

Collegium for African American Research

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Letter from the new President, November 2003**COLLEGIANS AND FRIENDS:**

A NEW TEAM: As a result of the summer elections we have a new CAAR team: Christopher Mulvey, President; Hanna Wallinger, Secretary; Mar Gallego, Treasurer. Hanna is our continuity with the old team; Mar is quite new to the Executive Committee; and I have been on the Executive Committee from 1993. So we blend innocence and experience with eagerness to make a continuing great success of CAAR, and we look to all of you to help us.

THE OLD TEAM. Carl Pedersen and Justine Tally have now vacated the positions of President and Treasurer. Appreciations and thanks for their huge work for the Collegium are to be found elsewhere in this Newsletter. Keep in touch, Carl and Justine.

CONFERENCES--Winchester 2003. Elsewhere in the Newsletter you will find a report on the great conference that we held in Winchester. Here I will only say that we had two areas in which we want to improve for the future. Winchester was an expensive conference. We did all that we could to keep the cost down but we could not get the kinds of subsidies and subventions that we have been able to get in the past--and a number of people could not attend as a result. Winchester was a relatively small conference. We would like to bring the numbers up in 2005. Underlying the Winchester team's effort was an aim to make sure that CAAR had its biennial conference, that CAAR maintained its reputation for excellence, and that the event did not run at a loss. Those aims were achieved.

CONFERENCES--Tours 2005, April 21-24. Elsewhere in the Newsletter you will find the Call-for-Papers for the conference that we will be holding in Tours. Every effort will be made to make this as affordable as possible, but the Tours team cannot do the impossible. If anyone has any ideas about how to raise money for this occasion, please contact Claude Julien or me. These are difficult times for the Humanities.

CO-CONFERENCES: CAAR used to have a number of link conferences with other associations, especially in the even years between biennials. We should revive that and I would like to hear from anyone who is interested in co-sponsoring conferences, staging CAAR workshops, and receiving CAAR delegations.

AARL: Elsewhere in this issue, you will find an announcement relating to the first text of the *African American Research Library*, one of the major projects sponsored by CAAR. This is a celebration of the birthday of the African American novel: November 12, 1853. *Clotel* is the first text. Nineteen are to follow. We are looking for editors for this series.

FORECAAST. The FORECAAST series is one of the great successes of CAAR. Please make sure your library stocks our titles. The current title underway is *The African Atlantic: The Making of Black Diaspora* being edited by Fritz Gysin and Cindy Hamilton from the Winchester Conference papers.

MEMBERSHIP: A serious issue for CAAR is the maintaining of its membership list--it is not presently in good shape. We are now working to bring it up-to-date, and we are sending this Newsletter to as many people as we can find e-mail addresses for. We need to undertake a membership drive and that will be one of the issues that I will be taking up at the next meeting of the Executive Committee in Prague in April 2004 at the EAAS conference. Please contact me with any addresses, corrections, new names, etc that you have:
<christopher.mulvey@wkac.ac.uk>.

WEBSITE: Juergen Heinrichs of Seton Hall University is undertaking to host our new website and with that will be linked a LISTSERV and a Membership Directory. This is great news, and it one of the ways in which we are going to solve our membership list problem. Thanks for undertaking this, Juergen. For a little longer meanwhile, our website remains at its current address: <www.hum.sdu.dk/projects/caar/>. Do not confuse us with the Canadian Association of Agri-Retailers.

In my next letter, I will take up larger issues as well as ongoing ones; meanwhile I would like to hear from you what it is that you would like to get from CAAR or give to CAAR. These are exciting times. I feel like someone living at the beginning of a new century.

**With all good wishes,
Christopher Mulvey,
President of CAAR**

Editorial remarks: This issue will include the minutes of two CAAR executive committee meetings, the one in Bordeaux in 2002 and the one in Winchester in 2003, and the minutes of the CAAR general meeting in Winchester 2003. Although some of the information might be duplicate, we are bound by our statutes to publish the minutes and I thus do it with pleasure.

You will also hear about the results of the elections. Our new president, Christopher Mulvey, writes a report about the wonderful Winchester conference. Claude Julien will inform you about the planned activities of Tours 2005. On behalf of the rest of the Executive Committee I would like to thank both of them for the work and energy they have invested and are still investing in CAAR. There will a report by our treasurer, the news about our listserv, the African American Research Library, and the most recent FORECAAST publications.

Impressum:

CAAR
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This issue was edited by
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THE WINCHESTER CONFERENCE 2003

CAAR 2003, the Collegium's Fifth Biennial Conference, had as its theme "The African Atlantic: The Making of Black Diasporas." It was sponsored by the Collegium for African American Research, and King Alfred's Winchester, England. The Embassy of the United States of America gave generous support. It took place in Winchester from April 13 to 15, 2003 in the Guildhall, Winchester and at King Alfred's.

We took long and wide perspectives on the notions of the African Atlantic and the Black Diaspora, and these were explored in twenty-three workshops: 1. Afro-Caribbean Literature; 2. Afro-Caribbean History & Politics; 3. Visual Arts; 4. Toni Morrison; 5. Twentieth-Century Politics; 6. Nineteenth-Century African American History; 7. Twentieth-Century African American History; 8. African American Drama; 9. African American Film; 10. African American Music; 11. The Politics of the Diaspora; 12. The Africanist Presence; 13. Islands; 14. Histories of the Diaspora; 15. Slavery; 16. Twentieth-Century African American Literature; 17. Reconfiguring Diasporic Identities; 18. Black, But Not Like You: Negotiating Dominant And Subordinate Epistemologies; 19. From Black Manhattan to the African Atlantic; 20. Historical and Intellectual Atlanticisms and the Black Atlantic ; 21. African American Detective Fiction; 22. The Black Diaspora Meets Asia; 23. The Black Presence in Europe: Exotic Others.

A rich program of special presentations began with a Keynote Address by Professor Fritz Gysin, University of Bern, "Jazz And Fiction: African American Grace Notes." "Presentations In African American Scholarship" included "*Clotel by William Wells Brown: An Electronic Scholarly Edition*" by Christopher Mulvey and David Seaman followed by "African American Selections in *The Heath Anthology Of American Literature*" by Paul Lauter. The "Presentations" the focused on "New Forecaast Volumes": *Crossroutes: The Meaning Of Race In The 21st Century* by Paola Boi and Sabine Broeck, *Passing Novels in The Harlem Renaissance* by Mar Gallego; *Restoring the Connection to the Natural World* by Sylvia Mayer; and *Critical Voicings Of Black Liberation* by Kimberley L. Phillips, Hermine D. Pinson, Lorenzo Thomas, and Hanna Wallinger. An Evening of Readings featured Andrea Levy reading from her novels, *Every Light In The House Burnin'*, *Never Far From Nowhere*, and *Fruit Of The Lemon* (1999), followed by Osonye Tess Onwueme reading from her play, *What Mama Said*.

The social program included a reception in the Assembly Room, St. John's House where delegates were greeted by the Mayor of Winchester, a reception at King Alfred's College where the delegates were greeted by Professor Chris Turner, and a conference banquet at King Alfred's College where delegates were entertained by the moonlight dancing of the Winchester Morris Men. On the Sunday, April 13, 2003, the fourth Biennial Membership Meeting of the Collegium was held in the Winchester City Chamber and was chaired by the President. A report of this is to be found elsewhere in the *Newsletter*.

The weather in Winchester that week began well and then became spectacular. On the day following the conference a party of scholars and joyriders took a charabanc to Salisbury Plain to see 3000-year-old Stonehenge, one of the magical places of the Earth. So ended a conference which quietly and firmly took its place in the annals of the Collegium.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO CARL PEDERSEN, Second President of the Collegium for African American Research, 2001-2003

The Executive Committee knows that members will join it in expressing heartfelt thanks to Carl Pedersen for his work for CAAR, and in particular for his taking on the role of President from 2001-2003, having before that been CAAR's first Treasurer and then its first Conference Secretary. These duties mean that his services to the Collegium reach back to its beginning: Carl is one of the original band of scholars who in 1992 came together at meetings in Paris and Seville to imagine and then at Rome to found an association which has since so distinguished itself in the field of African American research. Carl is a major figure not only in CAAR but also in the Scandinavian American Studies community, and among his recent publications are *Black Imagination and the Middle Passage* (1999) edited with Maria Diedrich and Henry Louis Gates, *Mapping African America: History, Narrative Formation, and the Production of Knowledge* (1999) edited with Maria

Diedrich and Justine Tally, and *Den sårbare nation (The Vulnerable Nation: The US 1991-2001)* (2002). That, his latest book, has caused him to become something of a television personality in Denmark. He became a *FORECAAST* editor in 1999, and he continues his work for CAAR in that capacity. Carl has had many great moments, but his virtual single-handed mounting of the 1997 Liverpool Conference at the Adelphi Hotel without any university affiliation and with a sixty-minute flight from his homeland has to be acclaimed above all. The only thing he did not do was cook the meals, and we had in Liverpool's history-filled streets and docks a magnificent gathering of scholars. His endless capacity to re-imagine and reinvent a conference program has been evident on every occasion that CAAR has met. We have all been the beneficiaries of his energy, lively mind, and his magnificent work for the Collegium. Many, many thanks, Carl; we look forward to seeing you in Tours.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO JUSTINE TALLY, Treasurer of the Collegium for African American Research, 1995-2003

The Executive Committee knows that members will join it in expressing heartfelt thanks to Justine Tally for her dedicated work as the Treasurer of CAAR. Between 1995 and 2003, she kept our books, checked our extravagances, and paid our bills--all with a flourish. Justine made her mark in 1995 when she organized our first conference on the island of Tenerife, hosted by La Laguna University and with the theme: "Transatlantic Passages." Justine set the standard, the style and the pace for the CAAR conference. She played a vital role at Liverpool, Munster, Sardinia and Winchester, not only as Treasurer but also as participant, speaker and workshop leader. In addition, Justine has been an active scholar, producing *Paradise Reconsidered: Toni Morrison's (Hi)Stories And Truths* in 1999 and *The Story Of Jazz : Toni Morrison's Dialogic*

Imagination in 2001. With Maria Diedrich and Carl Pedersen, she edited *Mapping African America: History, Narrative Formation, and the Production of Knowledge* in 1999. She became a *FORECAAST* editor in 1999, and she continues her work for CAAR in that capacity. There have been down moments as well as up moments in our finances, and Justine has seen that the Collegium has weathered all storms. It is very good to be able to say that when she handed on her accounts to our new Treasurer this summer, there was a positive balance in the bank and we are safe through to 2005. Because we are not in debt, we are very much in her debt, and we have been the beneficiaries of her hard work and unrelenting zeal. Many, many thanks, Justine; we look forward to seeing you in Tours.

THE BLACK WORLD
INNERSpace:INNERCity::INTERAction:INTERNation
UNIVERSITY OF TOURS, FRANCE
THE COLLEGIUM FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH (CAAR)
APRIL 21 TO 24, 2005

CALL FOR PAPERS

CAAR 2005 calls for papers and workshops which address the Black World. CAAR's focus on the Atlantic interchange leads us to emphasize the links between disciplines like African American Studies, Caribbean Studies, and African Studies. Interconnections must be recognized. African Americans are the best-studied ethnic minority in the world, and the theoretical and empirical understanding gained from this research is relevant to ethnic and racial issues everywhere.

INNERSpace: The spiritual, inner world of self and soul occupies spaces along and across the boundary lines of philosophy, religion, science, and art. Let us have papers on the Faith of the Fathers. Let us have papers on the Faith of the Mothers, too. Let us have papers that deal with the African American knowledge of both the Bible and of the Holy Books of Africa. Let us have papers that deal with the music which makes religion for those who have no religion. Let us have papers that deal with the inner living of the African American soul, psyche, and mind.

INNERCity: “Between me and the other world there is ever an unasked question: unasked by some through feelings of delicacy; by others through the difficulty of rightly framing it. All, nevertheless, flutter round it. They approach me in a half-hesitant sort of way, eye me curiously or compassionately, and then, instead of saying directly, How does it feel to be a problem? they say, I know an excellent colored man in my town; or, I fought at Mechanicsville; or, Do not these Southern outrages make your blood boil? At these I smile, or am interested, or reduce the boiling to a simmer, as the occasion may require. To the real question, How does it feel to be a problem? I answer seldom a word”--W. E. B Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903). Let us have papers that deal with the innercity life of Harlem, Watts, Atlanta, Chicago, Paris, Brixton, Berlin.

INTERAction: “Mutual or reciprocal action or influence” expresses exactly one way of speaking of the relations of black and white of African and American. In 1963, James Baldwin asked America to “end the racial nightmare.” Forty years on, what has become of the programs, pleas and prayers of the Angelous, the Baldwins, the Davises, the Kings, the Walkers, and the Xs? Is it time to reappraise the Sixties? Was “All Change” no change? What kinds of interaction are now making the scene in the art, culture and politics of the new African American?

INTERNation: In his introduction to *West Africa Before Europe* (1905), the Gold Coast/Ghanaian Casely Hayford summarized the importance of Edward Wilmot Blyden by saying that his claim to “the esteem and regard of all thinking Africans rests not so much upon the special work he has done for any particular people of the African race, as upon the general work he has done for the race as a whole. The work of men like Booker T. Washington and W. E. Burghart Du Bois is exclusive and provincial in a sense. The work of Edward Wilmot Blyden is universal, covering the entire race and the entire race problem.” Was it fair to call Washington and Du Bois provincial? Was Blyden universal only because he came from the islands and not from the mainland? Let us have papers which address the relationships between the nations of Africa, Europe and the Americas. Let us have papers which, catching the intonations of voices at the margins as well as at the centers, tell us what will be the intercontinental alignments of the next fifty years.

As in the previous CAAR conferences, the program committee welcomes papers that approach African-American Studies from an interdisciplinary and comparative perspective. Workshops should have no more than eight slots. Since CAAR encourages international cooperation, we would ask that workshop organizers either recruit some of the participants from countries other than their own or leave at least half of the slots open.

Proposals should be as short and to the point as possible (no more than one page). All proposals should include the title of the paper/workshop, a brief abstract, your name, institution/affiliation, address, telephone number, and email address. Please send your proposals by EMAIL (with the text of the proposal included in the email, NOT as an attachment).

If you wish to run a workshop, please submit your proposal by June 1, 2004. If you wish to give a paper, please submit your proposal by September 1, 2004. Please send all proposals to: Christopher Mulvey, President of CAAR, King Alfred’s Winchester: christopher.mulvey@wkac.ac.uk

General information about the Tours Conference

Tours is a city in the Loire valley, southwest of Paris, approximately one hour away from the TGV Gare Montparnasse station.

The conference will be held in the Tanneurs Building in the city centre where everything (railway station, hotels, restaurants, shops and sights in the medieval district) is within walking distance.

A list of hotels will be available on the CAAR site in due time. A number of Loire valley châteaux surround Tours that becomes a tourist resort when springtime comes. Participants will be advised to book their accommodation at an early date.

GRAAT (Groupe de Recherches Anglaises et Américaines de Tours)

Contact: Claude Julien (claud.julien37@wanadoo.fr)

MINUTES
Executive Committee Meeting
Bordeaux, France
24 March 2002

Opening: 9:15

Present: Carl Pedersen (President), Justine Tally (Treasurer), Hanna Wallinger (Secretary), Paola Boi, Sabine Broeck, Claude Julien, Christopher Mulvey
Excused: Maria Diedrich, Fritz Gysin

The agenda was changed in the following way:

1. Finances
2. Winchester 2003
3. Newsletter
4. Web
5. Brochure
6. AARL
7. Name change
8. AOB

1. Finances

1. CAAR Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer presented her report on the finances for the year 2001-2002. A full and frank discussion resulted from her telling the committee that an expected gain of \$10,000 from the Cagliari Conference had resulted in a \$10,000 loss. It was agreed that no further payments should be made to the outside agency which had managed accommodation, catering and venue and that the monies should be transferred to the CAAR account. The committee agreed that it might be counter-productive to pursue legal action with regard to unaccounted monies, but it was agreed that carefully thought-through guidelines should circumscribe the planning, accounting and implementation of future CAAR conferences. It was further concluded with regret that there was now no funding for meetings that were pending with the Village Foundation. It was decided that future meeting support for CAAR Executive Committee members should be reduced to EUR 300 per annum and that members would be expected to look for alternative sources of funding before calling upon the CAAR Treasurer.

2. The CAAR Conference Winchester 2003. The Conference Secretary made a presentation of planned schedule, fees, budget, and accommodation for Winchester 2003. These were discussed at length. The financial liability of depending entirely upon registration fees and some potential British-Academy funding was considered fully. It was decided that: planning for the conference

should continue; the registration fee should be EUR 120; the conference should start early on Sunday, April 13 and end Tuesday, April 15, 2003; there should be two keynote speakers instead of three; commercial support should be sought for funding an authors' reading; there would be no pre-meeting in Winchester in October 2002.

3. Newsletter

In connection with the general low finances of CAAR, it was decided that the next Newsletter should be sent out electronically. The Newsletter should be published three times in two years, one issue after the biennial conference, one issue after the Executive Committee meeting at the EAAS, one issue before the conference. The editor should ask for more general information about African American Studies in Europe, syllabi, call for papers, book reviews, book news, an academic traveler.

4. and 5. Web and Brochure

Sabine Broeck presented a draft for a CAAR brochure for marketing purposes. As fundraiser, she would look for funds through the European Community and use the EC research network. Some time was spent discussing the contents of this brochure and the web site.

6. AARL

Christopher Mulvey's report about the recent developments can be seen in a separate item.

7. Name change

The discussion of the name change was postponed.

8. AOB

It was decided that Hanna Wallinger should remain the coordinator for the Eastern and Central European members. Claude Julien's proposal that the CAAR conference in 2005 should take place in Tours met with general approval. It was decided that we would ask for suggestions for a North American Executive Committee member.

End of meeting: 14:30

Minutes sent out May 2, 2002

Carl Pedersen
President

Hanna Wallinger
Secretary

MINUTES
Executive Committee Meeting
Winchester, England
12 April 2003

Opening: 14:20

Present: Fritz Gysin, Claude Julien, Sabine Broeck, Paola Boi, Christopher Mulvey, Justine Tally, Carl Pedersen, Maria Diedrich (from 16:30 onwards)

1. Report from the Secretary: Bordeaux minutes, Newsletter

The finances of the Cagliari conference (2001) and the minutes of the Bordeaux Executive Committee Meeting were discussed for some time. It was agreed that the minutes about item 1 (Finances) reflected last year's discussion and they were approved with one abstention. The rest of the minutes were approved.

The secretary, Hanna Wallinger, reported about the electronic version of the Newsletter. Although not everybody had received it, it was agreed upon that the distribution of the Newsletter via e-mail should be continued. The next Newsletter should be published after the conference and contain a report about the conference, the minutes of both General and Executive Committee Meetings, reports from workshop chairs, and advertisements of the FORECAAST series.

2. Report from the treasurer

Justine Tally talked about the problems with the credit-card companies. Only American Express would still accept payments to CAAR. Bank transfers are very expensive and often senders could not be identified. It was agreed upon that the dues should be paid for two years at a time: EUR 100,- for two years or EUR 60,- if paid per year. The finances of the Cagliari conference were discussed once more. Justine Tally then inquired about this year's conference costs and mentioned hotel rates, the printing and designing of poster and program, the costs for the CAAR brochure, and the dues money. After some discussion all questions could be answered to her satisfaction.

3. Report from the local organizer: Winchester 2003

Christopher Mulvey was happy to announce that the conference was taking place despite some global problems and several cancellations, that the program was good, and that he aimed for a break-even budget. He explained the accounts in detail. It was agreed upon that the accounts of CAAR local and CAAR general should be kept apart as assiduously as possible. Justine Tally congratulated him on the organization and the

finances and the rest of the Committee readily joined in praise.

4. Next CAAR conference

After some discussion about the size of CAAR conferences, Claude Julien presented his plans for the 2005 conference in Tours, south of Paris. It would be around the Easter time, from Thursday to Sunday, its aim should be 150 participants, and it should be organized in the downtown section of Tours. The next Executive Committee Meeting in Prague in 2004 should decide about further details.

5. Web

Carl Pedersen announced that the organization has a new logo. He also said that the updating of the web every week before the conference proved advantageous. The web site would have to be removed to another institution.

6. Brochure

Sabine Broeck presented the new CAAR brochure, asked for suggestions and reported about the estimated costs. All committee members praised the brochure and thanked Sabine Broeck for her work.

7. AARL

Christopher Mulvey reported on the progress of this big project and pointed out that there would be a presentation on Monday.

8. FORECAAST

Maria Diedrich announced that 11 volumes had been published in the FORECAAST series, four of which would be presented at the conference. She informed the Committee that three more volumes were in the making, which would bring the total number of publications in this series to 14 volumes in five years. Maria Diedrich and others regretted the fact that the LIT Verlag would not send a representative to sell books at the conference.

9. Report from the President: the future of CAAR

Carl Pedersen thanked all Executive Committee members for their work and announced that he would resign as president as of June 2003. He gave his reasons for his resigning and some discussion followed. The Executive Committee thanked him for his hard work and dedication on behalf of CAAR.

Justine Tally also announced that she would step down as treasurer as of June 2003. Fritz Gysin and

Maria Diedrich announced that they would not ask for re-nomination in 2005.
Fritz Gysin assumed the task of election officer and agreed upon an electronic election procedure.

Maria Diedrich reminded the Committee of the fact that the conference volume should be edited and people should be encouraged to submit their papers.

End of Meeting: 18:00

10. Misc.

MINUTES
Fourth Membership Meeting
Collegium for African American Research
Winchester, England
Sunday, April 13, 2003

Opening: 10:30

In the audience: ca. 18 people

Executive Committee members in attendance: Carl Pedersen (president), Justine Tally (treasurer), Hanna Wallinger (secretary), Paola Boi, Sabine Broeck, Maria Diedrich, Fritz Gysin, Claude Julien, Christopher Mulvey.

1. Minutes of the third meeting of CAAR, Cagliari, Sardinia, March 23, 2001

The minutes of the third membership meeting, March 23, 2001 (Cagliari) were approved as a true record.

2. Agenda for the Fourth meeting, April 13, 2003

The agenda were approved.

3. Report of the President

Carl Pedersen reported that CAAR would produce a brochure with information about the association. The Newsletter will announce when it is available. C.P. reported on the FORECAAST volumes and asked members to spread the word about these great publications. C.P. also announced that the next conference would be in Tours, France, gave the details and asked for suggestions about topics.

4. Report of the Treasurer

Justine Tally handed in a financial report and explained incoming and outgoing finances. From the point of view of the treasurer, CAAR is not buoyant but still okay. After a question from the audience, Christopher Mulvey said that as local organizer aimed for a break-even budget.

5. Report of the Secretary

Hanna Wallinger informed the audience about the publication of the Newsletter, invited contributions to the Newsletter, announced that workshop chairs would be expected to hand in a short report of app. 200 words. H.W. also talked about the general problem of missing membership data, especially e-mail addresses.

6. Report of the Conference Organizer

Christopher Mulvey welcomed the participants to this year's conference and gave some practical information. On behalf of the organization, he thanked Nicky Matthews and the Red Conference Centre for their expert handling of all matters.

7. AARL Report

Christopher Mulvey announced that on Monday afternoon the work of the AARL would be demonstrated.

8. Report on East European Connections

Hanna Wallinger reminded the audience that CAAR has a travel fund for members/participants from nonfunding countries and highly welcomed contributions. Due to a general lack of money only three participants from central and eastern Europe could be supported this year.

9. Vacancies on the Executive Committee

Carl Pedersen informed the audience about four vacancies on the Executive Committee. Treasurer and president would retire in June 2003, Fritz Gysin and Maria Diedrich would not want to be re-elected in 2005. The nominations of Mar Gallego (Huelva, Spain) for treasurer and Christopher Mulvey for president were seconded from the audience and generally approved. The final word, however, would have to be made in the electronic election procedure which Fritz Gysin would coordinate (*see below). One American member of the Executive Committee would also be nominated.

10. Misc.

Jurgen Heinrichs (USA) made some interesting suggestions about possible databases and offered to do a CAAR list on the web. His suggestions were approved with enthusiasm.

End of meeting: 11:30.

***Election Report from Fritz Gysin,**

Here are the results of 2003 election:

Ballots sent out by e-mail: 153
Undelivered: 5
Returned: 76

President: Christopher Mulvey
Yes: 73
No: 1
Abstention: 2

Treasurer: Mar Gallego

Yes: 70
No: 0
Abstention: 5

Compared to the last elections, this turnout is very good indeed.

Congratulations to the new President and Treasurer!

25 July 2003:

CAAR BROCHURE TO BE RELEASED SOON!

At its last meeting the CAAR Executive Committee unanimously voted to publish a brochure--by way of "self-marketing" as it were--that may be ordered by members for use in fundraising campaigns, to provide to-the-point information in partnership negotiations, to attract new members and general attention. It is now being produced with support from the University of Bremen and will be out soon, at the very least in time for the Prague conference 2004. Members are invited to email-order copies from the Executive Committee for their own--and we hope lavish!--use at home.

Sabine Broeck

Launch of CLOTEL WEBSITE marks

150th Anniversary of the African American Novel

Site is First in Series of Scholarly Editions of the African American Research Library

The first African American novel, *Clotel or the President's Daughter: a Narrative of Slave Life in the United States*, was published by William Wells Brown on November 12, 1853. Brown was then exiled in London by the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. He went on to publish three very different versions of a story that is freely based on the Thomas Jefferson-Sally Hemings relationship. The "Clotel Problem" has always been to know which of Brown's four texts to read. The CLOTEL site offers a solution, and a four-year collaboration between King Alfred's Winchester, the University of Virginia and Adam Matthew Publications has produced an electronic scholarly edition of *Clotel* which presents all four texts together for the first time.

CLOTEL by WILLIAM WELLS BROWN: AN ELECTRONIC SCHOLARLY EDITION

Edited by Christopher Mulvey

SPONSORED BY THE COLLEGIUM FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH

Adam Matthew Publications <http://www.adam-matthew-publications.co.uk/collect/p538.htm>

Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Board and the British Academy

This is the first scholarly edition of *Clotel*, and something now exists which could be called *Clotel-Miralda-Clotelle-Clotelle*. Having the four books under one cover constructs the novel in a way that previously existed only in the writer's mind as he constantly reworked its story. An image of each page is linked with the text of each page, and the search program reaches texts, commentary, annotation and support material (618 pages of Brown's original texts imaged and coded; 5000 notes; 1,000,000 words in all).

This is the first use of newly developed software to provide historical collation efficiently and economically for online scholarly editions.

This is the first reprinting of *Miralda*, the second version of the novel. A text which has existed till now in a few copies of a fading newspaper will be available in every library.

This is first reprinting of fourteen installments of the *Weekly Anglo-African*, the anti-slavery newspaper in which William Wells Brown published *Miralda*. Appearing in the four months before the American Civil War, these 600 pages make an extraordinary treasury of African American debate and life.

Clotel is the first in a series of websites planned for *The African American Research Library*. The General Editors are Maria I. Diedrich, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and Christopher Mulvey. The next title will be *Poems on Various Subjects* by Phillis Wheatley.

Collegium for African American Research
THE CAAR LISTSERV

[A LISTSERV is an automatic mailing list. "People sharing an interest may 'subscribe' to a given discussion, and other subscribers' contributions to the thread are distributed to the entire subscriber base via e-mail. The result is similar to a newsgroup or forum, except that the messages are transmitted as e-mail and are therefore available only to individuals on the list" (*Web Definition*).]

Welcome to the CAAR-listserv, the electronic information switchboard for the Collegium of African American Research (CAAR)! This listserv serves to facilitate the sharing of information about events, conferences, publications, and other items of interest to people associated with CAAR. Founded in 1992 as a professional association of European-based scholars of African American research in various fields of the humanities, CAAR has since grown into an increasingly global organization with members in all continents. Effective immediately, our brand-new CAAR listserv is operational. The listserv serves as a communication switchboard that automatically relays messages by and for CAAR members and others interested in the work of this organization.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBSCRIBING TO THE CAAR LISTSERV:

Log into your email account of choice. Compose message addressed to:

majordomo@listserv.shu.edu

Leave "subject" line BLANK. In the BODY of message type:

subscribe caar

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Thanks,
Juergen Heinrichs

Treasurer's report (November 2003)

First of all, I would like to join my colleagues on the Executive Committee in thanking Professor Justine Tally for her complete devotion to her task of treasurer for such a long period of time, since the outset of CAAR, and especially for her elegant and efficient way of handling things, always with a smile even at difficult times. She has definitely set an outstanding model for all of us and I only hope to be able to follow in her footsteps, under her wise guidance. As the President has also pointed out, she has left CAAR with a very positive balance, that I trust to keep up with the help of all our loyal members.

For that reason, I take advantage of the opportunity to encourage those members who still haven't paid their dues for 2003 to do it making use of the subscription form enclosed in this edition of the newsletter. If you have already honored your payment for 2003, I also encourage you to start complying with it for next year, which will amount to 60 euros (again use the subscription form for it).

Due to the cost of bank transfers, the Executive Committee has decided that if you pay your dues for two years in a row (2004 and 2005), you will get 20 euros off. So that's a deal! Of course you can pay by credit card, which is the cheapest way for CAAR, and still get the same deal. We would also like to keep track of our members, so when you fill in the form, let us know any change of postal or e-mail address, together with your bank information.

To ensure that things run smoothly, please make sure that you do send me the subscription form once filled out. If you need further information, do not hesitate to contact me at stemar@teleline.es. I will do my best to honor your trust with unfailing enthusiasm and faithfulness to CAAR!

MESEA
The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas

Call for Papers
Fourth MESEA Conference
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
May 20 – 23, 2004

Ethnic Communities in Democratic Societies

Proposals for workshops and papers may engage the following topics, among others:
Negotiation of culture, language, religion within (non-)territorial communities / Parochialism and globalization / Community and fragmentation in global cities / Communitarianism vs. rights / Literary and artistic productions within transnational democracies / Aesthetic concerns of ethnic subjects in democratic societies / How literature reflects democratic concerns / Negotiating ethnic exceptionalism and participation in a larger collectivity / Nation states and imagined communities / Nationalism and transnational loyalties / Nativism and racism in democratic contexts / Ethnic Press and transnationalism / Ethnic community vs. local law / (Il)legal immigration / Transnational identities / Fragmented identities / Political agency, political choices / Balkanization of mentality / Bastions of ethnic tolerance / Citizenship and ethnopolitics / Civis and civility / Ethnic anxieties / Ethnic discrimination and affirmative actions / Ethnogenesis and ethnostasis / From Confrontation to cooperation / Internal colonialisms / Mythologized nationalisms / Xenophobia/xenophilia.

Plenary Speakers:

Gary Okihiro (Columbia University)
Sidonie Smith (University of Michigan)
David Trotman (York University)

Writers:

Marie H el ene Laforest
Cleopatra Mathis
Meera Syal

- Deadline for proposals: December 20, 2003. Send a one-page proposal and a one-paragraph bio on the same page as e-mail submission to:

raphael-hernandez@mesea.org

Dr. Heike Raphael-Hernandez
University of Maryland in Europe
Im Bosseldorn 30
69126 Heidelberg
Germany

- Only members of MESEA or MELUS may present papers at this conference. For membership information please go to:

www.mesea.org

The Fourth MESEA conference will highlight the launching of MESEA's new journal *Atlantic Studies*,

published by Routledge, U.K.

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/14788810.asp>

FORECAAST
(Forum for European Contributions to African American Studies)

Mar Gallego

**Passing Novels in the Harlem Renaissance
Identity Politics and Textual Strategies**

vol 8, 2003, 224 S., 24.90 EUR, br., ISBN 3-8258-5842-1

Passing Novels in the Harlem Renaissance offers an insightful study of the significance of passing novels for the literary and intellectual debate of the Harlem Renaissance. Mar Gallego effectively uncovers the presence of a subversive component in five of these novels (by James Weldon Johnson, George Schuyler, Nella Larsen, and Jessie Fauset), turning them into useful tools to explore the passing phenomenon in all its richness and complexity. This compelling study intends to contribute to the ongoing revision of the parameters conventionally employed to analyze passing novels by drawing attention to a great variety of textual strategies such as double consciousness, parody, and multiple generic covers. Examining the hybrid nature of these texts, Gallego skillfully highlights their radical critique of the status quo and their celebration of a distinct African American identity.

<http://lit-verlag.de/isbn/3-8258-5842-1>

Paola Boi, Sabine Broeck (Eds.)

CrossRoutes--The Meanings of "Race" for the 21st Century

vol 9, 2003, 272 S., 25.90 EUR, br., ISBN 3-8258-6651-3

This collection reflects the still urgent project of historical recuperation, as well as an examination of literary representations and other cultural manifestations of the Black Diaspora. Disciplinary work within the boundaries of African American Studies has been enhanced by more general considerations of the history of "race" and racism in globalized contexts. The articles assembled here reflect recent empirical research as well as challenging theoretical considerations. Contributions address particular formations of racialized modernity owed to the impact of the Atlantic slave trade and slavery, and thus broaden the approach to the Middle Passage, to improve our understanding of it as a constitutive transatlantic phenomenon in the widest possible sense.

<http://lit-verlag.de/isbn/3-8258-6651-3>

Sylvia Mayer (ed.)

**Restoring the Connection to the Natural World
Essays on the African American Environmental
Imagination**

vol 10, 2003, 208 S., 20.90 EUR, br., ISBN 3-8258-6732-3

Since its emergence in the second half of the nineteenth century American environmentalism had predominantly been a white, middle-class pursuit, preoccupied with notions of wilderness and wildlife preservation. Only fairly recently, with the advent of the environmental justice movement in the 1980s, has American environmentalism broadened its definition of "environment" to include the concerns relevant to a community's way of living. Especially the concerns of poor urban communities of color, which have been exposed to environmental hazards disproportionately, have entered the political agenda. This volume--one of the first collections of ecocritical essays devoted exclusively to African American texts--shows that African Americans have contributed to the efforts of the environmental justice movement not only as political activists, but also as writers. The essays range from studies of nineteenth-century slave narratives to twentieth-century texts by Zora Neale Hurston, Claude McKay, Richard Wright, Charles Johnson, Toni Cade Bambara, Audre Lorde, and Octavia Butler. Employing a variety of theoretical and methodological premises, they provide insight into the texts' various conceptualizations of "nature," "culture," and "humanness" and their implications for environmental ethics.

<http://lit-verlag.de/isbn/3-8258-6732-3>

Kimberley L. Phillips, Hermine D. Pinson, Lorenzo Thomas, Hanna Wallinger (Eds.)

**Critical Voicings of Black Liberation
Resistance and Representations in the Americas**

vol 11, 2003, 192 S., 20.90 EUR, br., ISBN 3-8258-6739-0

The contributions to "Critical Voicings of Black Liberation" originated from the 1999 CAAR Conference in Münster and from conferences held in the US in 2000 and 2001. More than half of the eleven essays consider black performances on stage, in sound, and on film; the remaining essays explore slavery, African American literature, and nineteenth-century black educators. These exciting essays creatively examine artistic and/or political articulation of black liberation as the construction of a

new critical and signifyin(g) voice. This liberated and critical voice asserts itself as much as a communal expression of black subjectivities as it is an articulation of the black self.

<http://lit-verlag.de/isbn/3-8258-6739-0>

Ana María Manzanás, Jesús Benito

Intercultural Mediations

Hybridity and Mimesis in American Literatures

vol 12, 2003, 224 S., 25.90 EUR, br., ISBN 3-8258-6738-2

Intercultural Mediations proposes a study of the multiple crossings between and among the different literary traditions of the United States. The volume draws upon two main theoretical sources, namely postcolonial theory and American Border Studies, and aims to articulate a model of the hybrid, postcolonial and liminal nature of writing in the US. Ana M^a Manzanás and Jesús Benito explore the nature of the "ethnic" Others' appropriation, dialogization and Subversion of the Euroamerican authoritative discourse--embodied in what the authors call the Book of the West--as well as the inscription of cultural difference on the white page. Their analysis focuses on the production of contestatory sites of enunciation in a few particular fields and texts from the literatures of the US, such as John Milton Oskison's "The Problem of Old Harjo," Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, Helena Viramontes's "The Cariboo Café," Carlos Fuentes's *La*

frontera de crystal, Ron Arias's *The Road to Tamazunchale*, Frederick Douglass's *Narrative*, Louise Erdrich's *Tracks*, José Barreiro's *The Indian Chronicles*, and Caryl Phillip's *Crossing the River*. The authors use a comparative approach which underscores the aesthetic and epistemic ruptures that ethnic and marginalized writing is producing on Western culture's general text, in order to open up new sites of enunciation and new spaces for the hybridization of traditional hegemonic discourses.

<http://lit-verlag.de/isbn/3-8258-6738-2>

Maria Diedrich, Joanne M. Braxton (Eds.)

Monuments of the Black Atlantic

vol. 13, 256 S., 24.90 EUR, br., ISBN 3-8258-7230-0

<http://lit-verlag.de/isbn/3-8258-7230-0>

Maria I. Diedrich, Theron D. Cook, Flip Lindo (Eds.)

Crossing Boundaries: African American Inner City and European Migrant Youth

vol. 14, 200 S., 24.90 EUR, br., ISBN 3-8258-7231-9

<http://lit-verlag.de/isbn/3-8258-7231-9>

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