



ALS-MLA

American Literature Section of the
Modern Language Association

ANNUAL REPORT, 2008

Compiled by Sarah Robbins and Montyne Morris,
Kennesaw State University

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American Literature Section Officers 2009

Chair: Sarah Robbins, Kennesaw State U

Executive Coordinator: Joycelyn Moody, U of Texas, San Antonio

Advisory Council

Elected Members of the Council:

Rachel Adams, Columbia U (2007-09)
Ralph Bauer, U of Maryland (2007-09)
Elizabeth Dillon, Northeastern U (2008-10)
Mark McGurl, UCLA (2008-10)
Michael Moon, Emory U (2009-11)
Elisa Tamarkin, U of California, Irvine (2009-11)
Caroline Levander, Past Chair and Ex-Officio Council Member, Rice U (2009)
Priscilla Wald, Editor of *American Literature* and Ex-Officio Council Member, Duke U

Division Chairs:

AMERICAN LITERATURE TO 1800

Kristina Bross, Purdue U

NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE

Eliza Richards, U of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

LATE-NINETEENTH- AND EARLY TWENTIETH-CENTURY
AMERICAN LITERATURE

Gordon Hutner, U of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE

Marianne DeKoven, Rutgers U

BLACK AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Meta DuEwa Jones, U of Texas, Austin

AMERICAN INDIAN LITERATURES

Chris Teuton, Duke U

ASIAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Tina Y. Chen, Vanderbilt U

CHICANA AND CHICANO LITERATURE

Catherine S. Ramirez, U of California-Santa Cruz

The executive coordinator and editor of American Literature are also members of the Advisory Council.

ALS-MLA Standing Committees

Nominating Committee:

Elizabeth Dillon, Northeastern U, 2009 Chair
Jennifer Fleissner, Indiana U
Eliza Richards, U of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Hubbell Award Committee:

Douglas Anderson, U of Georgia, 2009 Chair
Dana Nelson, Vanderbilt U, 2010 Chair
Mary Loeffelholz, Northeastern U, 2011 Chair
Shirley Samuels, Cornell U, 2012 Chair
William L. Andrews, U of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2013 Chair

Foerster Prize Committee:

Elisa Tamarkin, U of California, Berkeley
Michael Moon, Emory University
Mark McGurl, UCLA



Editorial Board, *American Literature*

Priscilla Wald, Duke U, Editor
James Dawes, Macalester College (2009)
Laura Doyle, U of Massachusetts, Amherst (2009)
P. Gabrielle Foreman, Occidental College (2009)
Steven J. Mailloux, U of California, Irvine (2009)
Brook Thomas, U of California, Irvine (2009)
Daphne A. Brooks, Princeton U (2010)
Gavin Jones, Stanford U (2010)
Melani McAlister, George Washington U (2010)
Gretchen Murphy, U of Texas, Austin (2010)
Siobhan Somerville, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2010)
Joanna Brooks, San Diego State U (2011)
Elizabeth Maddock Dillon, Northeastern U (2011)
Brian M. Reed, U of Washington, Seattle (2011)
Karen Shimakawa, New York U (2011)
Sean Kicummah Teuton, U of Wisconsin-Madison (2011)

Citation for Professor Sharon Cameron from the Hubbell Award Committee

Wai Chee, Chair

It is a great pleasure for me to present the Jay B. Hubbell Award to Sharon Cameron. The Hubbell Award honors scholars who have made major contributions to American literature. In the case of Sharon Cameron, it is hard to think of the right order to name those contributions: there are so many of them, they are different in kind, but each comes with the same unmistakable stamp. Whether she is writing about lyric time, or thinking in Henry James, or the allegories of the body in Melville and Hawthorne, or Thoreau's journals and Dickinson's fascicles, Sharon Cameron always manages to make these canonical authors radically new, so that we read them with a shock of recognition, as if for the first time.

Sharon Cameron is the William R. Kenan Professor of English at Johns Hopkins University. She received her B.A. from Bennington College and her Ph.D. from Brandeis University. She has taught at Boston University and UC Santa Barbara, and since 1979 she has been at Johns Hopkins University, shaping its English Department into one of the top departments in the country. Sharon Cameron has also taught as a distinguished visitor at UCLA and Harvard. She has been honored with many awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1995. She is on the editorial board of *ELH* and the *Arizona Quarterly*, and also serves as a consultant reader for *PMLA*. She has been awarded residencies at many scholarly centers, including the Rockefeller Study Center in Bellagio, Italy, and the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library.

These public honors say something about Sharon Cameron. But, in a sense, she does not need them, because her works truly speak for themselves. And each of them stands as a defining statement in the study of American literature, ahead of its time when it first came out, and continuing to speak to

us over the course of thirty years. Now, in 2008, when the question of genre is once again coming to the foreground, many of us find ourselves going back and reading with renewed admiration Sharon Cameron's first book, *Lyric Time: Dickinson and the Limits of Genre*, published in 1979. Likewise, when the body emerged as a "hot" topic in the mid-1980s, Americanists realized that Sharon Cameron had already written about it, back in 1981, in *The Corporeal Self: Allegories of the Body in Melville and Hawthorne*.

If Sharon Cameron had produced only these books, she would still have impressed us as a great scholar. But of course, these two are just a fraction of what she has done. She has also written two brilliant manifestos on method, *Writing Nature: Henry Thoreau's Journal* (1985), and *Choosing Not Choosing: Emily Dickinson's Fascicles* (1995). In the first of these, Prof. Cameron calls for a radical shift in our study of Thoreau. She argues that Thoreau's greatest achievement is not *Walden*, but rather his journal, that the latter's fragmented nature is in fact truer to his spirit. Thoreau studies can never be quite the same again after this. Prof. Cameron then goes

Sharon Cameron always manages to make these canonical authors radically new, so that we read them with a shock of recognition, as if for the first time.

back to Emily Dickinson, a poet she knows intimately, to argue that the basic unit of analysis should not be individual poems, but rather bundles of poems that were bound together by Dickinson herself.

Very few scholars can claim to have brought about fundamental changes in method. Sharon Cameron has done it not once but twice.

And she has done more. She has also written *Thinking in Henry James* (1989), a book that makes a large claim for a consciousness that is not reducible to psychology. And, having spent much of her career giving us brilliant close readings, Prof. Cameron is also capable of going far afield, urging us to redefine our discipline in the image of this larger horizon. Her two most recent books, *Beautiful Work: A Meditation on Pain* (2000) and *Impersonality: Seven Essays* (2007) will surprise many of us familiar with her early work. *Impersonality*, for instance, begins with an essay on William Empson and his discussion of the faces of Buddha, in order to make a case for a poetics that hollows out individual features, that aspires to be almost anonymous. Nobody would have been able to predict this turn to a non-Western

religion, and it suggests that Sharon Cameron has yet another career ahead of her. Eric Sundquist, in his praise for this book, says that “There is no work like *Impersonality* in the critical literature, though in spirit one could find in figures such as Stanley Cavell or William Empson some similarity of interests. But, as in her previous works, Cameron is in a class by herself in her attention to primary matters of consciousness and being.” A thinker and writer like Sharon Cameron comes only once in a long time. The MLA is proud to honor her with the Jay B. Hubbell Award for 2008.

Hubbell Acceptance Speech

Sharon Cameron

Thank you so much for those generous words. I was astonished to learn that members of a distinguished committee had chosen me as the recipient of this year’s Hubbell Medal. I initially regarded my presence in the field of literary studies as perilous (I will explain why), and perhaps also marginal, even when I was fortunate enough to be tenured at a remarkable university, because my interests never seemed to accord with those of others in the field. I am grateful to have my work recognized in this way.

In their acceptance speeches for this award, other recipients have traced the genealogy of their careers. My own history is a series of debts. At Bennington College, where I was an undergraduate, I was fortunate enough to be the student of two superb close readers, Barbara Herrnstein Smith and Harold Kaplan. While at Brandeis I was privileged to know Stanley Cavell, whose revelatory class on Wittgenstein I audited at Harvard, and, most important, Allen Grossman, who has never stopped instructing me, albeit informally. Grossman’s thinking, writing, and sheer capacity to unearth monumental topics have established him as one of a handful of literary critics of the past half century who have changed the way it is possible to think about poetry. In books like *Must We Mean What We Say?* and *Summa Lyrica*, Cavell and Grossman opened up questions beyond the limits of the established disciplines of literature, history, and, for that matter, philosophy. In pressing against the boundaries of philosophical and literary analysis, their writing has exemplified the imperative to discover forms of investigation that were dense, ruminative, difficult,

even obsessive, in the search for responses that could engage their insistent questioning.

My own work has been enlivened by the spirit of such inquiry. The literary texts that have attracted me have been at once canonical and marginal and I have asked perhaps eccentric questions about the canonical. It could be said that my examinations have estranged the canonical. That is, I have been drawn to consider texts other people initially ignored or avoided, perhaps because their forms were so alien—the journal that Thoreau kept for twenty-four years; Dickinson’s fascicles, in which she organized nearly eighteen hundred poems into her own form of bookmaking. Although in Perry Miller’s unelaborated words Thoreau’s Journal is “as much a literary composition as anything in Joyce or Proust”—what a foreign composition, essentially plotless and uninterpretable. I wanted to find a critical language to investigate questions we could call epistemological, but are thwarted in calling epistemological, since nothing could intelligibly satisfy a question like Thoreau’s “A meadow and an island—what are these things?” In the case of Dickinson’s fascicles, Susan Howe, among others, was my predecessor. But yet again I was pressed to consider the ways in which the contextual sense of Dickinson is not the canonical sense of Dickinson, and to raise the question of what counts as the identity of her text.

My other inquiries have been compelled not by enigmatic forms but rather by inscrutable representations. Why do Melville and Hawthorne write about physically violent subjects with unabashed candor, even as both authors attempt to conceal such bodily violence by insisting that their fiction is allegorical and exegetical? What is thinking in Henry James—a phenomenon I argue occurs between rather than within persons? In a subsequent book of essays, I wished to examine the way in which representations of impersonality suspend, eclipse, and even destroy the idea of the person as such. Most recently, I have been venturing outside



the field of American literature and of purely verbal texts by writing on Robert Bresson's *Au hasard Balthazar*, a film which locks animal and human forms of embodiment and sentience into relationship, and about joy—as distinct from happiness—in Dostoyevsky's novels. Since I do not write quickly or easily, I have often thought of my work as a labor of patience, perhaps as an archeologist does when he is engaged in excavating artifacts whose presence he can only intuit, brushing away layer after layer of dirt until something unexpected emerges or reveals itself.

To revert to a topic on which I touched earlier: in the second year of an assistant professorship at Boston University, I was given a terminal contract, because it was predicted that I would never publish. Twenty-seven-year-olds believe that such forecasts presciently detect invisible truths—and that belief does not make for a salutary state of mind. But the judgment also had a vitalizing effect. It was exhilarating to realize that I wanted to write a book on Dickinson regardless of whether I had a job, and I was fortunate enough to be able to do so with the help of unemployment insurance, food stamps, and the permission to use a faculty study in the BU library even after I was no longer employed. I like to tell this story to students who are struggling at the beginning of their careers—and the beginning can last quite a while. Work must remain intrinsically valuable even in adverse times or when it has no clear prospect of acknowledgment.

For the past thirty years, I have been fortunate to teach in the English Department at Johns Hopkins. It is a department I supremely value because of its austere but bracing commitment to the rigors of intellectual life. Over the years, formidable Americanists have been my colleagues—Eric Sundquist, Larzer Ziff, Walter Michaels, Michael Moon, Barbara Packer (during a quarter I spent at UCLA), and the late Laurence B. Holland. I have learned immeasurably from their example and writing. At Hopkins the opportunity to direct extraordinary dissertations and, subsequently, the professional success of so many of my students have delighted me. The classroom too has been an arena of great good fortune. This summer I taught a National Humanities seminar on Dickinson to a group of young scholars from diverse institutions.



As in the best classroom experiences anywhere, the genius of the seminar during that intense week was visible not only in the communal effort to refine particular thoughts about Dickinson but also in a more capacious reflectiveness in which, when people spoke without self-consciousness or stint, something fundamental was revealed about generosity as an attribute essentially contributive to what thinking is.

Thank you again for this great honor.

Foerster Prize Citation: 2008

Robert Levine, Chair

It was an honor to chair the Foerster Prize Committee this year. My warm thanks to Anna Brickhouse of the University of Virginia and Steven Mailloux of the University of California, Irvine, for their conscientious work and invigorating critical conversations.

We think it was an exceptionally good year for essays in *American Literature*. The committee initially came up with eleven different essays that could be considered “best essay” of the year. We soon whittled down to four, and then two, and then one, and we’re happy to recognize the prizewinner, an honorable mention, and two finalists.

Our prizewinning and honorable mention essays both work in early American, or early national, literary and cultural studies. Early Americanists of course tend not to like the designation “early Americanists,” because they say it suggests a teleological, progressive line from the “early” to the so-called real thing of the American Renaissance and beyond. But I think they have this wrong, and that our prizewinning and honorable mention essays point to one of the not-so-well-kept secrets of American literary studies: that it is the early Americanists who in crucial ways help to define the field and who ultimately help Americanists of the later periods to understand just what it is that we’re doing. Empire studies among nineteenth- and twentieth-century Americanists, for instance, is indebted to the work of colonialists, who have given us a new perspective on the Americas as a site of imperial, racial, and ethnic conflict. I begin

with these remarks as a way of saying that the two essays we've designated for prizes make powerful arguments about their own particular historical periods and selected texts, but they also look forward into the nineteenth century (and beyond), and for that reason, we think, will have a wide impact on the field for years to come.

This year's Foerster Prize winner is Nancy Glazener, for her essay "Benjamin Franklin and the Limits of Secular Civil Society." The committee was unanimous in thinking it a beautifully written and truly rigorous essay that is persuasive in its interpretive arguments and timely in its contemporary implications. Glazener skillfully works through Franklin's writings, writings of his contemporaries, the legacy and history of Franklin scholarship, and the intellectual history of secularism to point toward what she describes as "a less controlled, more expansively intellectual, more emotionally intense way of publicly acknowledging the roles of conviction and belonging" in contemporary life—as well as a way to sidestep a long history of secularism that would translate "convictions into mere interests or traditions." In an elegant synthesis of scholarship's two Franklins—the entrepreneurial Franklin and the self-fashioning or publicly performative Franklin—Glazener offers a third, "alternative Franklin," one who humorously celebrates the interest-bearing self as positional, as always in process. Along the way, Glazener considers the place of interest-thinking in religious and secular cultures, and she directs us to a wide range of contemporary scholars who show how interest-thinking has often shaped and sometimes distorted certain academic disciplines. The upshot of Glazener's challenging, revisionary reading of Franklin is to provide us with a more nuanced, ultimately more self-reflexive historical understanding of secularism as a first (and very preliminary) step toward a more inclusive, productive conversation with faith-based intellectuals and, ultimately, with those critics who currently launch attacks on the academy's secularism and on academic freedom itself.

We are pleased to award an Honorable Mention to Jeffrey H. Richards for his essay "Sati in Philadelphia: The Widow(s) of Malabar." Focusing on the Connecticut Wit David Humphreys's 1790 play *The Widow of Malabar*, which was performed in Philadelphia in 1791, Richards takes us on a veritable world tour, breaking down distinctions between U.S., British, French, Indian, and Native American writings and culture. The play was a translation/imitation of Antoine-Marin Lemierre's

1770 *La Veuve du Malabar*, and so to understand Humphreys's play we need a fuller understanding of its relation to French history and culture (which Richards provides). As Richards shows, there was a German variant that had an impact on Humphreys, as did the emergence of women's rights discourses in the late eighteenth century and a number of other issues that eventually help us better to understand the play's focus on the practice of Sati in Indian culture. The essay addresses drama (which is often neglected in American literary studies) and the multilingual (an increasing interest in American

The committee was unanimous in thinking it a beautifully written and truly rigorous essay that is persuasive in its interpretive arguments and timely in its contemporary implications.

literary studies). A sentence in Richards's closing paragraph points to the large reach of this essay: "Buried within a forgotten play lie national, international, and intracultural tensions that make *The Widow of Malabar* more than a literary artifact but rather a sign that by 'America' was meant the globe itself, a space in which Old World customs and New World practices, Indians and Indians, French and English and Americans, could be cast into a single drama of imperial absorption." Suffice it to say that we found Richards's essay a model of transatlantic study.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the excellent work of our two finalists: Jodi Melamed and Molly Robey. Jodi Melamed's "The Killing Joke of Sympathy: Chester Himes's *End of a Primitive* Sounds the Limits of Midcentury Racial Liberalism" offers an excellent close reading of Himes's 1955 novel along with a more expansive view of the tensions in racial liberalism at the middle of the twentieth century. Equally expansive, Molly Robey's "Sacred Geographies: Religion and Race in Women's Holy Land Writings" looks at popular women's novels of the mid-nineteenth century in relation to Holy Land writings that place women at the center of a reconfigured U.S. nationalism and imperialism. Close attention to texts and ambitious cultural analysis characterize the prize-winning essays that we've honored this year.

Robert S. Levine, U of Maryland (Chair)
Anna Brickhouse, U of Virginia
Steven Mailloux, U California, Irvine

Foerster Acceptance Speech

Nancy Glazener

I am delighted to join the ranks of so many scholars I admire whose essays have been honored with the Foerster Prize. I appreciate the selection committee's careful and generous attention to my work. In addition to the people I've already thanked in print for their direct assistance, I'd like to thank the anonymous readers at *American Literature*, whose responses to the initial version of the essay I submitted set in motion a substantial rethinking, and my friend Constance O'Connor, who helped me formulate the references to microfinance during that rethinking. Frances Kerr, who left the post of managing editor at *American Literature* earlier this year, offered excellent editorial advice and showed genuine interest in the essay. Thanks also to Priscilla Wald and the editorial board of *American Literature*. It's truly praiseworthy that the official journal of the American Literature Section of the MLA remains vital, exciting, and hospitable to a wide range of contributors.

I'd like to use my three-to-five minutes in the spotlight to make two sets of special acknowledgments for assistance of a more indirect but significant nature. First of all, I was delighted that this essay in particular was honored, because I had dedicated it to two galvanizing intellectuals who died while it was in preparation: Jay Fliegelman and Iris Marion Young. I trust that Jay is well known in this room as a groundbreaking scholar of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century U.S. literature and culture as well as an energetic, extremely devoted graduate advisor at Stanford. Iris Marion Young was a feminist philosopher and political theorist who was my colleague at the University of Pittsburgh when I was a new faculty member. Both Jay and Iris were generous mentors to me and to many other younger scholars. I especially admire them for being adventurous interdisciplinary



thinkers who were attuned to structures of feeling, especially structures of feeling that put pressure on cultural orthodoxies (past and present). They were also reflective about their own stakes in their intellectual work, understanding that scholarship can be a formal, collaborative way of thinking about problems and phenomena that may also be personal but are not only personal. I'd like to honor them here by recommending their work to you, if you don't know it already.

It's truly praiseworthy that the official journal of the American Literature Section of the MLA remains vital, exciting, and hospitable to a wide range of contributors.

The other set of people I want to specially acknowledge and thank are my two department chairs: Philip Smith, the chair who hired me, and David Bartholomae, my current chair. Amazingly enough, these are the only two department chairs I've had during my 18 years at the University of Pittsburgh, along with able acting chairs who served during their sabbaticals. Both have been honored with the Francis March Award for exceptional service to the profession of English at the postsecondary level: Phil Smith in 1999 and Dave Bartholomae earlier this afternoon. I can testify that their service has been exceptional in their home department as well as on the national scene. Like my colleagues at Pitt, I've benefited tremendously from their genuine curiosity about a wide range of intellectual work, as well as from their close and thoughtful attention to teaching. As department chairs, Phil and Dave have encouraged the faculty to pursue the scholarly projects we cared most about. And they have taken it as part of their job to make legible to the upper administration what was valuable about work that was unusual or experimental or coming along slowly, rather than simply totaling up the conventional markers of success that were or were not in evidence. This administrative interface between the department and the next institutional level—the interface embodied by the department chair or head—is one crucial site where the struggle for genuine academic freedom takes place: not just freedom from censorship, but freedom to be supported institutionally in

doing the kind of teaching and research that your commitments invite. My essay, as you've heard, is about civil society, and the departmental culture that Phil and Dave have worked to keep healthy is the local sector of civil society that has nourished my work. Since department chairs are notoriously overworked and underthanked, I'd like to give them public credit.

Thank you again for this award and for your attention.



Foerster Prize Honorable Mention Remarks

Jeffrey Richards

A couple of decades ago, I sent an essay to *American Literature* that I thought was sure-fire. Sure as fire is hot, that essay came back to me with a brief note, wishing me well in submitting it somewhere else. Having hoisted a banner for that particular piece, "American Literature or Bust," I tossed the busted essay into a file drawer, where it has remained, and turned my attention to other projects and other venues.

More recently, with a different project in hand, I thought I would knock on *AL*'s door one more time to see if for "Sati in Philadelphia," as Anne Bradstreet hoped for her orphaned text, the reception might be better. This time, the gatekeeper, Priscilla Wald, invited the shivering essay in, gave it a cup of hot cocoa, and after getting it scrubbed so as to be presentable, asked "Sati in Philadelphia" to make itself available for company. I was, of course, pleased, although it seemed I had to wait a long time actually to see the poor thing ushered into public. When the essay finally appeared and, simultaneously, word came that it had been awarded an honorable mention for the Foerster Prize, the dual event seemed like an unexpected reward for twenty years of waiting. Therefore, I thank the award committee, Professor Wald and the *AL* editorial staff, and the American Literature Section for the notice you have given this essay.

Jeffrey H. Richards, Old Dominion U



Annual Report *American Literature* 2008

American Literature Staff

There have been many changes in our staff this year. Frances Kerr resigned as managing editor in May and Emily Dings took over her position at that time. Laurie Capps was the assistant managing editor from July through mid-November, at which time Liz Beasley took over the position. Britt Rusert, our graduate student employee since spring 2006, has continued to write brief mentions and perform general office tasks. Our work-study student, Daniel Riley, who had been working with us since fall 2005, left the journal when he graduated in May. We have not hired a new work-study student.

Members leaving the board in December 2008

Leslie Bow, U of Wisconsin, Madison
Alan Golding, U of Louisville
Samuel Otter, U of California, Berkeley
David Leverenz, U of Florida
Shawn Michelle Smith, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

New board members beginning in January 2009

Joanna Brooks, San Diego State U
Elizabeth Maddock Dillon, Northeastern U
Brian Reed, U of Washington, Seattle
Karen Shimakawa, New York U
Sean Kicummah Teuton, U of Wisconsin, Madison

Contents of *American Literature*, Volume 80

Essays	25
Book Review Essays	0
Reviews	95
Total number of pages	872

Essays received and processed

New submissions 251
(does not include revised resubmissions)

Decisions made on essays during 2008:

Accept	22
Revise toward Acceptance	6
Reject	243
Revise for Reconsideration	18
Withdrawn	2
Total	291

NOTE: This total is different from the number of submissions because it includes essays submitted before 1 January 2008 as well as revised paper and electronic resubmissions submitted during 2008.

The acceptance rate for 2008 was 8%, calculated on the number of essays processed, not the number of new submissions.

Awards for American Literature Essays

Don D. Walker Prize for the best essay published on western American literature in 2007

Finalist: Gretchen Murphy, "How the Irish Became Japanese: Winnifred Eaton's Racial Reconstructions in a Transnational Context" (March 2007).

Foerster Prize for the best essay published annually in *American Literature*, 2008

Winner: Nancy Glazener, "Benjamin Franklin and the Limits of Secular Civil Society" (June 2008).

Honorable mention: Jeffrey H. Richards, "Sati in Philadelphia: The Widow(s) of Malabar" (December 2008).



American Literature
Sessions
MLA 2008
San Francisco, CA
27-30 December

SECTION MEETINGS

339. Provocations

Sunday, 28 December, 3:30–4:45 p.m., Golden Gate 4, Hilton

*Arranged by the American Literature Section
Presiding: Caroline Field Levander, Rice U*

1. "What Happened to African American Studies?" Kenneth W. Warren, U of Chicago
2. "The Hemispheric Turn," Donald E. Pease, Dartmouth College
3. "Adaptation," Susan K. Gillman, U of California, Santa Cruz
4. "A History of Provocation: American Literary Studies," Gordon N. Hutner, U of Illinois, Urbana

672. Where Is the Archive?

Monday, 29 December, 7:15–8:30 p.m., Powell, Hilton

*Arranged by the American Literature Section
Presiding: Caroline Field Levander, Rice U*

1. "Migrant Archives," Rodrigo Lazo, U of California, Irvine
2. "Working against Archives," Robert S. Levine, U of Maryland, College Park
3. "Sensational Socialism, the Horrors of the Porfiriato, and Cultural Memory," Shelley Streeby, U of California, San Diego
4. "Fragments and Fractals: African American Literary History and 'the Archive,'" John Ernest, West Virginia U, Morgantown
5. "Reading the Landscape as Archive: Cultural Codes and Cultural Memory in Native American Literature," Annette Kolodny, U of Arizona

DIVISION MEETINGS

AMERICAN LITERATURE TO 1800

265. Town and Gown in Early American Studies

Sunday, 28 December, 12:00–1:15 p.m., Golden Gate 1, Hilton

Arranged by the Division on American Literature to 1800

Presiding: Kristina Bross, Purdue U, West Lafayette

Speakers: Lisa Brooks, Harvard U; Pattie Cowell, Colorado State U, Fort Collins; Julie Ellison, U of Michigan, Ann Arbor; David S. Shields, U of South Carolina, Columbia

662. Science, Technology, and Literature in Early America and the Atlantic

Monday, 29 December, 7:15–8:30 p.m., Union Square 22, Hilton

Arranged by the Division on American Literature to 1800

Presiding: Timothy Robert Sweet, West Virginia U, Morgantown

1. “Boundaries in Flux: Generic Collapse in Benjamin Rush’s Writing about National and Corporeal Circulation,” Sari Altschuler, Graduate Center, City U of New York
2. “Erasmus Darwin and the Embodied Mind in Early American Fiction,” Paul Gilmore, California State U, Long Beach
3. “When Is Popular Science Popular Enough? Franklin, Mesmer, and Our Evidentiary Standards,” Emily Ogden, U of Pennsylvania
4. “Cataloging Eden: Popularized Science and the Poetic Imagination in Eighteenth- (and Nineteenth-) Century America,” Gillian Osborne, U of California, Berkeley

740. Theorizing Early American Literature

Tuesday, 30 December, 8:30–9:45 a.m., Franciscan C, Hilton

Arranged by the Division on American Literature to 1800

Presiding: Martin C. Brückner, U of Delaware, Newark

1. “Early American Literary Studies in Social Science Fields,” Andrew Newman, Stony Brook



U, State U of New York

2. “What’s Habermas Got to Do with It? or, Early American Literary Historiography outside the Public Sphere,” Jonathan Beecher Field, Clemson U

3. “Transfiguring Cultural Landscapes: Urban Geography and Memory in Early American Literature,” Betsy Klimasmith, U of Massachusetts, Boston

4. “Appropriations: How Twentieth-Century Scholars Make Early American Women Their Own,” Marion Leeson Rust, U of Kentucky

BLACK AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

96A. Race and Narrative Theory

Saturday, 27 December, 7:00–8:15 p.m., Union Square 15, Hilton

Program arranged by the Division on Black American Literature and Culture

Presiding: Michele Elam, Stanford U; Alex Woloch, Stanford U

1. “On Zadie Smith,” Dorothy J. Hale, U of California, Berkeley
2. “On Bill T. Jones,” Jennifer DeVere Brody, Duke U
3. “On Ken Saro-Wiwa,” Ulka Anjaria, Brandeis U
4. “On Caryl Phillips,” Vilashini Cooppan, U of California, Santa Cruz

253. Intersectionalities and Pluralities: The Outb(l)ack

Sunday, 28 December, 12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Sutter, Hilton

Program arranged by the Division on Black American Literature and Culture

Presiding: Joycelyn K. Moody, U of Texas, San Antonio

1. “On Alice Walker and Sexual Citizenship,” Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman, Brandeis U
2. “Que(e)rying ‘My Man Bovanne,’” John Gerard Champagne, Penn State U, Erie-Behrend
3. “Jolie-Laide (‘Beautiful-Ugly’) Sexual Aesthetics: How Black Women Writers Write Desire,” Andrene Taylor, Howard U

Respondent: Merrill Cole, Western Illinois U

For copies of abstracts, write to joycelyn.moody@utsa.edu.

680. Intersectionalities and Pluralities: Black Sightings

Monday, 29 December, 7:15–8:30 p.m., Golden Gate 5, Hilton

Program arranged by the Division on Black American Literature and Culture

Presiding: Daylanne K. English, Macalester Coll.

1. “Dressed to Thrill,” Guy Mark Foster, Bowdoin Coll.
2. “The Meaning of Invisibility: The Abject as a Site of Agency in *Invisible Man*,” Michelle Jarenski, U of Michigan, Dearborn
3. “Transgressing Transgression: Race and Homosexuality in 1990s Popular Black Fiction,” Keith E. Byerman, Indiana State U

Respondent: Stephanie Hsu, New York U.

For copies of abstracts, write to joycelyn.moody@utsa.edu.

AMERICAN INDIAN LITERATURES

208. Native American Languages and Translation

Sunday, 28 December, 10:15–11:30 a.m., Lombard, Hilton

Program arranged by the Division on American Indian Literatures

Presiding: Margaret A. Noori, U of Michigan, Ann Arbor

1. “Titwatiná:witki: To Teach a Coyote Story,” Beth H. Piatote, U of California, Berkeley
2. “Defining Our Own American Indian Literature,” Delphine Red Shirt, U of Arizona
3. “The Interconnectivity of Language, Culture, and the Lakota,” Brian J. Twenter, U of South Dakota
4. “On Translation and Nontranslation: Louise Erdrich and Ojibwemowin,” Stephanie J. Fitzgerald, U of Kansas

563. Beyond Analogy: Intersections of American Indian and Queer Studies

Monday, 29 December, 1:45–3:00 p.m., Golden Gate 8, Hilton

Program arranged by the Division on Gay Studies in Language and Literature and the Division on American Indian Literatures

Presiding: Siobhan Bridget Somerville, U of

Illinois, Urbana

1. “As Beautiful as the Red Rainbow: Two-Spirits ‘Rebeautifying’ Cherokee Erotic Memory,” Qwo-Li Driskill, Texas A&M U, College Station
2. “Samson Occom and the Queer Afterlife,” Bethany Schneider, Bryn Mawr Coll.
3. “Urban Indigeneity, Queer Cosmopolitanism,” Scott Stevens, U at Buffalo, State U of New York

Respondent: Janice M. Gould, U of Arizona

703. The Bay Area as a Site of Resistance in Native American Literature

Monday, 29 December, 9:00–10:15 p.m., Lombard, Hilton

Program arranged by the Division on American Indian Literatures

Presiding: Kim Roppolo, U of Lethbridge

1. “Engaged Resistance: The Poetry, Proclamations, and Paintings of Alcatraz,” Dean Rader, U of San Francisco
2. “Ask No One for Your Sovereignty: John Trudell and the Affirmations of Alcatraz,” David Lewis Moore, U of Montana
3. “Keeping It Real: Reading Simon Ortiz’s *The San Francisco Indians* as Resistance Literature,” Jane Haladay, U of North Carolina, Pembroke
4. “Feminist Cries on Feminine Thighs: Indigenous Lesbians Crystos and Barbra Cameron on and in San Francisco,” Letha Rain Cranford-Gomez, Costa Mesa, CA



ASIAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

250. Conceiving the Archive

Sunday, 28 December, 12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Van Ness, Hilton

Program arranged by the Division on Asian American Literature

Presiding: Leslie A. Bow, U of Wisconsin, Madison

Speakers: Kimberly Jew, Washington and Lee U; Rachel C. Lee, U of California, Los Angeles;

Susette S. Min, U of California, Davis; Marie-
Therese C. Sulit, Mount Saint Mary Coll.

569. Asian American Performance Art

*Monday, 29 December, 1:45–3:00 p.m., Franciscan
D, Hilton*

*Program arranged by the Division on Asian
American Literature*

*Presiding: Tina Yih-Ting Chen, Penn State U,
University Park*

1. “The Many Voices of Margaret Cho and the Cultural Politics of Audibility,” Minh-Ha Pham, New York U
2. “Flexible Bodies: Asian Canadian Approaches to Hip-Hop,” Graham Preston, U of Melbourne
3. “Endangered Acts, Dangerous Species: Michael Joo’s Salt Transfer Cycle,” Terry Park, U of California, Davis
4. “Hand, Flag, Paper: Propping Up Memory for the Forgetful Nation,” Rachel C. Lee, U of California, Los Angeles

781. Green Asian America

*Tuesday, 30 December, 10:15–11:30 a.m., Union
Square 11, Hilton*

*Program arranged by the Division on Asian
American Literature*

*Presiding: Kandice Chuh, U of Maryland, College
Park*

1. “Wanting Earth: Asian American Literature, Race, and Environmentalism,” Carlo Arreglo, U of California, Berkeley
2. “Asian America Is in the Heartland: Agribusiness and Fertility in Ruth Ozeki’s *All Over Creation*,” Paul Y. Lai, U of Saint Thomas
3. “So Much for Gold Country: Encrypted Race, Species Grids, and Duplicitous Landscapes in Dao Strom’s *Grass Roof, Tin Roof*,” Stephen Sohn, Stanford U

*Respondent: Sangeeta Ray, U of Maryland, College
Park*



**NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN
LITERATURE**

98. Ephemera and the Offline Archive

*Saturday, 27 December, 7:00–8:15 p.m.,
Continental 1, Hilton*

*Program arranged by the Division on Nineteenth-
Century American Literature*

Presiding: Anna C. Brickhouse, U of Virginia

1. “‘How happy is the little Stone’: Dickinson and the Culture of Ephemera,” Melanie Hubbard, Ruskin, FL
2. “Pages from the Indian Books,” Joshua Bellin, La Roche Coll.
3. “Paper, Rock, Scissors: The Material Conditions of Authorship, Intentionality, and the Offline Archive,” Augusta Rohrbach, Washington State U, Pullman
4. “Scanning Tactility: Material and Media in Dave the Potter’s Poetry,” Michael Chaney, Dartmouth Coll.

**318. Provocations: New Paradigms for the Study
of Nineteenth-Century American Literature**

*Sunday, 28 December, 1:45–3:00 p.m., Union
Square 22, Hilton*

*Program arranged by the Division on Nineteenth-
Century American Literature*

*Presiding: Eliza Richards, U of North Carolina,
Chapel Hill*

1. “Rethinking the Romance-to-Realism Paradigm through Reception Studies,” James L. Machor, Kansas State U
2. “Sovereignty and Democracy in Nineteenth-Century United States Literature,” Jennifer Greiman, U at Albany, State U of New York
3. “Winding Paths and Common Ground: Remapping Nineteenth-Century United States Literature,” John Ernest, West Virginia U, Morgantown

**547. Nineteenth-Century African American
Poetry: Anglophone, Francophone,
Hispanophone, and Beyond**

*Monday, 29 December, 12:00 noon–1:15 p.m.,
Union Square 14, Hilton*

*Program arranged by the Division on Nineteenth-
Century American Literature*

Presiding: Lloyd P. Pratt, Michigan State U

1. "Translation, Slavery, and the Emergence of Afro-Cuban Poetry," Anita Patterson, Boston U
2. "Lost in Translation: Nineteenth-Century Francophone American Literature," M. Lynn Weiss, Coll. of William and Mary
3. "Obstruction of Genius: George Moses Horton, João da Cruz e Sousa, and the Topos of Inexpressibility," Jacob Wilkenfeld, U of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
4. "The Vanishing American: The Poetics of Native and African American Subjectivity on the Periphery," Ivy Wilson, Northwestern U

LATE-NINETEENTH- AND EARLY-TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE

589. Pacific Imaginations

Monday, 29 December, 1:45–3:00 p.m.,

Continental 3, Hilton

Program arranged by the Division on Late-Nineteenth- and Early-Twentieth-Century American Literature

Presiding: Jennifer L. Fleissner, Indiana U, Bloomington

1. "Satire and Imperial Geography in the Philippine-American War," Aaron Winter, U of California, Irvine
2. "Madame Butterfly and the Transpacific Reimaginings of National Narratives," Sandra K. Stanley, California State U, Northridge
3. "Chinese Graffiti: A Poetic Out from Angel Island, Chinatown, and America," Sheng-mei Ma, Michigan State U

767. Genres and Genetics

Tuesday, 30 December, 10:15–11:30 a.m., Union Square 18, Hilton

Program arranged by the Division on Late-Nineteenth- and Early-Twentieth-Century American Literature

Presiding: Bill Brown, U of Chicago

1. "Medical Racialization of San Francisco's Chinatown and Sui Sin Far's 'Woman about Town,'" Xiaojing Zhou, U of the Pacific
2. "Traveling Theories of Race in Cuba and the United States," David Luis-Brown, U of Miami

TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE

249. The Aesthetics of Propaganda

Sunday, 28 December, 12:00 noon–1:15 p.m.,

Yosemite B, Hilton

Program arranged by the Division on Twentieth-Century American Literature

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

1. "'So Inartistic as to Play the Advocate': The End of Charles Chesnutt's Literary Career," Michael E. Nowlin, U of Victoria
2. "'Seditious Organs': The Noise of Modernist Suffrage Print Culture," Mary A. M. Chapman, U of British Columbia
3. "Strange Bedfellows: *Playboy*, Existentialism, and American Cold War Propaganda," Yi-Ping Ong, Harvard U



454. The Politics of Visuality

Monday, 29 December, 8:30–9:45 a.m., Yosemite B, Hilton

Program arranged by the Division on Twentieth-Century American Literature

Presiding: Thadious M. Davis, U of Pennsylvania

1. "Visual Paratext and Racial Paradox in Black Autobiography," Anthony S. Foy, Swarthmore Coll.
2. "Lynching Photographs: The Macabre Eye Candy We Can't Resist (and Why We Should Try)," Koritha Mitchell, Ohio State U, Columbus
3. "'Playing' with Color, Learning New Ways of Seeing," Bonnie TuSmith, Northeastern U
4. "Troubling Vision: The Post-Racial State and the Colored Body," Nicole Fleetwood, Rutgers U, New Brunswick

674. Indigeneity and Twentieth-Century American Literature

Monday, 29 December, 7:15–8:30 p.m., Yosemite B, Hilton

Program arranged by the Division on Twentieth-Century American Literature

Presiding: Shari Huhndorf, U of Oregon

1. "Writing the Medicine Line: Native American Literary Imagination and the United States–Canadian Border," Beth H. Piatote, U of California, Berkeley
2. "E Pele e: Myth and the Poetics of Resistance in Hawai'i," Brandy Nalani McDougall, U of Hawai'i, Mānoa
3. "'A Settled Continent: What Does It Mean?': The Hidden Demographies of Amy Clampitt's Home," Robin Riley Fast, Emerson Coll.
4. "Manifest Dead: Western Expansion Revisited in Jim Jarmusch's *Dead Man*," Blake Hausman, U of California, Berkeley

CHICANA AND CHICANO LITERATURE

252. Crosstalk/Plática: Chicano Studies in a Latina/o Age

Sunday, 28 December, 12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Club Room, Marriott

Program arranged by the Division on Chicana and Chicano Literature

Presiding: Maria Coterá, U of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Speakers: Suzanne M. Bost, Loyola U, Chicago; Norma Elia Cantú, U of Texas, San Antonio; María Herrera-Sobek, U of California, Santa Barbara; Lawrence M. La Fountain-Stokes, U of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Curtis Frank Márez, U of Southern California; Desiree Martin, U of California, Davis; Linda Saborío, Northern Illinois U

455. Sexualidades and Sensualidades: Chicana/o-

Latina/o Cultural and Literary Imaginaries

Monday, 29 December, 8:30–9:45 a.m., Foothill E, Marriott

Program arranged by the Division on Chicana and Chicano Literature

Presiding: Alicia Arrizón, U of California, Riverside

1. "Is Ugly the New Sexy? Dilemmas of Latina Sexuality on TV," Tanya Gonzalez, Kansas State U
2. "The Reproduction of Mothering: Representations of Latina Bodies in the United States," Irune Del Rio Gabiola, Butler U
3. "In the Realm of the Senses: Manuel Muñoz's Queer Communities," Richard T. Rodríguez, U of Illinois, Urbana

Respondent: Alicia Arrizón, U of California, Riverside

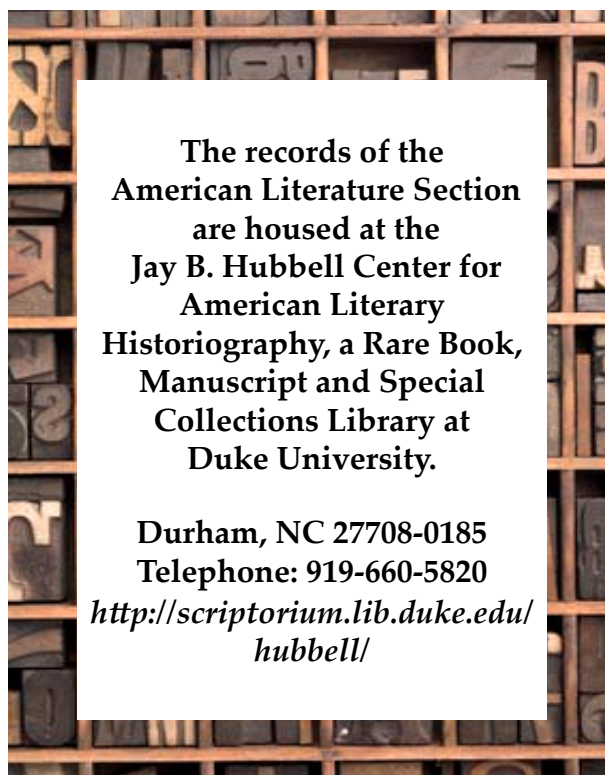
711. Latinidades and Racial Identity

Monday, 29 December, 9:00–10:15 p.m., Foothill G1, Marriott

Program arranged by the Division on Chicana and Chicano Literature

Presiding: John M. González, U of Texas, Austin

1. "*La Raza Hispana* in the Metropolis: Race and Coloniality in Early 'Neoyorkino' Print Culture," Natalie Havlin, U of Illinois, Urbana
2. "The Divided Self: Negotiating Masculinity and Racialized Identity Tropes in Piri Thomas's *Down These Mean Streets*," Jason Michael Stupp, West Virginia U, Morgantown
3. "The Other Side of the Baby Ruth Bar: Chicano Literary Orientalism and Korean War Poetics," Stephen Sohn, Stanford U



American Literature Section Chairs

2009: Sarah Robbins	1968: Roy Harvey Pearce
2008: Caroline Levander	1967: Arlin Turner
2007: Sandra Zagarell	1966: Henry A. Pochmann
2006: Philip J. Barrish	1965: Lyon N. Richardson
2005: Mary Loeffelholz	1964: Lewis Leary
2004: Mary Loeffelholz	1963: Henry Nash Smith
2003: Carla Kaplan	1962: Hyatt H. Waggoner
2002: Gary Scharnhorst	1961: Herbert R. Brown
2001: Thadious Davis	1960: Norman Holmes Pearson
2000: Robert Levine	1959: Clarence Gohdes
1999: Paul Lauter	1958: Walter Blair
1998: Cecelia Tichi	1957: Charles Anderson
1997: Susan K. Harris	1956: Theodore Hornberger
1996: Linda Wagner-Martin	1955: Gay Wilson Allen
1995: William L. Andrews	1954: William Charvat
1994: Eric Sundquist	1953: Leon Howard
1993: Elaine Hedges	1952: Floyd Stovall
1992: Blanche Gelfant	1951: Randall Stewart
1991: Emory Elliott	1950: Harry R. Warfel
1990: James Justus	1949: Ernest E. Leisy
1989: J. A. Leo Lemay	1948: Harry H. Clark
1988: John Seelye	1947: Perry Miller
1987: Leo Marx	1946: Willard Thorp
1986: Roger Asselineau	1945: Gregory Paine
1985: Martha Banta	1944: Louise Pound
1984: Nina Baym	1943: Tremaine McDowell
1983: Lewis Simpson	1942: Milton Ellis
1982: James M. Cox	1940-41: Napier Wilt
1981: Joseph Blotner	1939: Jay B. Hubbell
1980: Walter B. Rideout	1937-38: Sculley Bradley
1979: Edwin Cady	1935-36: Howard Mumford Jones
1978: William M. Gibson	1933-34: Stanley T. Williams
1977: Nathalia Wright	1932: Ralph L. Rusk
1976: Russel B. Nye	1930-31: Robert E. Spiller
1975: Richard B. Davis	1928-29: Kenneth B. Murdock
1974: Louis D. Rubin, Jr.	1925-27: Jay B. Hubbell
1973: Norman Grabo	1924: Fred L. Pattee
1972: Michael Millgate	1923: Percy H. Boynton
1971: Harrison Hayford	1922: Arthur H. Quinn
1970: Hugh Holman	1921: Killis Campbell
1969: John Gerber	



American Literature Section Executive Coordinators

2009-: Joycelyn Moody
 2006-2008: Sarah Robbins
 1999-2006: Sheryl L. Meyering and
 Brian A. Ragen
 1995-98: Susan Belasco
 1991-94: Paul Sorrentino
 1987-90: Jerome Loving
 1986: Benjamin Franklin Fisher IV
 1982-85: Donald Yannella
 1978-81: Charles Milon
 1974-77: William Mulder
 1970-73: Robert Edson Lee
 1966-69: Paul J. Carter, Jr.
 1962-64: James Woodress
 1957-61: Alexander Kern
 1954-57: Robert P. Falk
 1950-53: Arlin Turner
 1946-49: Allan Halline
 1942-45: Alexander Cowie
 1937-41: Tremaine McDowell
 1928-36: Sculley Bradley
 1924-26: Ernest Leisy
 1923: Robert Spiller
 1921-22: Francis A. Litz

Jay B. Hubbell Medal Winners

2008: Sharon Cameron
 2007: Lawrence Buell
 2006: Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
 2005: Martha Banta
 2004: Sacvan Bercovitch
 2003: Houston A. Baker, Jr.
 2002: Annette Kolodny
 2001: Paul Lauter
 2000: Nina Baym
 1999: Paula Gunn Allen
 1998: Louis J. Budd
 1997: James M. Cox
 1996: Blyden Jackson
 1995: Blanche H. Gelfant
 1994: Leslie Fiedler
 1993: Leo Marx
 1992: Merton M. Sealts, Jr.
 1991: Lewis Simpson
 1990: Edwin Cady
 1989: Nathalia Wright
 1988: Richard Poirier

1987: Daniel Aaron
 1986: Leon Edel
 1985: James Woodress
 1984: Roy Harvey Pearce
 1983: R.W.B. Lewis
 1982: Alfred Kazin
 1981: Lewis Mumford
 1980: Robert Penn Warren
 1979: Malcolm Cowley
 1978: Cleanth Brooks
 1977: Gay Wilson Allen
 1976: Lewis Leary
 1975: Henry Nash Smith
 1974: Walter Blair
 1973: Leon Howard
 1972: Willard Thorp
 1970: Howard Mumford Jones
 1967: Robert E. Spiller
 1965: Norman Foerster
 1964: Jay B. Hubbell



Norman Foerster Award Winners for the Best Essay Published Annually in *American Literature*

2008 Nancy Glazener, "Benjamin Franklin and the Limits of Secular Civil Society"; Honorable Mention, Jeffrey H. Richards, "Sati in Philadelphia: The Widow(s) of Malabar"
 2007 Birgit Brander Rasmussen, "Negotiating Peace, Negotiating Literacies: A French-Iroquois Encounter and the Making of Early American Literature"
 2006 Jeff Allred, "From Eye to We: Richard Wright's 12 Million Black Voices, Documentary, and Pedagogy"; Honorable Mention: Caleb Smith, "Emerson and Incarceration"
 2005 Geoffrey Sanborn, "Whence Come You, Queequeg?"
 2004 Cherene Sherrard-Johnson, "'A Plea for Color': Nella Larsen's Iconography of the Mulatta"

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| 2003 | Ed White, "Captaine Smith, Colonial Novelist"; Honorable Mention, Andrew Lawson, "'Spending for Vast Returns': Sex, Class, and Commerce in the First Leaves of Grass" | 1987 | Cynthia S. Jordan, "Poe's Re-Vision: The Recovery of the Second Story" |
| 2002 | Gillian Silverman, "Textual Sentimentalism: Incest and Authorship in <i>Pierre</i> " | 1986 | Joan Burbick, "Emily Dickinson and the Economics of Desire" |
| 2001 | Michael Warner, with Natasha Hurley, Luis Iglesias, Sonia Di Loreto, Jeffrey Scraba, and Sandra Young, "A Soliloquy 'Lately Spoken at the African Theatre': Race and the Public Sphere in New York City, 1821" | 1985 | David H. Hesla, "Singing in Chaos: Wallace Stevens and Three or Four Ideas" |
| 2000 | Daylanne English, "W. E. B. DuBois's Family Crisis"; Honorable Mention, Sharon Stockton, "Engineering Power: Hoover, Rand, Pound, and the Heroic Architect" | 1984 | Karen Dandurand, "New Dickinson Civil War Publications" |
| 1999 | Mary Pat Brady, "The Contrapuntal Geographies of Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories" | 1983 | Michael North, "The Architecture of Memory: Pound and the Tempio Malatestiano" |
| 1998 | Amy Kaplan, "Manifest Domesticity"; Honorable Mention, Barbara Will, "The Nervous Origins of the American Western" | 1982 | Christopher Wilson, "American Naturalism and the Problem of Sincerity" |
| 1997 | Lisa A. Long, "'The Corporeity of Heaven': Rehabilitating the Civil War Body in <i>The Gates Ajar</i> " | 1981 | Thomas M. Walsh and Thomas D. Zlatich, "Mark Twain and the Art of Memory" |
| 1996 | Chadwick Allen, "Hero with Two Faces: The Lone Ranger as Treaty Discourse" | 1980 | Robert A. Ferguson, "'Mysterious Obligation': Jefferson's Notes on the State of Virginia" |
| 1995 | Carla Kaplan, "The Erotics of Talk: 'That Oldest Human Longing' in Their Eyes Were Watching God" | 1979 | Bryan C. Short, "Form and Vision in Herman Melville's <i>Clarel</i> " |
| 1994 | Caleb Crain, "Lovers of Human Flesh: Homosexuality and Cannibalism in Melville's Novels" | 1978 | Stephen Tapscott, "Leaves of Myself: Whitman's Egypt in 'Song of Myself'" |
| 1993 | Lauren Berlant, "The Queen of America Goes to Washington City: Harriet Jacobs, Frances Harper, and Anita Hill" | 1977 | Philip F. Gura, "Thoreau's Maine Woods Indians: More Representative Men and Charles Scruggs, "'All Dressed Up but No Place to Go': The Black Writer and His Audience during the Harlem Renaissance" |
| 1992 | Michael Warner, "New English Sodom" | 1976 | Robert Lee Stuart, "Jonathan Edwards at Enfield: 'And Oh the Cheerfulness and Pleasantness . . .'" and William Andrews, "William Dean Howells and Charles W. Chesnutt: Criticism and Race Fiction in the Age of Booker T. Washington" |
| 1991 | Lora Romero, "Vanishing Americans: Gender, Empire, and New Historicism" | 1975 | James Barbour, "The Composition of <i>Moby-Dick</i> " |
| 1990 | Catherine Rainwater, "Reading between Worlds: Narrativity in the Fiction of Louise Erdrich" | 1974 | Robert F. Marler, "From Tale to Short Story: The Emergence of a New Genre in the 1850s" |
| 1989 | Richard S. Lyons, "The Social Vision of <i>The Spoils of Poynton</i> " | 1973 | Patricia Tobin, "The Time of Myth and History in <i>Absalom, Absalom!</i> " and Eddy Dow, "Van Wyck Brooks and Lewis Mumford: A Confluence in the Twenties" |
| 1988 | Margaret Dickie, "Dickinson's Discontinuous Lyric Self" | 1972 | Alan B. Howard, "The World as Emblem: Language and Vision in the Poetry of Edward Taylor" |
| | | 1971 | Thomas Philbrick, "The Last of the Mohicans and the Sounds of Discord" |
| | | 1970 | Margaret Blanchard, "The Rhetoric of Communion: Voice in <i>The Sound and the Fury</i> " |

- 1969 Benjamin T. Spencer, "Sherwood Anderson: American Mythopoeist"
- 1968 Lawrence Buell, "Transcendentalist Catalogue Rhetoric: Vision Versus Form"
- 1967 Robert J. Reilly, "Henry James and the Morality of Fiction"
- 1966 Eugene Huddleston, "Topographical Poetry in the Early National Period"
- 1965 Daniel Fuchs, "Ernest Hemingway, Literary Critic"
- 1964 Allen Guttman, "Washington Irving and the Conservative Imagination"

Hubbell Medal Winner



The Hubbell Award Committee has named the prize winner for 2009: Dr. Cecelia Tichi, who is the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of English at Vanderbilt University. The awards ceremony will be held during the 2009 MLA Convention in Philadelphia, PA.

Congratulations, Professor Tichi!

Upcoming MLA Conventions

2009: Philadelphia, PA, December 27-30

2010: No meeting

2011: Los Angeles, CA, January 6-9

2012: New Orleans, LA, January 5-8

In accordance with a recently ratified amendment to the MLA Constitution, MLA annual conventions are shifting to a new calendar, which places the meeting in early January rather than during the traditional December time frame. For this reason, there will be no convention in calendar year 2010. The new schedule will begin with the 2011 MLA Convention on January 6-9, in Los Angeles, CA.

The MLA Constitution is available on the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/governance/mla_constitution).

2008 Amendments to the Articles of Organization of the American Literature Section of the MLA

Nominations and Elections:

The annual general election will include the officers of the Section and two members of the Advisory Council. The two members of the Advisory Council in the second of their three-year terms will constitute the annual slate for the election of the Chair of the Section. The winner of this election will serve as Chair in the following year. Nominations for the annual general election of the Section will come from a Nominations Committee of three members of the Advisory Council chosen annually by the Chair of the Section.

Whenever vacancies occur in any elective offices, the Executive Committee will appoint a member of the Section to serve out the unexpired terms in all cases except those of Chair and of Executive Coordinator. The Executive Coordinator will serve out the unexpired term of the Chair. The Advisory Council will appoint someone for the unexpired term of the Executive Coordinator. Should neither of the two eligible Advisory Council members be able to run for election as Chair, the Executive Committee will appoint a member of the Council to serve as Chair.

Hubbell Award Committee:

It will consist of five members, oriented to four regions and serving five-year terms. The Chair of the Award Committee will be the member serving his or her fifth and last term. The Committee will be responsible for nominating candidates for the Hubbell Medal according to provisions adopted by the Advisory Council. The Hubbell Award Committee is responsible for selecting from the pool of candidates the nominee who best exemplifies the Hubbell Award's criteria for life-time achievement: pioneering scholarship, advocacy of the field of American literature, intellectual leadership, and support of new generations of scholars.

