PMLA

PUBLICATIONS OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Edited by JOHN HURT FISHER Secretary of the Association



https://doi.org/10.1632/50030812900070802 Published online by Cambridge University Press

The Dodern Language Association of America

ORGANIZED 1883

INCORPORATED 1900

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1965

President: HOWARD MUMFORD JONES, Emeritus, Harvard University First Vice President: OSKAR SEIDLIN, Ohio State University Second Vice President: GERMAINE BRÉE, University of Wisconsin Executive Secretary: JOHN HURT FISHER, New York University Treasurer and Associate Secretary: GEORGE L. ANDERSON, New York University

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

For the term ending 31 December 1965 WILLIAM B. EDGERTON, Indiana Univ. MARK SCHORER, Univ. of California (Berkeley) BARTLETT JERE WHITING, Harvard Univ. For the term ending 31 December 1967 MADELEINE DORAN, Univ. of Wisconsin VICTOR ERLICH, Yale Univ. GEORGE J. METCALF, Univ. of Chicago

For the term ending 31 December 1966 FREDSON T. BOWERS, Univ. of Virginia HAROLD JANTZ, Johns Hopkins Univ. BRUCE A. MORRISSETTE, Univ. of Chicago For the term ending 31 December 1968 CHANDLER B. BEALL, Univ. of Oregon CLAUDE M. SIMPSON, JR., Stanford Univ. CARL WOODRING, Columbia Univ.

TRUSTEES OF INVESTED FUNDS

F. B. ADAMS, JR., Pierpont Morgan Library, CLARENCE FAUST, Ford Foundation Managing Trustee

ARTHUR HOUGHTON, JR., Steuben Glass, Inc.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Director of Programs: KENNETH W. MILDENBERGER Foreign Language Program, MLA Tests: F. ANDRÉ PAQUETTE English Program, ADE Coordinator: MICHAEL F. SHUGRUE Research: GLEN WILLBERN

Association Bibliographer: PAUL A. BROWN (Emeritus, Temple Univ.) Associate Bibliographer: HARRISON T. MESEROLE (Pennsylvania State Univ.) Center for Applied Linguistics: CHARLES A. FERGUSON

Center for Editions of American Authors: WILLIAM M. GIBSON (New York Univ.) Assistant Editor for PMLA: DONNA WALSH Conventions, Advertising: ANNABELLE QUICK Materials Center, Administrative Services: JOHN T. HARMON Controller: HARRY ALONSO

Annual dues for membership in the Association, which includes subscription to PMLA, are \$15 except for the following special categories: a) student membership at \$7, open for a maximum of four years to those who are

following special categories: a) student membership at \$', open for a maximum of four years to those who are engaged primarily in a course of study leading to a degree and who do not hold full-time teaching appointments; b) joint husband-and-wife membership at \$22 with only one subscription to PMLA; c) foreign membership at \$10, open to resident citizens of countries other than the United States and Canada. The subscription price of PMLA for libraries and other institutions is \$20 in the United States and Canada and \$18 in other countries. Agents deduct \$2 of these sums as their fee; institutions which subscribe directly may retain the same amount and remit \$18 or \$16. Single copies of the March, June, September (Part I), and Decem-ber issues may be obtained for \$3 each; the May Bibliography and September (Part II) issues for \$4. Claims for undelivered issues will be honored if they are received within one year of the publication date; thereafter the riscue price will be charged

single issue price will be charged. For information about the availability of back issues, inquire of the MLA Treasurer, 4 Washington Place, New York, N. Y. 10003. Early and current volumes may be obtained on microfilm from University Microfilms, 313 N 1st St., Ann Arbor, Mich. Purchase of current volumes on film is restricted to subscribers of the journal.

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION Curtis Reed Plaza, Menasha, Wisconsin

4 Washington Place, New York, N. Y. 10003

All communications including notice of changes of address should be sent NOT TO MENASHA but to the Treasurer of the Association at 4 Washington Place, New York, N. Y. 10003. If a change of address also involves a change of institutional affiliation, the Treasurer should be informed of this fact at the same time.

Entered as second class matter at the post office at Menasha, Wis., under act of March 3, 1879. Subject to the provisions of \P and 8, Sec. 10, P. L. and R.

Acceptance for mailing at the special rate of postage provided for in the Act of February 28, 1925, embodied in paragraph 4, section 538, P. L. and R., authorized October 2, 1935. © 1965 by The Modern Language Association of America.

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY THE GEORGE BANTA COMPANY, INC., MENASHA, WISCONSIN

CONTENTS • DECEMBER

L. The Aesthetics of Textual Criticism. By JAMES THORPE	465
LI. Hook and Ahab: Barrie's Strange Satire on Melville. By DAVID PARK WILLIAMS	483
LII. The Problem of Billy Budd. By Edward H. Rosenberry	489
LIII. A Reading of Robert de Boron. By MARY E. GIFFIN	499
LIV. The Late Medieval Cult of Jesus and the Mystery Plays. By J. W. ROBINSON	508
LV. Theme and Irony in the Wakefield Mactacio Abel. By JOHN GARDNER	515
LVI. Theme and Structure in The Merchant's Tale: The Function of the Pluto Episode. By KARL P. WENTERSDORF	522
LVII. The History and Rhetoric of the Triplet. By CONRAD A. BALLIET.	528
LVIII. Satires on Man and "The Dignity of Human Nature." By BER- TRAND A. GOLDGAR	535
LIX. The Evidence that Hugh Brackenridge Wrote "The Cornwalliad." By J. F. S. SMEALL	542
LX. New Light on Sterne: An Old Man's Recollections of the Young Vicar. By JAMES M. KUIST	549
LXI. Browning's Sordello: The Art of the Makers-See. By DANIEL STEMPEL.	554
LXII. Walt Whitman and the Nibelungenlied. By WM. A. LITTLE	562
LXIII. The Ebauche of Germinal. By Philip Walker	571
LXIV. Auden's Marxism. By JUSTIN REPLOGLE	584
LXV. Sutpen and the South: A Study of Absalom, Absalom! By MELVIN BACKMAN	596
Notes, Documents, and Critical Comment: 1. A Glance at "Whiteness" in Melville and Camus (by HARRY TUCKER, JR.)	605
"For Members Only": News and Comment	610

PMLA

Issued five times a year during the months of March, May, June, September, and December by the Modern Language Association of America

(Indices: Vols. I-L, 1935, LI-LX, 1945)

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

JEROME H. BUCKLEY, 1968 Harvard University J MILTON COWAN, 1970 Cornell University RUTH J. DEAN, 1967 Mount Holyoke College LEON EDEL, 1968 New York University G. BLAKEMORE EVANS, 1969 University of Illinois ZBIGNIEW FOLEJEWSKI, 1969 University of Illinois DONALD FRAME, 1968 Columbia University GORDON S. HAIGHT, 1969 Yale University

FREDERICK J. HOFFMAN, 1969 University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee MAURICE KELLEY, 1966 Princeton University JOHN G. KUNSTMANN, 1967 University of North Carolina LOUIS A. LANDA, 1968 Princeton University ROBERT A. PRATT, 1966 University of Pennsylvania WALTER SILZ, 1966 Columbia University WILLARD THORP, 1970 Princeton University BRUCE W. WARDROPPER, 1969 Duke University

Editor: JOHN HURT FISHER Assistant Editor: DONNA R. WALSH Advertising Manager: ANNABELLE M. QUICK

A STATEMENT OF EDITORIAL POLICY

PMLA endeavors to represent the most distinguished contemporary scholarship and criticism in the modern languages and literatures. It welcomes both new and traditional approaches by either young or established scholars, providing only that whatever it publishes is excellent and likely to be of permanent value. The distribution of papers in PMLA should reflect work of distinction actually being done from year to year, regardless of periods or languages. Members who feel their interests neglected by this policy can always alter the situation by writing, or by encouraging others to write, articles good enough to be published.

The audience for PMLA is the total membership of the Association. Hence, it is reluctant to publish minor articles or highly technical studies addressed to specialists in limited fields. Nor does it encourage brief notes or unduly long papers. PMLA does not review books. Articles should be written in a clear, concise, and attractive style. Documentation should be held to a necessary minimum.

Every member of the Association has the privilege of submitting papers for publication in PMLA. Each paper submitted will be read by at least one consultant with special competence in the field concerned. Papers in any way recommended will also be read by at least one member of the Editorial Committee. Attempt is made to publish papers within nine months of acceptance. If a decision to accept or reject a paper seems unduly delayed, contributors are reminded that the services of consultant readers and the Editorial Committee are the unpaid labors of distinguished men and women who generously contribute their scant leisure to the advancement of scholarship in humane letters.

Manuscripts must be prepared in conformity with the MLA Style Sheet, published in the April 1951 PMLA and on sale as a pamphlet in the MLA offices. Authors are urged to read also the advice of R. B. McKerrow and H. M. Silver on scholarly publication, published in the April 1950 PMLA, and also on sale as a pamphlet. Manuscripts should be addressed to the Editor of PMLA, 4 Washington Place, New York, N. Y. 10003. Carbon copies are not needed, but should be made and retained by the author.