a professor of African and African American Studies at Duke University. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles, I am proud to say, though I think a few years before I joined the faculty there. He has taught, in addition to Duke, at Yale, the University of Virginia and the University of Pennsylvania. It was at Penn where I had the good fortune to claim Houston as a colleague and to watch this man in action, which is a mighty sight indeed. Those of us who know him recognize Houston as a man of energy, charisma and charm in addition to being a scholar of intellect, passion and innovation.

Though he does not remember this, I had the pleasure of meeting Houston, all too briefly, some years before I arrived at Penn. I was a graduate student at the time, and Houston was the keynote speaker at a conference in Chicago. He presented a piece from what would become *Black Studies, Rap, and the Academy*, and I watched rapt as an entire audience was transfixed by Houston's inspirational performance. He moved the audience with his insights into the nuances of rap's rise, roiling the crowd with his reinterpretation of the Sugar Hill Gang. The audience went from swaying to rolling to popping, and Houston evoked not just a response to his call but—in truth—a testimony to the power and importance of black popular culture in academic study.

I remember thinking to myself, "Boy, if that is what academics do, I want to be an academic." And Houston has shown that, yes, academics can do precisely what he demonstrated that day in Chicago. Academics *can* inspire, instruct and engage, all the while breaking new ground by expanding the field of serious scholarly study. More importantly, they can explain *why* this expansion is necessary in broadening and enriching our understanding of what America means and what it means when we call ourselves "American."

Houston Baker has been a pioneer in bringing to the fore the importance of African American culture and literature as an integral (in fact, inseparable) component of the U.S. literary landscape. He has, to coin his writing, situated himself at the crossing sign. In so doing, he has produced masterful scholarly work, work that paints for us a richer, more inclusive and vibrant picture of our national culture. It is no exaggeration to say that his contributions have helped to transform the very way we experience American literature.

While one cannot overstate the credit Houston deserves for bringing the study of African American literature into the institution, we should remember that—as with many scholars who work in fields that only slowly gain institutional inclusion—Houston began his career not as a specialist in African American literature but rather in another field of minority discourse: British Victorian literature. In the early 1970's he made a significant and brave decision to shift his career and pursue the study of African American literatures and cultures.

For over three decades, Houston has been as prolific as he has been influential. As author, editor and co-author of an exceptional number of books and articles, his career has been fruitful and protean. His contributions include such important monographs as *Long Black Song: Essays in Black American Literature and Culture* (1972), *Singers of the Daybreak: Studies of Black American Literature* (1974), *The Journey Back: Issues in Black Literature and Criticism* (1980), *Blues, Ideology, and Afro-American Literature* (1984), *Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance* (1987), *Workings of the Spirit: The Poetics of Afro-American Women's Writing* (1991) and *Black Studies, Rap, and the Academy* (1993).

In addition to these groundbreaking studies, Houston has been a foundational figure in the study of U.S. multicultural literature, serving as editor of *Three American Literatures: Essays in Chicano, Native American, and Asian-American Literature for Researchers of American Literature* (1982). In all, his scholarship represents the leading edge of African American, multicultural and American literary studies. His has been a formidable contribution in broadening the parameters of U.S. literature and we are indebted to him for deepening our understanding of its strengths, nuances and vast influences.

Beyond his scholarly contributions, Houston has served on numerous committees, boards and commissions. Perhaps we might think of his institutional and administrative work as the second of his three careers. None of us needs be reminded that he has been a transformative figure within the Modern Language Association. Recall that his important edited volume, *Three American Literatures*, grew out of the work of the MLA Commission on Minority Groups and the Study of Language and Literature. And, of course, Houston made history when he became the first African American president of the MLA.

In addition to his extensive and foundational scholarship in African American and multicultural literary studies and his exemplary administrative and institutional service, Houston continues to shape the general field of American literary criticism through his current service as editor of *American Literature*. This and his other various editorial positions—perhaps forming the third of his careers—have allowed him the opportunity to shape the contemporary study of American literature, indeed of professional literary study as a whole.

All the while he continues to be a scholar whose intensity, insight and productivity is admirable, even enviable. His most recent books include *Critical Memory: Public Spheres, Afro-Americans and Black Father and Sons in America* (2001), *Turning South Again: Re-Thinking Modernism/Re-Reading Booker T.* (2001), and *Remembering Race: Martin Luther King and the Betrayal of the Black Intellectuals* (2002). The man cannot stop writing. And for this, we are all grateful.

Houston Baker is a scholar who has stood at the crossroads. He is one of the key figures who has helped bring to the fore—eloquently, insistently—the presence of those voices and ideas that for far too long had been invisible not just to the field of American literary study but to American society as a whole. As Houston so movingly writes in *Blues, Ideology, and African-American Literature*: “The risk of situating oneself at the crossing sign is, of course, enormous. But the benefits are beyond price. The relinquishing of a self-certainty that strives to annul ‘otherness’ and to masterfully fix its own place is meetly compensated. The reward, the reimbursement for translation at the crossing, is the magnificent appearance of America’s blues people. A vastly more inclusive and adequate national picture emerges with the appearance of these dark, ancestral faces. To lose a master desire, one might say, is to see a different America—singing.”

On behalf of the Hubbell Award Committee and the American Literature Section of the Modern Language Association, it is my great honor to present the 2003 Jay B. Hubbell Award to a scholar who, truly, has allowed us to envision a different America, a greater America, an America singing. I present the Hubbell Award to my friend, Professor Houston A. Baker.

Rafael Pérez-Torres
UCLA

Acceptance Speech

I thank you so much for that wonderful introduction. I am deeply grateful to the members of the committee who selected me and my work for this year’s Hubbell Medal. There are many, of course, who have claims far more supportable than my own to “lifetime achievement.” “Lifetime Achievement” is a daunting phrase, indeed. On a humorous note, one might say the very phrase suggests that immediately following this ceremony one

will be gently placed upon an ice floe and softly pushed out to sea. I know, of course, this will not happen since we shall all be lusciously busy at the cash bar!

On a serious note, I can say that I am immensely happy and feel extraordinarily grateful that I have had the good fortune to live through nearly four decades of monumental change and salutary growth in what we consider our *national* literature and its scholarship. Writing in 1929 at the founding of the journal *American Literature* at Duke University, Professor Jay B. Hubbell proclaimed: “Within the last few years American scholars have awakened to the fact that our literary history supplies a rich and comparatively unworked field.” Surely Professor Hubbell’s was an astute and accurate observation in 1929, and it might well have been employed to describe the state of American Literary Studies forty years later in 1969, when I taught my first course in Afro-American Literature at Yale University.

Indeed, blessed by the good instruction and generous mentoring at Howard University by professors such as John Lovell and Charles Fenderson and in my graduate study at UCLA by the incomparably kind and brilliant offerings of Leon Howard, I felt I knew something about American Literature. But little did I know in 1969 that there were so vastly many “un-worked” acres and that I was simply signing on as one in a mighty *Venceremos Brigade* that had, in the words of Jimmy cliff, “many rivers to cross before ... [we] reached Mount Zion.”

We have not, of course, achieved such an exulted height as 2004 dawns. But surely, there are few today who would argue that what we once knew as “American Literature” has been changed forever by our collective service as: field hands for inclusion, farmers of “bones” (to invoke Edwidge Danticatt) for expanded geographies of study, and in-motion (and sometimes seasonal) laborers for a race/class/gender informed and inflected crop of texts and critiques that, arguably, are far more nourishing for democracy than the fruits of earlier days.

I have worked in a vibrant academy and been well rewarded for doing so. I have taught, written, administered, preached, critiqued, and been a real pain in the neck (even for some of my best friends). My greatest reward – intriguingly enough – remains precisely what first motivated my decision to leave behind what Professor Hubbell calls “the great literatures of the Old World” and take up the acreage yet to be scholastically domesticated of a *new* American literary economy.

That motivation was a sense of engaged “collectivity.” In African cosmogony, this reads out as “I am because *WE* are.”

Alas, even as a life-timer I have to take full responsibility for my mistakes, missteps, and sometimes too feisty contestations. “My fault,” as the NBA players are wont to gesture when they miss an easy lay-up.

But it is with the greatest pleasure that I say, this Hubbell Medal of 2003 is indisputably—in my mind—the pure product of our *collective* working in the long rows of established power. We have produced through our *collective* labor, hybrids and more sturdy fare for generations yet to come. By “collective” I want, naturally, to signal ALL of you here today. You are here precisely because—and I know this—you are my friends and fellow workers. I have done *nothing* on my own.

I owe immeasurable debts of gratitude to so many. But, my greatest and eternal thanks on this day, in this place, go (for reasons all of you who *are* my friends well know) to my wife and BEST friend, Charlotte Pierce-Baker. My wonderful Charlotte – in whom I am blessed – has never been in the least reluctant to awake before some very hard daybreaks ... and...in the best spirit of Zora Neale Hurston’s Janie, to join me “on the muck” ... with resolute will, a forgiving heart, and capacious intellectual generosity. Her love, knowledge, sharing ... and stern cautions about talking too long on public occasions ... have been indispensable. For she has taught me best meanings of “sharing,” “community,” and “collectivity.”

I thank you all for being here with me on this day. I thank you for making this award possible.

May we continue to journey together as a collective in hope that we *can* make the world of our newly achieved acreage safe, honorable, and challenging for those beautiful spirits who will follow us.

Foerster Prize 2003

The Foerster Prize Committee for 2003— Dana Nelson (Chair), Judith Jackson Fossett, and Robert Corber— chose to honor two essay. The Foerster Prize for the best essay appearing in *American Literature* during the year was awarded to Ed White for “Captaine Smith, Colonial Novelist.” Honorable Mention was bestowed on Andrew Lawson for “‘Spending for Vast Returns’: Sex, Class, and Commerce in the First *Leaves of Grass*”

Citation

Before I present the award, I would like to comment on the pleasure of reading a whole year’s worth of *American Literature*, cover-to-cover. I’ve served a stint on the Board while it was under the direction of Cathy Davidson and Michael Moon, which turned out to be (as I think most members of the board discover) a rich experience of editorial camaraderie. I was also fortunate to spend a year co-editing the journal with Houston Baker, and in particular proud to co-edit a special issue with him entitled “Violence, the Body and ‘The South.’” But despite that work, I don’t think I have, ever once, read a whole year of the journal, and I was terrifically impressed with the coverage of approaches and authors, and the caliber of the essays across the volume, so that in that sense it was really an honor to be on this committee.

I am privileged to present this year’s Foerster Prize on behalf of this year’s committee: Robert Corber, Judith Jackson Fossett, and myself. We voted unanimously in the first round to give the award to Ed White for his essay, “Captaine Smith, Colonial Novelist.” In this piece, White adds his efforts to “fundamental challenges to the conceptualization of the novel in North America,” calling attention to “a surprising silence about [the novel] genre in early American studies, as if such an approach doesn’t quite suit the colonial context.” White studies Smith’s *Generall Historie of Virginia, New-England, and the Summer Isles* (1624) and the *True Travels, Adventures, and Observations of Captaine John Smith* (1630) both for their literary and novelistic qualities as well as for how they reflect the emergence of a modern consciousness.

This is less an argument specifically about Smith than it is a manifesto that urges area specialists to consider “more seriously the ... impact of the New World, and specifically of the colonization project, on literary development.” White identifies six general hypotheses regarding the colonial novel and I want to quickly read them to give you a sense of the scope of his project:

1. Early colonization was multifaceted. The many ideological projects and demands of early colonization were contradictory, including conversion, looting, exploration, enslavement, agricultural production, administration, trade diplomacy, extermination, and the construction of utopias.
2. Early colonization literature was correspondingly multigeneric. Because no clearly established generic forms or conventions facilitated talking about this variegated experience of colonization, writers looked to earlier forms, which they adapted in a range of ways....
3. The reconciliation of colonization with its literature necessitated a strategy of novelization. The adaptation of established forms to describe and undertake colonization illustrate what Bakhtin calls the new, novelistic mode of grasping the present, “seeking that “zone of maximally familiar and crude contact” (*Dialogic Imagination* 22-23).
4. Initial intimate contact with Indian societies inspired and demanded the unifying framework of the novel.... Perceiving Indian societies as complex, differentiated totalities distinct from their European counterparts... invited a corresponding notion of the colony as a totality needing symbolic construction.... Theories of the novel stressing the national framework thus rightly identify an important totality inspiring the new form, even as they neglect important and earlier New World analogues.
5. The dialectic of genres was crucial to the symbolic mastery of American peoples. European contact with the Indians was staged, symbolically, through the use of competing and conflicting generic modes.... The colo-

nial novel developed to master those genres adapted to capture Native Americans.

6. The colonial novel maps the processes of colonization—and vice versa. If the ideological demands of colonization gave shape to the novel on the periphery of Europe, then study of the colonial novel in the generic terms I have outlined may provide a kind of cognitive mapping for the history of colonization. And the reverse is true as well, for the relative absence of colonial novels—the shift away from the colonial novel to more monologic or centripetal narratives after the initial moments of colonization—suggests a consolidation of the colonization enterprise.

We found White's essay "a marked innovation in the critical poetics of colonial scholarship," admiring it for "its intellectual scope, the way it frames out not just an argument about a text or an author, but about a field of study. As one member summarized: "This essay makes a significant contribution to several conversations simultaneously, conversations about colonialism, the history of the novel, literary form and genre, early American culture, and the encounter between Europeans and the native peoples of the so-called New World, and it does so compellingly and with unusual sophistication... .

The Committee awards an Honorable Mention to Andrew Lawson, for his essay "Spending for Vast Returns: Sex, Class and Commerce in the First *Leaves of Grass*." Readers found this a "richly argued, interdisciplinary approach to Whitman's work ... represent[ing] the importance of a single-author studies as case studies that spotlight a vast array of broader cultural concerns, here masculinity, labor, class status." We found its deployment of the category of class ... unusually nuanced, and that it significantly complicated our understanding of Whitman's sexual politics... . The claim that the homoeroticism of the poetry was deeply informed by a nostalgia for an earlier class formation opens up a promising new direction not just in Whitman studies, but also in queer studies."

Acceptance Remarks

Foerster Prize HONORABLE MENTION acceptance note from winner, Andrew Lawson

Thank you so much for awarding me this prize. This kind of recognition means a lot to me. I always wanted my essay to appear in *American Literature* because of the journal's consistently fine scholarship, and more particularly because of its record of publishing ground-breaking work by Whitman scholars. I now feel doubly honored. My grateful thanks are due to Frances Kerr, Managing Editor of *American Literature*, for her skill, patience, and kindness in seeing the article through the publishing process and improving it on the way.

My warmest thanks and all best wishes,
Andrew Lawson

American Literature Annual Report 2003

New submissions	197 (as of 12/23/03)
Decisions processed	279

(This figure includes essays that were submitted in 2002 but completed the review process in 2003)

Acceptances	35
Contingent Acceptances	12
Rejections	174
Revise and Resubmits	58

Acceptance Rate 17%

(Based on the number of decisions processed in 2003, not the number of essays submitted. Includes acceptances and contingent acceptances.)

Essays published	24
Reviews published	128

Number of pages in 4 issues for 2003: 940

Foerster Prize

Members of the Foerster Prize Committee: Dana D. Nelson, chair; Robert Corber, and Judith Jackson Fossett.

Winner: Ed White, "Captaine John Smith, Colonial Novelist" (September, 487-513)

Honorable Mention: to Andrew Lawson, "Spending for Vast Returns': Sex, Class, and Commerce in the First *Leaves of Grass* (June, 335-65)

Don D. Walker Award for best essay in Western American Literature, awarded to Susan Scheckel for "Home on the Train: Race and Mobility in The Life and Adventures of Nat Love (volume 74.2, 219-50)

Members leaving the board in 2003

Lois Brown
Russ Castronovo
Marilee Lindemann
Christopher Newfield

New Board Members for 2004

Michael Elliott
Carla Kaplan
Robert Levine
Maurice Wallace

Staff

New graduate student employee for 2003-04: Nihad Farooq
Undergraduate work-study employee: Andrew Galanopolous
Graduate Student intern: Kirsten Clemens

Production Process

To cut costs and increase efficiency, Duke Press has made the following changes in its production procedures:

We do all copyediting electronically now. Authors receive clean and marked copies of their edited essays in PDF format as e-mail attachments.

We are now receiving first and second pages from the compositor as PDF files. First pages are sent in PDF format as e-mail attachments to authors and reviewers, who send their responses by e-mail. (This replaces the old system of sending first pages by U.S. mail or Federal Express.)

American Literature's 75th Anniversary

2004 is the 75th year for *American Literature*. Its first issue was published in March 1929. To mark the occasion, we've planned an anniversary issue of *American Literature* in December 2004. Sue Hall at Duke Press will design a special cover. Inside, we'll reprint Jay B. Hubbell's foreword to the first issue, in which he explains the reason for the journal's founding. Past editors will be invited to write a response to Hubbell and to reflect on *American Literature* at 75. These pieces will be published in the issue. We've also planned a special session at the 2004 MLA, sponsored by the American Literature Section. We'll invite the past editors of the journal to speak on "*American Literature* at 75," followed by audience discussion. The session will be transcribed and printed in an issue of the journal.

***American Literary Scholarship Report 2003* for the 2002 volume**

The present volume is the 40th in this continuing series. In his founding foreword to the first volume, covering work published in 1963, James Woodress commented that the more than 1,500 items listed in *American Literature* in the most recent *MLA Bibliography* suggested "a real need for an additional review in which various scholars would survey the past year's work in American literature within their particular areas of competence." Much has changed in 40 years. The number of qualifying items is at least four times larger than in 1963. An annual *American Literary Scholarship* volume has not expanded in the same proportion, but it has more than doubled, from fewer than 250 pages to more than 500—and the leisurely tone of discussion has mostly given way to tough efficiency. The number of chapters has expanded from the original 17 to 21. The authors included in the essays of Part I are no longer an all-male cast: Margaret Fuller has entered the original chapter on "Emerson, Thoreau, and Transcendentalism," Emily Dickinson joins Whitman in what had been his chapter, and Edith Wharton and Willa Cather have a chapter of their own. The two chapters required to cover 20th-century fiction have become three. These structural alterations suggest the larger and more pervasive changes at the core, not only of American literary study but of American culture. The canon has broadened and deepened, theoretical and critical perspectives abound,

and the very stuff that constitutes the object of study is constantly being reconceived. But there are obvious and crucial continuities: I notice among the authors of work discussed this year scholars mentioned in the very first volume, among them Jackson R. Bryer, Louis J. Budd, Hershel Parker, George Monteiro, and James E. Miller Jr. All the more reason, then, for the original purpose set out by James Woodress to be carefully maintained.

The roster of contributors is invariably a mix of continuity and change. New to the current volume are Thomas R. Mitchell of Texas A&M International University ("Hawthorne"), Hilary K. Justice of Illinois State University ("Fitzgerald and Hemingway"), and Robert Sattelmeyer, Georgia State University ("Early-19th-Century Literature"). I step into the chapter on "Late-19th-Century Literature" just once while Michael Kiskis, Elmira College, takes a sabbatical; he returns to this assignment in the 2003 volume. There are several permanent changes for next year. Carol J. Singley, Rutgers University, Camden, and Janis Stout, Texas A&M University, serve as co-authors of "Wharton and Cather," replacing Elsa Nettels. Robert W. Trogdon, Kent State University, joins Hilary Justice in preparing "Fitzgerald and Hemingway." Gregg Camfield, University of the Pacific, takes over "Poetry: 1900 to the 1940s" from E. P. Walkiewicz. Frank Kearful, Universität Bonn, undertakes the chapter on "Poetry: 1940s to the Present," which has been absent from the past two volumes. Michael Porsche, Universität Paderborn, replaces Kearful in preparing the section on "German Contributions." Lene M. Johannessen, University of Bergen, replaces Sandra Lee Kleppe as the Norwegian correspondent for "Scandinavian Contributions." And Antonio Márquez, University of New Mexico, returns to do the section on "Spanish Language Contributions," which last appeared in the 1999 volume. Sincerest thanks to departing friends, warmest welcome to new ones, and gratitude to all contributors for making this project the vital continuing resource it is.

We remind authors and publishers that providing us with offprints and review copies will help to assure that *AmLS* continues to cover all relevant material. Direct items to David J. Nordloh, Department of English, 1020 E. Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington, IN 47405.

The editors are grateful to Indiana University and the University of New Mexico for support of this enterprise, and to the staff of the MLA Center for Bibliographical Services for providing citation records. I especially want to thank Elizabeth Rytting for search and collection help toward the two chapters that were my responsibility this year, Jennifer Feinstein for relentless assistance in checking and indexing, and Pam Morrison and Mindy Conner for transforming messes of pages into a scholarly publication.

David J. Nordloh
Indiana University

Nominating Committee 2003

The nominating committee for 2003 comprised Mary Loeffelholz (Northeastern U), Chair, Ramón Saldívar (Stanford U), and Lavina D. Shankar (Bates C). The committee proposed the following slate of candidates to the Section:

For membership on the Advisory Council for terms running from 2004-2006:

Phillip Barrish (U of Texas)
Jennifer DeVere Brody (Northwestern U)
Madhu Dubey (U of Illinois, Chicago)
Meta Duewa Jones (George Washington U)

For Membership on the Board of Editors, *American Literature*, 2004-2006:

Robert S. Levine (U of Maryland)
Carla Kaplan (U of Southern California)
Michael A. Elliott (Emory U)
Maurice Wallace (Duke U)

In accordance with the Section's operating papers, the two members of the Advisory Council who will be in the final years of their terms during 2004 stood as candidates for chair of the Section during that year:

Richard Kopley (Penn State U, DuBois)
Mary Loeffelholz (Northeastern U)

In the fall election, Professor Loeffelholz was elected chair of the section, Professors Barrish and DeVere were elected to the advisory council, and all the proposed members of the *American Literature* editorial board were approved.

American Literature Section and Division Sessions 2003 MLA Convention

ALS General Sessions

Session 275. CircumAtlantic, CircumPacific: New Paradigms in United States Literary Studies

Presiding: Mary Kay Loeffelholz, Northeastern U

1. "Uprooted Bodies and Other Subjects Indigenous to Atlantic Studies," Michelle Ann Stephens, Mount Holyoke C
2. "Southeast Asian Studies in the Age of Asian America," Vincente L. Rafael, U of Washington, Seattle
3. "The Intimacies of Four Continents," Lisa Lowe, U of California, San Diego

Session 618. The New Patriotism: What's Literature Got to Do with It?

Presiding: Carla Kaplan, U of Southern California

1. "Patriot Games: Globalization, the Transnational, and Cultural Citizenship," Ramón Saldívar, Stanford U
2. "Writing the Self, Reading United States Imperialism," Cynthia Ann Young, U of Southern California

3. "Patriot entre Acts," Alisa Solomon, Baruch C, City U of New York
4. "Patriotism, Inc.," David C. Lloyd, Scripps C

American Literature to 1800

Session 171. Reconfiguring Early American Literary History

Presiding: Bryce Traister, U of Western Ontario

1. "American Indian Oral Narrative and the Origins of American Literature," Michael A. Elliott, Emory U
2. "Transatlantic Antislavery," Philip Gould, Brown U
3. "Epidemiology: Revising American Literary History," Cristobal S. Silva, Texas Tech U

Session 589. Early American Icons

Presiding: Gordon Mitchell Sayre, U of Oregon

1. "Mourning King Philip," Desiree Henderson, U of Texas, El Paso
2. "The American Indian and the Story of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel," Michael Joseph Schuldiner, U of Alaska, Fairbanks
3. "Performing Benjamin Franklin," Carla Mulford, Penn State U, University Park

Session 733. Performing American: Theater, Theatricality, and Nation

Presiding: Jeffrey Hamilton Richards, Old Dominion U

1. "Tears of Repentance: Performing Puritanism in New England Mission Tracts," Kristina Kae Bross, Purdue U, West Lafayette
2. "Bad Acting, Acting Badly: Popular Performance in the New Republic," Joy A. Young, Georgetown U
3. "Brother Jonathan's 'Bold Example': Emulating the National Character in Royall Tyler's *The Contrast*," Lucy Rinehart, DePaul U
4. "The West Indies, Commerce, and J. Robinson's Drama for United States Empire," S.X. Goudie, Vanderbilt U

Nineteenth-Century American Literature

Session 114. Keywords in Nineteenth-Century American Literary Studies I

Presiding: Eric William Lott, U of Virginia

1. "Abolition," Robert A. Fanuzzi, Saint John's U, NY
2. "Benevolence," Susan M. Ryan, U of Louisville
3. "Miscegenation," Elise V. Lemire, State U of New York, Purchase
4. "Passing," Martha J. Cutter, Kent State U
5. "Shadow," Judith Jackson Fossett, U of Southern California

Session 555. The Seduction of Pairs

Presiding: Carla L. Peterson, U of Maryland, College Park

1. "Walt Whitman and James Russell Lowell, the Contrast," William Albert Pannacker, Hope C

2. "Double Consciousness in Antebellum Literature," Maurice Sherwood Lee, U of Missouri, Columbia
3. "The Problem with Pairs; or, American Romanticism as Hypertext," Peter J. Bellis, U of Miami

Session 684. Keywords in Nineteenth-Century American Literary Studies II

Presiding: Glenna Stewart Hendler, U of Notre Dame

1. "Empire," Shelley Streeby, U of California, San Diego
2. "Market," Meredith L. McGill, Rutgers U, New Brunswick
3. "Route," Stephen P. Knadler, Spelman C
4. "Reform," Benjamin D. Reiss, Tulane U
5. "Sex," David Bruce Burgett, U of Washington, Bothell

Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth-Century American Literature

Session 247. Imperial Benevolence: Negotiating Women's Mission Discourse

Presiding: Frances Smith Foster, Emory U

1. "Missionaries Foreign and Domestic: The Example of Amanda Berry Smith," Jeanne Moskal, U of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
2. "The Missionary Letter and the Ethnographic Report: Representing Allotment in *The Christian Register*," Nicole Tonkovich, U of California, San Diego
3. "Languages of Colonization in American Missionary Narratives: Two Passages on India from *Women's Work for Woman*," Sarah R. Robbins, Kennesaw State U

Session 508. A Problem of Double Consciousness: Souls of Black Folk and The Ambassadors One Hundred Years Later

Presiding: Kenneth W. Warren, U of Chicago

1. "Du Bois's 'Double Consciousness': Race and Gender in Progressive-Era American Thought," Adolph L. Reed, Jr., New School U for Social Research
2. "Seeing from behind the Veil: Double Consciousness, Witnessing, and the Reign of Photography," Sara B. Blair, U of Michigan, Ann Arbor
3. "The Problem of Audience; or, Why Bert Williams Wore Blackface," James Cameron Hall, U of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

Respondent: Kenneth W. Warren

Session 556. Asian America at the Turn of the Century: 1870-1930

Presiding: Nancy A. Bentley, U of Pennsylvania

1. "Narratives of Coupling in the Shadow of Manifest Domesticity: Transnational Politics of United States Cultures of Benevolence and the Emergence of Asian America, 1890s-1910s," Yu-Fang Cho, U of California, San Diego

2. "The Double Disguise of the Orient in America," Thomas W. Kim, U of Chicago
3. "Indian Nationalism in the United States," Dohra Ahmad, Columbia U

Respondent: Stephen G. Yao, Hamilton C

Twentieth-Century American Literature

Session 172. Twentieth-Century American Literature and Political Activism

Presiding: Elizabeth M. Ammons, Tufts U

1. "Indigenous Voices of Peace," Norma C. Wilson, U of South Dakota
2. "Who Owns Revolutions and Resistance? Latino/a Literature and Questions of Political Activism," Tiffany Ana López, U of California, Riverside
3. "Communists in Novels," Alan M. Wald, U of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Session 734. Bicentennial Reflections on the Louisiana Purchase: Its Twentieth-Century Reverberations

Presiding: John Wharton Lowe, Louisiana State U, Baton Rouge

1. "Louisiana Crossroads: Challenging Foundational Fictions," Barbara Ladd, Emory U
2. "After Evangeline: Cajun Writing of the Twentieth Century," Maria P. Hebert, U of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
3. "'In this Century . . . of Mania': Robert Penn Warren's 'Audubon: A Vision,'" Veronica A. Makowsky, U of Connecticut, Storrs

Black American Literature and Culture

Session 115. Du Bois in the Twenty-First Century: On the Centennial of The Souls of Black Folk

Presiding: William J. Maxwell, U of Illinois, Urbana

1. "Gender, History, and Economics in *The Souls of Black Folk*," Anne Baker, North Carolina State U
2. "A Year for Every Hill: The Seer and the Slave in *The Souls of Black Folk*," Mark Thompson, U of Illinois, Urbana
3. "Rearticulating the Color Line: *Souls*, 1953-2003," Kinohi Nishikawa, Duke U

Session 248. Generations: Scholars, Texts, and Debates in African American Literary Studies

Presiding: Marcellus Blount, Columbia U

Speakers: Judith Jackson Fossett, U of Southern California; Cassandra V. Jackson, Northeastern U; Dwight A McBride, Northwestern U; Hortense Jeanette Spillers, Cornell U

Session 396. The Black West: Race, Landscape, and Ideology

Presiding: Mae G. Henderson, U of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

1. "Harlem Rides the Range: African American Studies and the West," Robert Hinton, NYU
2. "Cowboys, Cooks, and Comics: African American Characters in Westerns of the 1930s," Michael K. Johnson, U of Maine, Farmington
3. "A Poet's Geography," Lorenzo Thomas, U of Houston, Downtown Campus

Respondent: Krin Gabbard, State U of New York, Stonybrook

American Indian Literatures

Session 591. Intersections of Native American Studies and Queer Studies

Presiding: Mark S. Rifkin, Fordham U, Bronx

1. "After the Indian Schools: Contemporary Native American Writers Rewelcome Traditional Gender Roles," Carrie L. Sheffield, Purdue U, West Lafayette
2. "Break Open My Heart: Love, Hope, and Salmon in Sherman Alexie's 'The Toughest Indian in the World,'" Lara Merlin, NYU
3. "The Queer Practices of Latrine Duty: Abjection and Destabilized Masculinity in Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony*," April D. Miller, U of Rochester

Session 645. Formulating American Indian Literary Criticism

Presiding: Christina A. Roberts, U of Arizona; Tereza M. Szeghi, U of Arizona

1. "Frameworks and Relevant Contexts for an American Indian Literary Criticism: Tribally Specific, Multitribal, Pantribal, and Panindigenous," Chadwick Allen, Ohio State U, Columbus
2. "Indigenous Immediacy: Reading Direct Experience in American Indian Texts," Sean Teuton, U of Wisconsin, Madison
3. "Spatial Metaphors and American Indian Literary Criticism," Mishuana R. Goeman, Stanford U

Session 735. First Nations Perspectives: Native American Creative Nonfiction

Presiding: Kathryn Winona Shanley, U of Montana

1. "The Centrality of Nonfiction in Native Literature," Robert A. Warrior, U of Oklahoma
2. "Sherman Alexie's Performative Creative Nonfiction," Jeff D. Berglund, Northern Arizona U
3. "Lakota Nationalism, Sovereignty, and Resistance Literature," Debra K. S. Barker, U of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

Respondent: Simon J. Ortiz, U of Toronto

Asian American Literature

Session 249. The Extraordinary Bodies of Asian Americans: Disability and Cyborg Studies Meet Asian American Literature

Presiding: Rachel C. Lee, UCLA

1. "A Prosthetic Reading of Theresa Hak Kyung Cha's *Dictée*," Sandra K. Stanley, California State U, Northridge
2. "The Family Thought What?! Disability, Medicine, and Culture Clash in Anne Fadiman's *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*," Johnson Cheu, Ohio State U, Columbus
3. "Autism and the Embodied Silence of Tito Rajarshi Mukhopadhyay: A Manifesto for Asian Americans," Kristina Julie Chew, Seton Hall U

Session 397. Comparative Orientalisms: Figuring Asian and Arab Americans

Presiding: Anita Mannur, Wesleyan U

1. "Comparative Orientalisms in American War Film," Delia Caparoso Konzett, U of New Hampshire, Durham
2. "Pigtail, Turban, and Other Oriental Fetishes in the Opium Den: An Anglo-American Addiction," Shengmei Ma, Michigan State U
3. "In the Asian and Arab American Grain: Amitava Kumar's *Passport Photos* and Edward W. Said's *After the Last Sky*," Srimati Mukherjee, Temple U

Session 433. The Future of Asian American Literary Studies

Presiding: Steven G. Yao, Hamilton C

1. "The Interethnic Imagination of Contemporary Asian American Fiction," Caroline M. Rody, U of Virginia
2. "Asian American Literature and the Warfare Imperative," James Kyung-jin Lee, U of Texas, Austin
3. "Beyond the Culture Ghetto," Yoonmee Chang, Indiana U, Bloomington

Respondent: Min Hyung Song, Boston C

Chicana and Chicano Literature

Session 173. "East L.A. Days": Focusing on the Words of Marisela Norte

Presiding: Démian Pritchard, Southern Connecticut State U

1. "Marisela Norte: Reading from Her Work," Marisela Norte, Los Angeles, CA
2. "Speaking to the Dead at Calvary Cemetery: Spoken Word, Memory, and Marisela Norte," Démian Pritchard

Session 329. Tortilleras on the Prairie: Latina Lesbians Writing the Midwest

1. "From Heartland to Homeland: Alicia Gaspar de Alba's *The Mystery of Survival and Other Stories*," Catrióna Rueda Esquibel, Ohio State U, Columbus
2. "A Tornado of Tortilleras: Lesbian Mestizaje Sensibility on the Prairie," María Deguzmán, U of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
3. "'Not Particular to the Southwest': Latina Lesbian Writing in the Midwest," Amelia María de la Luz Montes, U of Nebraska, Lincoln

Session 646. María Amparo Ruiz de Burton: Critical and Pedagogical Perspectives

Presiding: Amelia María de la Luz Montes, U of Nebraska, Lincoln

Speakers: José F. Arando, Jr., Rice U; Jennifer Shannon Tuttle, U of New England; Anne E. Goldman, Sonoma State U; Jesse Alemán, U of New Mexico, Albuquerque; Gretchen Murphy, U of Minnesota, Morris; John M. González, U of Texas, Austin; Beth A. Fisher, Washington U; Julie Ruiz, Wesleyan U

**Lists from the Jay B. Hubbell Center for American Literary Historiography
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American Literature Group/Section Chairs

1921: Killis Campbell
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1923: Percy H. Boynton
1924: Fred L. Pattee
1925-27: Jay B. Hubbell
1928-29: Kenneth B. Murdock
1930-31: Robert E. Spiller
1932: Ralph L. Rusk
1933-34: Stanley T. Williams
1935-36: Howard Mumford Jones
1937-38: Sculley Bradley
1939: Jay B. Hubbell
1940-41: Napier Wilt
1942: Milton Ellis
1943: Tremaine McDowell
1944: Louise Pound
1945: Gregory Paine
1946: Willard Thorp
1947: Perry Miller
1948: Harry H. Clark
1949: Ernest E. Leisy
1950: Harry R. Warfel
1951: Randall Stewart
1952: Floyd Stovall
1953: Leon Howard
1954: William Charvat
1955: Gay Wilson Allen
1956: Theodore Hornberger
1957: Charles Anderson
1958: Walter Blair
1959: Clarence Gohdes
1960: Norman Holmes Pearson
1961: Herbert R. Brown
1962: Hyatt H. Waggoner
1963: Henry Nash Smith

1964: Lewis Leary
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1966: Henry A. Pochmann
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1968: Roy Harvey Pearce
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1977: Nathalia Wright
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1980: Walter B. Rideout
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1982: James M. Cox
1983: Lewis Simpson
1984: Nina Baym
1985: Martha Banta
1986: Roger Asselineau
1987: Leo Marx
1988: John Seelye
1989: J. A. Leo Lemay
1990: James Justus
1991: Emory Elliott
1992: Blanche Gelfant
1993: Elaine Hedges
1994: Eric Sundquist
1995: William Andrews
1996: Linda Wagner-Martin
1997: Susan K. Harris
1998: Cecelia Tichi
1999: Paul Lauter
2000: Robert Levine
2001: Thadious Davis
2002: Gary Scharnhorst
2003: Carla Kaplan
2004: Mary Loeffelholz

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Executive Coordinators**

1921-22: Francis A. Litz
1923: Robert Spiller
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1937-41: Tremaine McDowell
1942-45: Alexander Cowie
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1950-53: Arlin Turner
1954-57: Robert P. Falk
1957-61: Alexander Kern
1962-64: James Woodress
1966-69: Paul J. Carter, Jr.
1970-73: Robert Edson Lee

1974-77: William Mulder
1978-81: Charles Milon
1982-85: Donald Yannella
1986: Benjamin Franklin Fisher IV
1987-90: Jerome Loving
1991-94: Paul Sorrentino
1995-98: Susan Belasco
1999-: Sheryl L. Meyering and Brian Abel Ragen

Jay B. Hubbell Medal Winners

1964: Jay B. Hubbell
1965: Norman Foerster
1967: Robert E. Spiller
1970: Howard Mumford Jones
1972: Willard Thorp
1973: Leon Howard
1974: Walter Blair
1975: Henry Nash Smith
1976: Lewis Leary
1977: Gay Wilson Allen
1978: Cleanth Brooks
1979: Malcolm Cowley
1980: Robert Penn Warren
1981: Lewis Mumford
1982: Alfred Kazin
1983: R.W.B. Lewis
1984: Roy Harvey Pearce
1985: James Woodress
1986: Leon Edel
1987: Daniel Aaron
1988: Richard Poirier
1989: Nathalia Wright
1990: Edwin Cady
1991: Lewis Simpson
1992: Merton M. Sealts, Jr.
1993: Leo Marx
1994: Leslie Fiedler
1995: Blanche H. Gelfant
1996: Blyden Jackson
1997: James M. Cox
1998: Louis J. Budd
1999: Paula Gunn Allen
2000: Nina Baym
2001: Paul Lauter
2002: Annette Kolodny
2003: Houston A. Baker

**Norman Foerster Award for the Best Article in
*American Literature***

1964: Allen Guttman
1965: Daniel Fuchs
1966: Eugene Huddleston
1967: Robert Reilly
1968: Lawrence Buell
1969: Benjamin Spencer
1970: Margaret Blanchard
1971: Thomas Philbrick
1972: Alan Howard

1973: Patricia Tobin and Eddy Dow
(separate articles)
1974: Robert Marler
1975: James Barbour
1976: Robert Lee Stuart & William Andrews
(separate articles)
1977: Charles Scruggs & Philip Gura
(separate articles)
1978: Stephen J. Tapscott
1979: Bryan Short
1980: Robert A. Ferguson
1981: Thomas M. Walsh & Thomas D. Zlatic
1982: Christopher P. Wilson
1983: Michael North
1984: Karen Dandurand
1985: David Hesla
1986: Joan Burbick
1987: Cynthia Jordan
1988: Margaret Dickie
1989: Richard Lyon
1990: Catherine Rainwater
1991: Lora Romero
1992: Michael Warner
1993: Lauren Berlant
1994: Caleb Crain
1995: Carla Kaplan
1996: Chadwick Allen
1997: Lisa A. Long
1998: Amy Kaplan
1999: Mary Pat Brady
2000: Daylanne English
2001: Michael Warner with Natasha Hurley, Luis
Iglesias, Sonia Di Loreto, Jeffrey Scraba, and
Sandra Young
2002: Gillian Silverman
2003: Ed White