
Letter from the President, June 2004
COLLEGIANS AND FRIENDS:

LARGER ISSUES. In my November 2003 letter, I promised to take up larger issues, larger that is than matters of general report and normal CAAR news. A larger issue that concerned the Executive Committee at its April 2004 meeting was the purpose of the Collegium and, in particular, what members might or should be doing other than attending a biennial conference. Is CAAR about the CAAR Conference or is it more than that? First, I have to say that the CAAR Conference is a not a small matter for me personally. Having the meeting every two years is of enormous importance to my research and professional life. It gives me definition as a scholar; my claim to be an African Americanist takes a visible shape; my classroom incarceration and my library isolation are relieved by these meetings. African American research comes to life as we come to life when we meet and greet and talk and walk together. But, second, I have to say that CAAR should be a lot more than the CAAR Conference. For me, it very much is: there are a number of publishing activities relating to AARL and FORECAAST that are ongoing; there are numerous conferences to be attended at which fellow CAAR members are also present; there is a constant CAAR correspondence to be maintained. However, the experience of the president of an association and even that of the executive committee member is not that of the regular, the real, member. How much does CAAR exist then between the biennial Aprils for the membership of CAAR? I would like to hear from you about that. Let me know, if you like, by personal communications, but, even better, it would be good if you would write about CAAR and your sense of what it is and what it might be in letters that can be shared with everyone, posted on the ListServ and published in the Newsletters.

A NEW TEAM MEMBER. Michelle Wright has joined the Executive Committee, and that is great news. Details of her election are given elsewhere in this Newsletter, but I am very pleased that we have a North American member in our group, making our internationalism intercontinentalist.

OLD TEAM MEMBERS. Two members of the Executive Committee will be stepping down and three are up for renewal in 2005. The elections will take place in May and June (after Tours) so be thinking about volunteering and nominating.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS. SALZBURG: A CAAR Workshop is planned for the Austrian American Studies Conference in Salzburg (5-7 November): "The Racial Dynamics Of African American Cultural Change: A CAAR Workshop." Five CAR members are down to give papers. Contact Hanna Wallinger at Salzburg <hanna.wallinger@sbg.ac.at> if you would like to join us.

PARIS: Harvard University and the Sorbonne are planning a celebration of the life-time work of two of CAAR's most distinguished members. "African American and Diasporic Research in Europe: Comparative and Interdisciplinary Approaches. A Conference in Honor of Michel and Geneviève Fabre" will held in Paris from 15 to 18 December. Register online at www.fas.harvard.edu/~du_bois/; click on "Paris Conference."

MUNSTER: Maria Diedrich, Larry Greene, and Juergen Heinrichs are planning a conference on "African Americans and Germany: Twentieth-Century Transformations" in Munster in March 2006 (either 22-26 March or 29 March-2 April). Their meeting will be based on an on-going project relating to the African American experience in Germany. They will be running a workshop on this at Tours and developing from that.

THE TOURS CONFERENCE. THE BLACK WORLD: You will find a lot of early conference information in this Newsletter. Claude Julien and his team are working wonders. We want and expect a big attendance. We are already projecting a brilliant set of workshops, and you will find the first ones listed inside. Take note and let me know if you can offer a paper in any of them. It is not the complete list of workshops by any means--that will be worked out in November--so send me your proposals for papers by September 1.

MEMBERSHIP. Mar Gallego and I are working on the membership list and on subscription payments. Some progress has been made, and dues are beginning to arrive. But there is a lot of work to do here. Has anyone got ideas about how to retrieve lost names and e-mail addresses? Please contact me with any thoughts on this one: <christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk>.

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

CAAR Executive Committee:

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Impressum:

CAAR
Newsletter 16
June 2004

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A CAAR ELECTION. We welcome our new Executive Committee member **MICHELLE WRIGHT**. Details of the electoral result as received from the Electoral Officer, Fritz Gysin, have already been circulated by e-mail and through the CAAR-ListServ. If you did not get the election notice, please contact christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk.

These are the words of our new Executive Committee member:

“The goals and beliefs of CAAR are close to my heart: I was born and raised in (what was known as) Western Europe, the daughter of an African American diplomat and a Polish-Czech American schoolteacher, and have always been fascinated by the way in which constructions of race originate, behave and alter in Western epistemologies. I am associate professor of English at Macalester College, where I both teach and do research on Black literature, culture and theory in the West. I received my PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Michigan, where I researched African American, Caribbean, Black British, “afro-Parisian”

and Afro-German responses to being Othered by Western discourse. I have written many articles for both journals and anthologies on Black identity in the West, and my book, *Becoming Black: Creating Identity in the African Diaspora* offers a broad comparative analysis of the different ways peoples of African descent have examined black subjectivity over four continents and 100 years. Through my work on the editorial board of *Callaloo*, I have become a strong supporter of bringing together African Americanists across the globe to be in conversation with one another, and would enthusiastically support CAAR in this initiative. Through CAAR I have made many important friends and colleagues who have greatly influenced my work, and I will put my full effort behind CAAR’s unique position as a high-profile international Collegium that brings a broad diversity of scholars to a common ground for the exchange of ideas” (Michelle M. Wright, Macalester College, St Paul, MN 55105 USA--mimawright@yahoo.com).

LAST CALL FOR TOURS PAPERS

Paper Proposals by September 1, 2004

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. The focus of CAAR 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 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 title of paper/workshop, a brief abstract, and should include 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). Please send all proposals to: christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk

CAAR CONFERENCE 2005 DRAFT SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, 20 April 2005

14.00-17.00. Registration
18.00-19.00. Guided City Walk

THURSDAY, 21 April 2005

09.00-17.00. Registration
10.00-10.30. Tea and Coffee
10.30-11.00. Conference Greetings
11.00-12.00. Keynote Speaker 1
12.00-14.00. Lunch
14.00-16.00. Workshops
16.00-16.30. Tea and Coffee
16.30-18.00. Workshops
20.00-22.00. Town Hall Reception

FRIDAY, 22 April 2005

09.00-13.00. Registration
09.00-10.30. Workshops
10.00-10.30. Tea and Coffee

11.00-12.00. Keynote Speaker 2
12.00-14.00. Lunch
14.00-16.00. Workshops
16.00-16.30. Tea and Coffee
16.30-18.00. Workshops
20.00-00.00. African American Film Festival

SATURDAY, 23 April 2005

09.00-10.00. Keynote Speaker 3
10.00-10.30. Tea and Coffee
10.30-12.00. CAAR Assembly
14.00-16.00. Workshops
16.00-16.30. Tea and Coffee
16.30-18.00. Workshops
20.00-00.00. Conference Banquet

Sunday, 24 April 2005

10.00-17.00. Tours, Trips, Visits

GENERAL INFORMATION ON TOURS

The venue for CAAR Conference 2005 will be Université François-Rabelais in the town of Tours, France. Tours is located on the Loire river, south-west of Paris, about one hour from the Montparnasse railway station by high speed train.

The conference will be hosted in the Tanneurs campus, built on the left bank of the river between the Wilson and Napoléon bridges. This is in the downtown section with any number of hotels, eating places and restaurants within walking distance. The campus itself is about 15 minutes' walk from the SNCF station.

As a historic city, Tours is a major tourist resort. Participants are advised to book their hotel rooms a month or so ahead.

Information on the town is available at www.tours.fr. On the home page, a click on the "Ligéris" button will lead to the Tourist Office site that will guide you in several languages. The home page can also lead you to a town map by clicking on "Plan de la ville". Typing your hotel address will point the exact spot.

Other city maps are accessible at www.sosdriver.fr/pratique/flash/plan_int_tours.htm, which provides a broad idea of the town's layout, or www.plandetours.com which provides a user friendly street index. There also exists an unofficial commerce-oriented site at www.ville-tours.com.

An email address will be accessible in due course at caar2005@univ-tours.fr.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION WILL APPEAR IN THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER.

WORKSHOP PROPOSALS AT JUNE 1

This list will give you an idea of what is developing, and if you want to offer a paper in one of these workshops, let us know. If you have a proposal which does not fit any of these headings, let us have it nonetheless because we will be sorting out further workshops when the Tours Conference Committee meets in the Fall.

Workshop Title: **“AFRICAN CITYSCAPES AND FICTIONALIZED AMERICA(S).”** Workshop Chair: Guillaume Cingal <Guillaume.Cingal@wanadoo.fr> Tours University, France.

Workshop Description: The main aim of this workshop would be to ponder in what way the social and geographical structure of given African cities is different from the North American inclusion of Black minorities, and to what extent the representation of cityscapes in speeches, films, visual art, the media or literary texts is influenced by Black urban and suburban culture in the U.S. Workshop Participants: Please contact both Guillaume.Cingal@wanadoo.fr and christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk if you are interested in submitting a paper for this workshop.

Workshop Title: **“CIRCUMATLANTIC CARNIVAL, CIRCUMATLANTIC PERFORMANCES IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN DIASPORA.”** Workshop Chair: Berndt Ostendorf <b.ostendorf@lrz.uni-muenchen.de> Munich University, Germany.

Workshop Description: Carnival is more than a display of parading floats and maskers. At certain moments in the annual, liturgical cycle the time is ripe for an inversion of power structures, a suspension of normative systems and a disdain for the dictates of decorum and taste: The curse of labor is undone, the weak become strong, the powerful are mocked, the slave becomes master, men become women, women become men, and the lord of misrule takes over in City hall. By temporarily suspending the limits of our life worlds carnival celebrates, under the guise of comedy, a liberation from the biological and socially ascribed self. Gender, rank or station, all are radically changed and playfully challenged. Though it celebrates, in fancy, the inversion of power, carnival, in fact, also affirms the status quo. On Ash Wednesday the temporary revolution ends, and revelers return to their normative and ascribed constraints, be they work, gender status, slavery or exploitation. Carnival traditions have been particularly strong on the circumatlantic rim and in slave societies: there are carnival traditions in Trinidad, Jamaica, Cuba, Brazil, New Orleans. From there a transnational Caribbean carnival has migrated to Brooklyn, New York and Notting Hill, London, where it reconnects with European traditions of pageantry, Fasching, Fastnacht and Mardi Gras, and back to Africa in Cape Town. Colonial and postcolonial carnival has been the cradle of many popular musical styles: Calypso, Samba, Jazz, Rap, Hiphop all were born in the spirit of carnival. In case studies we will focus on certain circumatlantic family resemblances and certain types of carnivalesque and creolizing networks. Workshop Participants: Please contact both b.ostendorf@lrz.uni-muenchen.de and christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk if you are interested in submitting a paper for this workshop.

Workshop Title: **“COLLABORATIVE POSSIBILITIES: MICHAEL GOMEZ’S <EXCHANGING OUR COUNTRY MARKS> AND THE PROJECT TO RECOVER THE AFRICAN PAST IN THE AMERICAS”.** Workshop Chair: Leslie Harris <lharr04@emory.edu> Emory University. USA. Workshop Description: Over the past twenty years, historians of African America have sought ever increasing precision in identifying the African past in the Americas. Michael Gomez’s 1998 book *Exchanging Our Country Marks: The Transformation of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South* is part of a new generation of scholarship in which historians seek an evermore precise accounting of African culture retention in the Americas. Other scholars of Africa and the Americas who have participated in such projects include but are not limited to Gwendolyn Midlo Hall, John Thornton, Philip Morgan, Claire Robertson, and Kristin Mann. These scholars follow in the footsteps of older generations (Sterling Stuckey, William Piersen, Mechal Sobel, among others) who argued for a more generalized West African world view and culture. The later scholars have implicitly or explicitly critiqued such approaches in favor of an allegedly more precise tracing of the origins of Africans and mapping of their locations of arrival in the Americas. This workshop would bring together scholars of Africa, the United States and the Caribbean to discuss Gomez’s book specifically, as well as more general problems and possibilities in terms of methodology, themes, historiography and cooperation and collaboration. Besides a close reading of Gomez’s work, questions these scholars could address include but are not limited to--Are historians of Africa and the Americas reading these books in the same way? What are the common and different questions they ask? How do these different approaches enrich the fields of Africa and the Americas?--Can scholars of the African Diaspora move beyond a tennis match approach to studying cultural retention in the Americas, in which Africanists and Americanists each write books without truly engaging the other’s field?-- How can scholars trained in programs

that divide African and American historiographies and methodologies approach such projects, either at the dissertation level or at the point of a second or third book? Should new programs which combine African and American training be instituted to address this issue? . Workshop Participants: Michael Gomez, New York University (confirmed); Herman Bennett, Rutgers University (Africans in Colonial Mexico) (confirmed) ; Dianne Stewart, Emory University (Afro-Caribbean Religion) (tentative); Carolyn Brown, Rutgers University (Gender in West Africa) (confirmed); Stephanie Smallwood, UC-San Diego (Slave Trade). Contact both lharr04@emory.edu and christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk if you are interested in submitting a paper for this workshop.

Workshop Title: **“CROSSOVERS: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND GERMANY, 1914-1950.”** Workshop Chairs: Maria Diedrich <diedri@uni-muenster.de> Munster University, Germany, and Larry Greene, Seton Hall University, USA.

Workshop Description: The past decade has witnessed a large number of innovative studies of encounters between African Americans and Germans throughout the twentieth century. However, such groundbreaking research usually remains restricted to historical periods or cultural particularities. Prominent examples include <The Imperialist Imagination> (Friedrichsmeyer/Lennox/Zantop), <Hitler’s Black Victims> (Lusane), <Other Germans> (Camp), and <GIs and Fraeuleins> (Hoehn). Our workshop is part of a larger scholarly initiative that hopes to offer a continuous narrative of African American/ German encounters, which would synthesize such studies. Beyond that, we will not only explore the impact, which these German encounters had on African American visitors, but also the transformational processes that took place in German thought and life as a result of these cultural interactions. Workshop Participants: Juergen Heinrichs, Seton Hall University, “African American Culture in Weimar Berlin”; Maria Diedrich, Munster University, “African American Visitors to Nazi Germany”; Larry Greene, Seton Hall University, “The Image of Germany in the African American Press, 1941-1955”. Workshop Participants: Please contact (by September 2) both diedri@uni-muenster.de and christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk if you are interested in submitting a paper for this workshop. Keywords: Germany African Americans Nazi Berlin Twentieth Century.

Workshop Title: **“EXPLORING UNFAMILIAR TERRAINS: SPACE, PLACE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY-CENTURY AFRICAN AMERICAN IMAGINATION.”** Workshop Chairs: Christine Gerhardt <gerhardt@mail.fb15.uni-dortmund.de> (University of Dortmund, Germany), and Sylvia Mayer <mayersy@uni-muenster.de> (University of Muenster, Germany).

Workshop Description: In the history of the United States, the oppression of people of African descent and the degradation of nature have been linked in complex and multiple ways. When African American activists began to explicitly link the struggle against racism and environmental degradation in the late 1980s and early 1990s, they challenged not only white mainstream environmentalists to work beyond racial and ethnic boundaries, but, in a way, also challenged African American studies to include environmental perspectives in its critical modes of inquiry. This workshop wishes to promote a dialogue between the perspectives of African American and ecological literary and cultural studies, focusing on the ways in which twentieth-century African American texts have imagined particular environments as natural/cultural places that dramatize crucial aspects of the black experience. We invite papers that address questions such as: Which kinds of natural landscapes have been formative in the twentieth-century African American literary imagination, and how can they be interpreted not only socially and politically but ecologically? Which other environments figure prominently in African American texts? How can African American constructions of life in the inner cities, in particular, be re-read and a re-evaluated from a green perspective? How is the African American struggle to connect to certain places as home related to ecological issues? Ultimately, we not only wish to explore how environmental criticism can promote new readings of African American landscapes, but also how African American texts challenge dominant, white perspectives of nature and environmental protection. Workshop Participants: Please contact both gerhardt@mail.fb15.uni-dortmund.de and christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk if you are interested in submitting a paper for this workshop.

Workshop Title: **“OUT/IN/INTO; OR SHIFTING THE CRITICAL GAZE: WHITENESS IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MIND’S EYE.”** Workshop Chair: Jean-Paul Rocchi <jprocchi@wanadoo.fr> Paris University 7--Denis Diderot, France.

Workshop Description: This workshop focuses on whiteness as the other presence / absence, best exemplified by denial in American consciousness and by the trope of ellipsis in literary and theoretical discourses on identity throughout the 20th century. What have African American writers perceived in the silences and the invisibility of

whiteness, that self-sufficient consciousness in need of neither name nor color, existing per se beyond empirical determination? What are the literary strategies pursued by these authors in the representation of an abortive consciousness, maimed in its own reflexivity, and which brands identity instead of questioning it? How have Black letters responded to Americanness and to the self-erased whiteness of the blank page which is renewed in an immutable state just as the act of writing takes on its own shape? On the page, whiteness is made visible by means of various signifiers and takes on different if not contradictory meanings – the (white) master / father and, opposed to it, the (white) sails in Chesapeake Bay symbolizing freedom in Douglass' autobiographical narrative; (white) Americanness in Du Bois' double consciousness; (white) death in Richard Wright's Black Boy, the (white) God / Man in Baldwin's fictions, (white) beauty in Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye. Does whiteness therefore remain unfathomable without blackness as its tape measure? Can their relationship be accurately labeled as interaction, possibly both political and esthetic, or is it just the shifting repetition of empowerment? Whiteness as either a political trope racially bound and estheticized or the imagined trace of a color line transcended via art. Workshop Participants: Please contact both jprocchi@wanadoo.fr and christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk if you are interested in submitting a paper for this workshop.

Workshop Title: **“RACE, EMPIRE AND THE CITY: THEMES AND PERSPECTIVES FROM THE ATLANTIC WORLD.”** Workshop Chair: Andrew G. Lawrence <andrew.lawrence@virginia.edu> University of Virginia, USA.

Workshop Description: This Workshop poses the question, How does the politics of Empire up to the moment of decolonization and enfranchisement inform black life in various metropolises today? While the main focus will be on mobilization, modes of contention, and discourses of belonging and rights, we are open to other perspectives. Workshop Participants: Bernd Reiter, CUNY--Graduate Center, USA “Nationalism And Exclusion In Lisbon, Portugal: The Perils Of Empire”; Michael Sharpe, CUNY--Graduate Center, USA “Amsterdam, the Dutch Caribbean, and New York City: The Pleasures of Multiplicity”; Chris Bolsmann, Rand Afrikaans University, South Africa “Johannesburg and Frankfurt: Capital Contention and Mobilization”; Brenna Moremi Munro, University of Virginia, USA “Representing Sexuality and Desire in the Contemporary South African Metropolis.”

Workshop Title: **“THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN SCENE: AN INTER-ETHNIC PERSPECTIVE.”** Workshop Chair: Ada Savin <adasavin@noos.fr> University of Versailles, France and Heiner Bus <heiner.bus@split.uni-bamberg.de> Bamberg University, Germany.

Workshop Description: This workshop intends to explore the complex relations between African Americans and other ethnic groups from a historical perspective as well as through various literary and visual representations. The stress will be laid on the inter-active, inter-dependent nature of Black identity / identities construction. Papers can address such issues as Blacks and Indians (captivity and slave narratives / fugitive slaves in Indian tribes), Black-Jewish relations (the diaspora experience), the model character of the Black Civil Rights Movement for other ethnic movements or renaissances, ambivalent inter-actions in other zones of cultural contact like the American West - past and present - (Black cowboys / vaqueros), the inner city (Baldwin, Wright, Spike Lee's movies), the Canada-U.S. border and the Caribbean. Comparisons with the European inter-ethnic scene are also welcome. Given the inter-disciplinary nature of the workshop, the organizers welcome papers that address these or other related topics from a historical, literary or visual perspective. Workshop Participants: Please contact both adasavin@noos.fr and christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk if you are interested in submitting a paper for this workshop.

Workshop Title: **“THE INTERACTION OF INNERSPACE: AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, MEMOIRS AND FICTIONS.”** Workshop Chair: Claude Julien <claudio.julien37@wanadoo.fr> Tours University, France.

Workshop Description: This workshop will focus on affirmative action in all forms of representation: documentary, reportage, memoir, fiction. Possible papers might focus on R. S. Anson's <Best Intentions>, Jake Lamar's <The Last Integrationist>. Workshop Participants: Please contact both claudio.julien37@wanadoo.fr and christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk if you are interested in submitting a paper for this workshop.

Workshop Title: **“THE TRANSATLANTIC AND TRANSINDIAN OCEANIC AFRICAN DIASPORAS.”** Workshop Chair: Shihan de Silva <devika.shihan@kcl.ac.uk> London University, UK. Workshop Description: The aim of this workshop is to compare the well researched Atlantic African diaspora with the little known Indian

Oceanic African diaspora. It could address the relative scope of population movements from Africa's East and West coasts. The differences and similarities between these migrations in different directions could be discussed. The African cultural legacies such as music in the two Oceanic worlds and results of culture contact such as Pidgin and Creole languages could also be explored. Workshop Participants: Please contact both devika.shihan@kcl.ac.uk and christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk if you are interested in submitting a paper for this workshop.

Workshop Title: **“TRAVELING LIBERATION: AFRICAN AMERICAN INFLUENCES ON EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE.”** Workshop Chair: Sabine Broeck <broeck@uni-bremen.de> Bremen University, Germany.

Workshop Description: There is a long history in various countries in Europe and Africa, reaching back into the late nineteenth-century century of African-American individuals and groups engaging in different ways with the respective local cultures, social histories and specific communities of both nations that the workshop should be examine in particular case studies. A second level of interrogation might address the crucial impact of African-Americans on the respective cultural discourses in various countries which manifests itself in a variety of instances. We are interested in the substantiation of why, how and by whom, at certain moments, will African-Americanness as a fetishistic consumer “item” be pushed into certain markets or bloom in certain cultural environments, and we will like to see the emerging local “black styles” in creative interactions with such moves. Yet a third level of interest will pertain to the creative uses that African-American history (the middle passage, slavery, civil rights movements) has been put to in the respective contexts. In synchronic and diachronic perspective, we will look at phenomena like the reception of Harry Belafonte or Toni Morrison, or the reception of African-American womanism in a white German feminist context or the meanings of Martin Luther King for German church communities. Research objects would be both contemporary and historical: interviews and archival records (literature, newspapers, radio shows, TV). Workshop Participants: We are particularly interested in eliciting responses with respect to Germany and South Africa but all other contributions pertinent to creating a comparative perspective will be welcome. Please contact both broeck@uni-bremen.de and christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk if you are interested in submitting a paper for this workshop.

Workshop Title: **“PAULINE E. HOPKINS: INTERACTIONS IN THE BLACK WOMAN’S ERA”**. Workshop Chair: Hanna Wallinger <hanna.wallinger@sbg.ac.at> University of Salzburg, Austria

When Pauline E. Hopkins was active as performer, editor, journalist, race historian; and writer in Boston in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, she was one voice among many active African American women writers, clubwomen, historians, educators, teachers, etc. This workshop welcomes contributions focusing on Hopkins and her contemporaries, such as Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, Victoria Earle Matthews, Gertrude Bustill Mossell, Anna Julia Cooper, Emma Dunham Kelley, Amelia E. Johnson, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Alice Moore Dunbar Nelson, and the many other women active in this period between 1880 and roughly the 1930s. Papers will be welcome that focus on the many interactions with male and female, white and black, African and American and European writers and thinkers of the period. Workshop Participants: Alisha Knight, USA; Jessica Metzler, USA. Please contact both hanna.wallinger@sbg.ac.at and christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk if you are interested in submitting a paper for this workshop.

Workshops are planned by Heike Raphael-Hernandez <hraphael@faculty.ed.umuc.edu> University of Maryland in Europe, Germany; Patrick Miller <pbmiller@niu.edu> Northeastern Illinois University, USA; Shelly Eversley <Shelly_Eversley@baruch.cuny.edu> CUNY-Baruch, USA

CAAR
Collegium for African American Research
UNCONFIRMED MINUTES
Executive Committee Meeting
Prague
April 2, 2004

Present: Paola Boi, Sabine Broeck, Maria Diedrich, Fritz Gysin, Claude Julien, Christopher Mulvey (chair), Hanna Wallinger

1. Apologies: Mar Gallego sent her apologies for absence and her best wishes. The Executive Committee returned a message of good will and congratulations to her and her newly-born daughter, Irene.

2. The Minutes of the Meeting of April 12, 2003 were accepted as a true record.

3. President's Report:

3.1. Christopher Mulvey reported on a number of matters, including: the upcoming election for a place on the Executive Committee; the need to encourage both CAAR Co-Conferences and CAAR workshops at other conferences; the serious problems relating to the need to update the membership lists and to ensure the payment of membership fees; and the development of the web facilities and website located at Seton Hall University, USA.

3.2 In a discussion about the future directions of CAAR the following suggestions were made:

CAAR should not be an organization that organized conferences only, but there should be study groups and projects on a transnational basis (Maria Diedrich); there should be more emphasis on the European contribution to African American studies which should be the focus of research (Maria Diedrich, Sabine Broeck); special conferences should be organized in the even years when CAAR was not holding its annual conference (Sabine Broeck); the international and interdisciplinary aspect of CAAR should be emphasized (Fritz Gysin); CAAR should encourage the exchange of students, especially doctoral students, and it should help develop bi-national panels for dissertation examinations (Claude Julien).

4. Secretary's Report

Hanna Wallinger reported on the circulation of the November Newsletter and the development of CAAR's e-mail list.

5. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the treasurer Mar Gallego, the report that she had sent on before the meeting, was discussed and approved of. The Executive Committee thanked her for her work.

6. Conference Reports

6.1. Claude Julien reported on progress undertaken for staging CAAR 2005 at the University of Tours. Funding was being actively investigated. Details of conference planning included accommodation, registration fees, support for students and young scholars, a contract with the university at Tours, activities and keynote addresses. His work was unanimously approved and help was offered where necessary.

6.2. The committee engaged in a general discussion about the future locations for CAAR conferences and the need to find affordable venues.

7. Funding

7.1. Funding Officer's Report: Sabine Broeck handed out copies of the new CAAR brochure. Members of CAAR would wanted to have copies of the brochure should either approach Executive Committee members in their own country or go directly to <broeck@uni-bremen.de>.

7.2. EU Research Report: Claude Julien reported on plans to seek funding through the European Union. This would require an ongoing goal with the aim to have a project ready for submission for the bidding round in 2008.

8. *African American Research Library* Report

Christopher Mulvey reported on the continuing work of the project which had now achieved its first stage goal with the completion of the Clotel Project and which was moving to develop the publication of the next stage titles. [See a full report elsewhere in the Newsletter.]

9. FORECAAST

Maria Diedrich reported that thirteen volumes of the series had been published and that number 14 would be out soon. She asked CAAR member to reviews these volumes and promote sales. The forthcoming volume *Monuments of the Black Atlantic* would be dedicated to Hermine Pinson. The volume from the Winchester conference, edited by Cynthia Hamilton and Fritz Gysin, was progressing well.

10. Election Report

Fritz Gysin reported that ballots for the vacancy on the Executive Committee had been sent out by e-mail. Since the ballots had not yet all come in, he could not disclose any more details. The Executive Committee unanimously said that they were impressed with the commitment of applicants and the response from the United States for this position on the Executive Committee. [See a full report elsewhere in the Newsletter.]

Christopher Mulvey
President
1 May 2004

Hanna Wallinger
Secretary

CAAR TREASURER'S REPORT

Our balance is quite good but not outstanding. To the total amount that was transferred to me by Justine Tally, 12106.48 euros, other payments have been added, namely the account interests (512.00 euros), the transfer made from the Winchester conference (2360.75 euros) and the fees that four CAAR members have paid so far (468.22 euros). Talking about the latter, I think it would be necessary to encourage members to pay their fees as soon as possible for two main reasons: first, to be able to plan future expenses (I am obviously thinking about our next conference) and second, to update our list of CAAR members, which is one of the problems not so easy to solve.

Concerning expenses, we have had only two trips in 2003, the president's (302.76 euros) and my own to Madrid to take over the treasury (153.00 euros), and I have already counted what we are spending on the brochure (550 euros) plus the Executive Committee's travel allowance to Prague, which amounts to 1.600 euros. From this we need to deduct the bank charges to send the transfers to the Executive Committee members, the website expenses and the cost of publication of the Winchester volume, although at this point we do not know their exact amounts. Another issue we need to discuss is the amount pending from Sardinia conference approximately 3.000 euros, as I was informed by the former treasurer.

All in all, as I said at the beginning we are doing OK as far as finances are concerned, but we need to carefully plan our future expenses, especially in relation to our next conference. Here I am sure Claude Julien will do a great job in organizing ahead of time.

Mar Gallego, CAAR Treasurer

Christopher Mulvey, CAAR President

CAAR African American Research Library Annual Report 2004

1. THE FIRST STAGE in the implementation of the AARL Project is the on-line publishing of an electronic scholarly edition of *Clotel; or, The President's Daughter* (London, 1853) by William Wells Brown. This title will be available for sale in November 2004 from Adam Matthew Publications at www.adam-matthew-publications.co.uk for \$750.
2. THE SECOND STAGE is the completion of the programming and production of an electronic scholarly edition of a book of poems. *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* (London, 1773) by Phillis Wheatley is the selected title. Initial funding for this title has been received, and the work on it is started with an aim for completion for November 2007.
3. THE THIRD STAGE will be an expansion of the list of titles. Funding is to be sought by a joint-international application to the EU in due course. At this point there is a funding shadow--the publishers are waiting on the commercial success and the research sponsors on the scholarly success of the first electronic edition. Meanwhile, it is agreed the following titles be considered as electronic scholarly editions: Olaudah Equiano. *The Interesting Narrative*. London, 1789; Frederick Douglass. *My Bondage and My Freedom*. New York, 1855; Frances E. Watkins Harper. *The Sparrows Fall*. 18-?; Charles W. Chesnutt. *House Behind the Cedars*. Boston, 1900; James Weldon Johnson. *Autobiography of an Ex-*

Colored Man. Boston, 1912; These titles are chosen because of their significance in the history of African American culture, their current importance to African Americanists, and their unexploited richness of textual variation. The AARL Editorial Committee will seek an appropriate scholar to edit each title.

4. MANAGEMENT OF THE AARL TITLES. Direction of the series is overseen by the General Editors : Professor Maria Diedrich of Münster University; Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. of Harvard University; Professor Christopher Mulvey of King Alfred's, Winchester. Christopher Mulvey, chair of the Editorial Committee, co-ordinates the teams responsible for 1) title editing; 2) electronic text preparation; 3) bibliographical description. The AARL Editorial Committee and the AARL Consultative Committee remain as established.
5. ELECTRONIC TEXT PREPARATION continues to be undertaken at the Electronic Text Center of the University of Virginia Library.
6. PUBLICATION. Discussion is in hand to involve the E-Press Imprint of the Virginia University Library along with AARL and AMP. The price of *Clotel or the President's Daughter by William Wells Brown: An Electronic Scholarly Edition* is \$750, a one-off payment by a library for multiple reader rights and agreed regional access. In addition to on-line presentation, editions will be exportable as E-Books and PODs (print-on-demand texts).
7. EDITORIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS. The last of these was held at the University of Cagliari on March 18, 2001. At King Alfred's Winchester on April 14, 2003 a presentation of the CLOTEL Project was made to the CAAR conference by Maria Diedrich, Christopher Mulvey and David Seaman. The next meeting will be at the CAAR Conference at the University of Tours in April 2005.

Christopher Mulvey
1 June 2004

PUBLICATION NEWS:

The Cambridge Companion to the African American Novel (Cambridge University Press 2004). Edited by Maryemma Graham. Paperback \$22; hardback: \$60); 338 pages ; ISBN: 0521016371.

It would not be right to call this a CAAR publication, but you will recognize the names of several CAAR members below.

CONTRIBUTORS: Maryemma Graham, Christopher Mulvey, M. Guilia Fabi, George Hutchinson, Giselle Liza Anatol, Ashraf H. A. Rushdy, Claudine Raynaud, Steven Tracy, Fritz Gysin, Susanne Dietzel, Jerry W. Ward, Jr., Herman Beavers, Pierre-Damien Mvuyekure, Marilyn Mobley Mckenzie, Lovalerie King, Keith Byerman

PUBLISHER STATEMENT: "The Cambridge Companion to the African American Novel presents new essays covering the one hundred and fifty year history of the African American novel. Experts in the field from the US and Europe address some of the major issues in the genre: passing, the Protest novel, the Blues novel, and womanism among others. The essays are full of fresh insights for students into the symbolic, aesthetic, and political function of canonical and non-canonical fiction. Chapters examine works by Ralph Ellison, Leon Forrest, Toni Morrison, Ishmael Reed, Alice Walker, John Edgar Wideman, and many others. They reflect a range of critical methods intended to prompt new and experienced readers to consider the African American novel as a cultural and literary act of extraordinary significance. This volume, including a chronology and guide to further reading, is an important resource for students and teachers alike."

AMAZON DESCRIPTION: "Combining scholarship covering one hundred fifty years of novel writing in the U.S., newly commissioned essays examine eighty African American novels. They include well-known works as well as writings recently recovered or acknowledged. The collection features essays on the slave narrative, coming of age, vernacular modernism, and the post-colonial novel to help readers gain a better appreciation of the African American novel's diversity and complexity."

FORECAAST
(Forum for European Contributions to African American Studies)

Maria Diedrich, Joanne M. Braxton (Eds.)

Monuments of the Black Atlantic

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

With Aldon Nielson, the editors of this volume agree that “the middle passage may be the great repressed signifier of American historical consciousness.” The essays collected here illustrate that the repressed memory of crossing lives not only in the academy, in oral traditions, and in the stone walls of slave fortresses but in the liturgy as well as the spiritual and religious practices throughout the African Diaspora. Descendants of African slaves living in the wide Diaspora are bearers of an “unforgetful strength” that endures and endures, manifesting itself in every aspect of culture. Black writers, artists and musicians in the New World have tested the limits of cultural memory, finding in it the inspiration to “speak the unspeakable

<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

Upon walking U.S. inner-city streets you sooner or later come upon groups of black kids wearing prison-style outfits; there is a boom box, and rap music. And inevitably you will hear the N-word. Upon entering a district housing migrants in any European city you will encounter almost identical scenes —youngsters dressed in prison style, the boom box, rap. Only most of the kids are of a “white” or olive complexion. They call themselves “Wiggers,” “white Niggers” or “Black albinos.”

It was this “Wigger” metaphor, with its implications of a trans-national response to uprootedness and racialized exclusion that inspired CAAR to invite African American researchers working among inner city black youth and European and Israeli migration scholars to a symposium of trans-cultural and –national orientation called “Crossing Boundaries.” We placed the study of African American youth – and thus a native though marginalized American population – next to research on migrant youth in Western Europe. The essays gathered here hope to contribute to an understanding on how to address the myriad challenges that both the youth and the countries in which they live must confront.

Bd. 14, 2003, 200 S., 24.90 EUR, br., ISBN 3-8258-7231-9

COLLEGIUM FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH

HOW TO PAY YOUR CAAR DUES:

1. If you prefer to make a bank transfer, please send me a xeroxed copy of the transfer so I can keep close tabs on who lodges directly into the bank. In case you prefer to pay by credit card, please complete the form below and return it to me:
Mar Gallego, Universidad de Huelva, Dpto. Filología Inglesa, Av. Fuerzas Armadas, s/n
E-21007 Huelva, Spain

Our Bank data for transfers and international checks is as follows:

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41930 Bormujos (Sevilla, Spain)
Bank: 0182
Branch: 6018
D.C.: 35
Account nr: 0201504009
Swift Code: BBVAESMMXXX
IBAN: ES12 0182 6018 3502 0150 4009

2. Bank transfers cost CAAR up to 20% of your dues, so if you can, please pay by credit card, by filling out the following form and returning it to me:

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