

American Studies News

EAAS

The European Association for American Studies was founded in 1954 with the purpose of 'furthering the study in Europe of the United States of America,' mainly by arranging conferences and publishing books and a *Newsletter*.

At that time such studies were not well organized in Europe. In its bylaws the EAAS therefore followed the pattern of most associations. There was to be an individual membership which at a General Assembly was supposed to elect a Board and a Chairman. Originally there was also a Council with a President.

Soon it became clear that this arrangement was unsatisfactory. The Council never became a working body, and the Association never was able to organize an effective membership. The General Assembly, convened only at the biennial conferences, proved to be a loose and haphazard gathering, dependent for its changing attendance largely on the theme of each conference. At the same time, as American Studies developed, a number of highly efficient national associations came into existence. It seemed mandatory for the EAAS to reconsider its position within this picture.

At its conference in Geneva two years ago the EAAS therefore drafted a new set of bylaws making the Association a superstructure of the national associations. After being discussed and approved by these associations, the new bylaws were accepted at the conference in Vienna last April.

The general purpose of the EAAS remains the same. But in the future the Association will be an informal federation of the British, French, German, Italian and Nordic Associations for American Studies, and of new national associations when they have been accepted by the EAAS Board.

There is no individual membership and no General Assembly. The Association is governed by a Board consisting of not less than eight and not more than fifteen members, reflecting, as far as pos-

sible, the national and disciplinary diversity of American Studies. Each of the national associations mentioned, and any associations admitted in the future, will elect one Board member. In addition, the Board itself may appoint representatives from other nations, irrespective of size, where American Studies have achieved recognition, and also invite as members on a personal basis eminent European Americanists.

The Board elects from among its members a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and appoints the editor of the *Newsletter*.

While a General Assembly will no more be convened, the Board envisages to arrange at future conferences informal open meetings for those participants who should wish to attend. At the Vienna conference there was also arranged for the first time an 'Open Forum' where young scholars could present their work in progress. The gathering proved a great success.

The *Newsletter* is now published in Amsterdam, and distributed through the national associations. The proceedings of the two recent conferences have appeared in book form from Brill, Leiden, under the titles *Diverging Parallels* (1971) and *Contagious Conflict* (1973). The book to be made from the Vienna conference is now in preparation and probably will be called *An Ocean Between*. Place and theme of the 1976 conference is not yet decided.

The Board now consists of the following members, all professors: A. N. J. den Hollander (chairman), H. C. Allen (England), Roger Asselineau (France), A. Lombardo (Italy), Teut A. Riese (Germany) and S. Skard (Nordic Association).

Sigmund Skard

NAAS

The Nordic Association for American Studies was founded in 1959 with the aim of furthering the study of the USA in the five Nordic countries and establishing contacts between those who are interested in American Studies, especially students, teachers and scholars. Any individual living in Scandinavia who subscribes to the Association's journal *American Studies in Scandinavia* is automatically a member of the Association. In addition to publishing *ASinS* the Nordic Association for American Studies arranges triennial

conferences. The next regular conference, which will be the sixth, is scheduled to take place in Kungälv, Sweden, in June 1976.

The NAAS will also arrange an extra conference in Oslo, May 5-7, 1975, commemorating the 150th anniversary of Norwegian emigration to America. The general theme of this conference will be 'Scandinavian Emigration to the United States.' Its aim is to bring together Nordic specialists and students working in this field. We plan a conference with some 40 participants, roughly in proportion to the population of each of the five countries, and there is a good chance that, with the help of a special grant, there will be subsidies available to cover part of the costs for such a number. Those interested in participating should contact their national representative on the NAAS Board for further information.

We expect to be able to announce the general theme for the 1976 conference in the next issue of *ASinS*. At the last regular conference in Kungälv, in June 1973, I had the privilege of thanking Professor Sigmund Skard, my predecessor as Chairman of the NAAS, for what he has done for our organization and for the outstanding work he has done for American Studies in general. From the day in 1946 when he was appointed to one of the first Chairs in Europe in American literature he has worked unceasingly to further the study of America. The series of 'Publications of the American Institute, University of Oslo,' which he initiated, now comprises fifteen volumes. It is very much thanks to his energetic efforts that there are now more than a dozen permanent positions in American Studies at the four Norwegian Universities. He was one of the co-founders of both the NAAS and the European Association for American Studies, and he has worked effectively through both organizations to strengthen American Studies in our part of the world. We are grateful for what he has done for the NAAS and glad that he will continue to serve as our representative on the Board of the EAAS.

The Nordic Association for American Studies is also greatly indebted to Docent Sune Åkerman, our former Secretary-Treasurer, who for years, with devotion and practically single-handed, published our periodical and also did much of the work in connection with our conferences. We are pleased that he will continue to serve the NAAS as Advisory Editor of *ASinS*.

As a representative of the new team that was elected at the General Meeting at the Kungälv conference in 1973, I would like to say that we feel the inspiration of Professor Sigmund Skard's