American Literary Scholarship

An Annual / 1979

Edited by James Woodress


Foreword

It is a pleasure to present to scholars in the field of American literature the 17th volume of ALS. There are no innovations in this year's annual, but we hope that the coverage is just as comprehensive and incisive as in the past. My co-editor, Professor J. Albert Robbins of Indiana University, and I continue the practice we began with ALS 1978 of alternating the editorship. This is my year to edit the book, and Professor Robbins will put out the volume for 1980. We have to exert a considerable effort to keep the size of this work down to about 500 pages, and a number of the essays have had to be cut and trimmed to meet this objective. As in the past, ALS has not tried to cover all scholarship, and contributors have been instructed to be selective. We try to ignore minor or redundant scholarship, but the omission of an article or book does not mean that we regard it as not worth reviewing. It is an impossibility to catch everything of significance in our net, and again we urge writers of books and articles to see that our contributors receive copies.

There will be four new contributors to ALS 1980: G. R. Thompson (Purdue) on Poe, Jerome Loving (Texas A. & M.) on Whitman/Dickinson, Karl Zender (U.C., Davis) on Faulkner, Lee Bartlett (Univ. of New Mexico) on contemporary poetry. In addition the foreign contributors will change in France, Italy, and Japan; Marc Chénetier (Tour), Gaetano Prampolini (Fisa), Hiroko Sato (Tokyo), replacing Maurice Couturier, Rolando Anzilotti, and Keiko Beppu, to whom profound thanks are due. We are grateful also to our retiring contributors: Willis Buckingham, who has been doing Whitman/Dickinson, Panthea Broughton, who has been reviewing Faulkner scholarship, and Sandra Gilbert, who surveyed contemporary poetry for the present volume, for their valuable services. We also welcome several new contributors this year: David Kesterson (Hawthorne), Scott Donaldson (Hemingway/Fitzgerald), Kermit Vanderbilt (19th-century literature), Jerome Klinkowitz (recent fiction), John M. Reilly (black writers), and Jonathan Morse (themes, topics, criticism).
Foreword

The apparatus of this book remains the same as in the past: The innovation begun last year continues of giving only an abbreviated name in the text for publishers and the full name and place of publication in the front matter. Thus instead of (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press), we give only (Harvard) in the text. Festschriften and other collections of essays or books that deal with several authors and are dealt with by two or more contributors also are given shortened titles in the text and full data in the front matter.

We are grateful to Eileen M. Mackesy, managing editor of the MLA International Bibliography, for arranging to provide us with advance proof sheets of the American section of the bibliography. And thanks also to James L. Harner (Bowling Green State University), section head for festschriften, for providing us with appropriate entries from his files in advance of publication. This early information is essential to our tasks. We also wish to thank the Research Committee of the University of California, Davis, for a grant that supported the compilation and editing of this volume and Keith Kroll, who served as a research assistant.

University of California, Davis

James Woodress

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### Key to Abbreviations

**Festschriften, Essay Collections, and Books Discussed in More Than One Chapter**


*American Character / J. A. Hague, ed., American Character and Culture in a Changing World (Greenwood)*


*Articles on American Literature / Lewis Leary, ed., with John Au- chard, Articles on American Literature, 1968-1975 (Duke)*

*Black Literature / Eckhard Breitinger, ed., Black Literature: Zur afri- kanischen und afroamerikanischen Literatur (Munich: Fink)*

*Confidence Man / John C. Blair, The Confidence Man in Modern Fiction (Barnes and Noble)*

*Free Will and Determinism / Perry D. Westbrook, Free Will and Determinism in American Literature (Fairleigh Dickinson)*


*Home as Found / Eric J. Sundquist, Home as Found: Authority and Genealogy in Nineteenth-Century American Literature (Hopkins)*

*Homosexual Tradition / Robert K. Martin, The Homosexual Tradition in American Poetry (Texas)*


*Last Laugh / Ronald Wallace, The Last Laugh: Form and Affirmation in the Contemporary American Novel (Missouri)*


*Literature Against Itself / Gerald Graff, Literature Against Itself: Literary Ideas in Modern Society (Chicago)*


*Madwoman in the Attic / Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar, The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination (Yale)*

*Mark and Knowledge / Marjorie Pryse, The Mark and The Knowl-
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