ATTACHMENT I

SEMINAR OF NORTH AMERICAN STUDIES

SALAMANCA, 12-15 DECEMBER, 1975

Meeting 137

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The First Seminar of American Studies in Spain took place in Salamanca from 12 to 15 December, 1975. The original and revised schedules, attached as Addendum I and II, centered on the title, "America: From the Fifties into the Sixties," and the conferences offered were organized around that theme.

This Seminar, sponsored by the Department of English at the University of Salamanca, the Fulbright Commission of Madrid, the Cultural Service of the American Embassy in Madrid, and the British Council of Madrid. Intended to serve as a preliminary meeting for the establishment of a national association of American Studies in Spain, the Seminar also provided an opportunity for the American Senior and Junior Fulbright Lecturers to meet together for the first time since their incorporation into their respective universities to discuss each one's position as a Lecturer.

The following persons were officially present at the Seminar:

Professor H.C. Allen	School of English and American Studies University of East Anglia, Norwich, Eng.
Professor M. Bradbury	School of English and American Studies University of East Anglia, Norwich, Eng.
Professor C. Bigsby	School of English and American Studies University of East Anglia, Norwich, Eng.
Mr. Edward A. Elly	Cultural Affairs Officer American Embassy, Madrid
Mr. César D. Beltran	Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer American Embassy, Madrid
Miss Cheryl Jordan	Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer American Embassy, Madrid

Representatives of the Departments of English at Spanish Universities

Prof. Alba Pelayo	Head of Department of English, La Laguna
Prof. Clara Salomone	Member of Dept. of English, La Laguna
Prof. García Tortosa	Head of Department of English, Santiago
Prof. Miguez	Member of Dept. of English, Santiago
Prof. Garnica Silva	Head of Department of English, Sevilla
Prof. Coy	Head of Department of English, Salamanca
Prof. Conejero	Head of Department of English, Valencia
Prof. Bardavío	Member of Dept. of English, Valencia
Prof. MacDermott	Head of Department of English, Barcelona (Central)
Prof. Oltra	Head of Department of English, Barcelona (Autonomous)
Prof. Villar	Member of Dept. of English, Barcelona (Autonomous)
Prof. Shaw	Head of Department of English, Oviedo
Prof. Pérez Martín	Head of Department of English, Valladolid
Prof. Pujals	Head of Department of English, Madrid (Complutense)
Prof. Mateo	Member of Department of English Madrid (Complutense)

Fulbright Lecturers in Spanish Universities

Mr. Mark Asquino ..... Junior Lecturer, University of Oviedo
Mr. Jerry Benbow ..... Junior Lecturer, University of Deusto, Bilbao
Mrs. Nona Fox ..... Junior Lecturer, University of Valencia
Mr. John Garvick ..... Junior Lecturer, Univ. of Barcelona (Central)
Mrs. Lee Ann Johnson . Junior Lecturer, University of Seville
Mr. Warren Kimball ... Senior Lecturer, University of Madrid (Comp.)
Miss Marie McMahon ... Junior Lecturer, University of La Laguna

Commission Staff

Mr. Ramón Bela ..... Executive Director
Mrs. Patricia Zahniser American Program Officer

The six conferences given by the members of the School of English and American Studies at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, were delivered in the Aulas de Miguel de Unamuno and Francisco Victoria, in the University of Salamanca. The Seminar was opened by a brief introduction from Professors Allen and Coy, and the speakers were presented to the audience.

In the course of the three days constituting the conference period, with Sunday free for individual visits to sites of interest, four basic aspects of American culture in the 1950's and early 1960's were developed: novels, theater, economic evolution, and diplomatic relations.

Professor M. Bradbury discussed the changing style in the American Novel in two very informative sessions, dealing with the evolution of the models of American writing beginning in the 1950's and continuing through the early 1960's, as necessitated by the emergence of a mass society. Artists and intellectuals initiated a change in style formed in a previous "Age of Innocence" and began to assume a moral responsibility for the lives of others under a "New Liberalism." In this new society the intellectuals and writers were incorporated in new ways, as different kinds of grants were offered them, thus affecting their sensibility. The intellect expanded into politics in a much greater degree. Professor Bradbury raised the question of whether this climate aided the critical spirit to realize itself, or if on the other hand it weren't an American misfortune to witness the tame integration of ever wider sectors.

In any case, there remains no doubt that many new styles of writing were formed in the 1950's. Two exemplary books cited as indicative of this trend were the following: Trilling's Middle of the Journey, questioning the incompleteness of all mental systems, and McCarthy's Girls of the Academy, built around a complete lack of faith in all principles. Other authors mentioned as representative of this decade were Heller, Mills and Galbraith.

All the participants in this seminar applauded the informative conferences and discussion periods, and expressed their appreciation for the generosity of the University of Salamanca in offering the use of the comfortable lecture halls and the invitation to take all meals free of charge in the Colegio Mayor Fonseca, including a special celebration "cena de convivencia" on Saturday night. An extensive meal was served and music for singing was provided, and the celebration lasted late into the night.

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Mr. Bela opened the first session of the meeting of the Fulbright Lecturers held in the conference room of the Colegio Mayor Fonseca, and expressed his satisfaction at being able to hold this meeting so early in the year. This early date facilitated greatly the resolution of any difficulties the professors might have experienced.

Mrs. Zahniser then invited the Lecturers to speak freely on their respective roles in each Department of English and describe their work load and class experiences. A summary of their descriptions follows:

Mark ASQUINO, University of Oviedo

Mr. Asquino informed the group that he is presently giving two survey courses in American Literature to third and fourth year students, and one course to fourth year students on American history. He has organized one voluntary class open to all those interested, on American music of the 1960's. Mr. Asquino deals with basic concepts in the literature courses, and while he stated that he had not encountered any real difficulty in either the third or fourth years, the advanced abilities in English of the fourth year students did permit them to proceed at a more rapid rate than the others, although it is a larger class. In addition to this classwork, Mr. Asquino is directing two tesinas.

He indicated a close and helpful relationship with the other members of the Department of English, and mentioned that the only inconvenience there was the lack of books, especially texts, in the library. His class texts had been ordered with sufficiant notice to have arrived on time, but he was unable to send students to the library for supplementary information or reading material. He has been able to build a small tape library, however.

Jerry BENBOW, University of Deusto, Bilbao

Mr. Benbow summed up his experiences at the University of Deusto as being extremely rewarding, in personal and professional aspects. He described the Department of English as having a very tight organization, and while being predominantly British oriented, still giving an important place to the Fulbright Lecturer in American Studies.

His three courses include: American Theater for third-year students; Nineteenth-Century American Novel to fourth-year students; American Literature including translations and language practice to fifth year students. All of his classes were small, with 10-15 students in each. The students themselves seem to be highly motivated and

[illegible] in their supply of supplementary and research books, and the students regularly consulted these facilities. His class texts had been purchased in England by one of the members of the Department the previous summer, and while he had been surprised that he would not be the one to order these, Mr. Benbow concluded saying that it was probably the best solution to make sure the texts are ready before classes begin, and that he would recommend that the Department do the same thing for the incoming Junior Lecturer next year.

John GARVICK, University (Central) of Barcelona

Mr. Garvick teaches one course on English Literature to 31 students in their third and fourth years, one course on American Literature to 30 students in the same years, and one voluntary seminar on Hemingway which he has opened to all students interested.

He indicated that he was pleased with the progress of these classes, but mentioned that the lack of books in the Department library is an obstacle and has necessitated his personal contribution of various kinds of books to supplement his classes. He was trying to organize some of his students into a team to begin compiling a bibliography of the library contents, which will facilitate a more systematic approach in the addition of books in the future.

Warren KIMBALL, University (Complutense) of Madrid

In describing his role in the Department, Mr. Kimball indicated a lack of communication and a very impersonal atmosphere inside of the Department. He owed this to the fact that the structure of this particular university and especially of the Department, was very hierarchical and diffucult for a foreigner with limited Spanish to penetrate. His teaching there includes two History courses and one Geography course, and in addition he is directing two tesinas. There are 50 students enrolled in each of these classes.

Due to the large size and course load at the University of Madrid, Mr. Kimball felt that the students' attention was somewhat diverted from studying after class, and mentioned that while the library facilities were not really adequate at the university, the students were encouraged to use the Washington Irving Library at the Cultural Center. However, most students did not show evidence of using this library.

Nona FOX, University of Valencia

Mrs. Fox informed the group that her experiences at this university had been quite opposite to those of the other professors. Due to a great deal of student unrest and lack of strict organization in the Department of English, whe had been able to give only around six hours of class in all her time there. She had met various times with the Head of the Departmett and the other members, but these meetings were to no avail in organizing the faculty to resume classes at another location.

Her classes were scheduled in the following manner: one course in American Prose, one hour per week in the instruction of English as a Foreign Language. Thus, the primary emphasis was really not on American Literature, which is Mrs. Fox's specialty, and which added to her sense of not being utilized to her best ability.

Marie MC MAHON, University of La Laguna

Miss McMahon also indicated a gap between her specialization and the courses she was giving. As a specialist in American Literature, she is presently giving two hours a week on the Renaissance period of American Literature to fifth-year students, and three classes of English Language Practive to fifth and third year students, as there are already specialists in all aspects of American Studies at this university. In order to adequately teach the Language courses, in which she has had no previous training, Miss McMahon has had to divide the groups into levels of competence, which forces her to teach many more hours each week than she had anticipated.

She spoke very highly of the departmental organization, and mentioned that the other members of the Department were capable and very helpful to her. The students are well-prepared and the library facilities are optimum.

Lee Ann JOHNSON, University of Seville

Mrs, Johnso 's classes are all with students in their fifth year, and include two survey courses in American Literature and History, with which she was very pleased. As in many cases, there was a problem with regard to books, and the library at the university seemed to be lacking in all aspects, without much reference to American Literature. She stated that the group of students made up for these shortcomings, being very diligent, and having a higher than average preparation in general.

While she had established a solid working relationship and friendship with other members of the Department, she brought up the problem of continuity in the academic programmes if the Fulbrighter there is to continually teach fifth year students. She felt that her contribution would be much greater if she were to teach students in their third and fourth years, as in other universities, who would then advance to their fifth year with some background in American studies.

BOOKS

The greatest problem affecting most of the professors was the difficulty of providing texts for the students' use, as well as adding to the university or departmental library. As they had been forewarned about the problems involved with books ordered from Spain and not arriving until too late in the year to use them in class, several of the professors had previously sent their texts to their destination in Spain, and others had even brought their texts with them from the United States, adding tremendously to their excess baggage.

In this way, some books had arrived on time, and others a little later, but it was the consensus that they should not be obliged to either spend their own money (often obtained through loans) on the texts and wait to be paid back once here, or carry the books with them to their destination after stopping in Madrid. It was suggested that books be ordered by the Fulbright Commission through the American Embassy if possible, with enough advance notice to insure that they arrive before October. The idea was seconded by all, and it was hoped that a definite response would be forthcoming before the next Lecturers' meeting in order to make plans for next year.

AMERICAN AND ENGLISH WEEKS

Mr. Beltrán reminded the professors that they would be able to take advantage of several services available in planning their English weeks. The U.S. Cultural Center will send professors books, feature films and documentaries, and video tapes for a period of one month. In addition, the British Institute will also send similar material to Madrid, Barcelona and Bilbao.

The plans and dates for the various weeks as foreseen at this time were given as follows:

University of Oviedo - February 9 to 16; among other activities, a student play will be performed
University of Valencia- towards the end of February
American Week in Madrid-last week in April; planned by the U.S. Cultural Center, this wwwk will be including themes on American Literature, Culture, and TOEFL. Well-known speakers will be invited, and it was suggested that afterwards they might be available for lectures in English Weeks at other universities, if the Cultural Center is kept informed of each university's plans and dates.
University of Sevilla - first week in May; central theme will be American Renaissance, and it was hoped that speakers in the Madrid American Week would be able to participate.
University of Barcelona-first part of May
University of Bilbao - topics open to dates available
University of La Laguna-still in planning stage.

VISITING LECTURERS

The professors were reminded that in order to invite one or more lecturers from other universities to give a lecture in or out of the period of English Week, it was necessary to make an official proposal to the Commission to have the names and dates approved for reimbursement of round-trip transportation and per diem. After approving the proposals, the Commission itself will notify the lecturers involved and can make the necessary arrangements.

Professor C. Bigsby delved into Saul Bellow's contribution to the emerging new American liberal tradition reformed from that of Nineteenth-Century individualism of the late 1950's in the portraits of his characters. It was a decade of conflicting moral and social issues where society slowly began transforming the individual. Continuing, he further developed the topic of the crisis in American theater, dating from that same decade. The roots of the crisis may be found in five principle motivating conditions affecting the solid structure of Broadway, as follow: The fact that federal and private endowments to the theater did not begin on a large scale until the mid-1960's partially explains the difficulty of producing original and imaginative works that may not bring in large audiences. The existing star-system further hindered contributions of other, more accessible and possibly more talented actors who would be willing to work for lower salaries. In addition, the cost of the play under these circumstances naturally determined in part the nature of the public able to attend. As the physical decline of the Broadway area began precisely at that time, the public who could afford the plays being performed began to hesitate before entering that part of town. Finally, critics themselves were experiencing difficulties in their schedules and deadlines which discouraged their active participation in calling prospective audiences.

As a result, the phenomenon of Off-Broadway gained importance, and developed quickly. Experimentation added new life to American theater, with new "happenings," companies such as the Living Theater and the San Francisco Troupe, the Theater of the Absurd, and Black writings, which made important contributions and played to non-middle class audiences. The strength of these influences was to last into the 1960's as a dominant strain.

The last speaker, Professor H.C. Allen, brought out the economic and diplomatic facets of the evolving American culture. He began with a quantitative analysis of total American output in relation with the twenty most powerful world producers, comparative rates of growth, and comparative international statistics. (See Addendum III for information distributed.) The economic supremacy of the United States in the two post-war decades went unchallenged due to a variety of causes, as Dr. Allen explained in the second portion of his conference.

The major conditions that supported this economic supremacy included the wealth and variety of resources, a strong communication network which eased transport, a hybrid vigor and new social structure brought in by the many immigrants, etc. Dr. Allen posed the question of the evaluation of democratic systems as opposed to totalitarian systems, bringing out the comparative disadvantages of each. In conclusion, he emphasized the remarkable economic performance of the United States, as being regularly steady, even in a general worldwide economic crisis.

After a general round-table discussion period, the future of American Studies as a program in Spain, was questioned. A committee composed of Messrs. García Tortosa, Perez Martín, and Javier Coy was formed to study the statutes of the constitution of an organization to be called the Spanish Association for Anglo-American Studies. This committee will look into such organizational aspects as the system of funding the association, its anticipated activities, etc. A report will be prepared for release in September, 1976, to include these statutes and proposals. The following meeting will be held in Sevilla next December.

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Addendum, Meeting 137

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Friday, 12 December, 1975:

12:00 "Changes in Style in the American Novel, I"
- Prof. M. Bradbury

4:00 "Saul Bellow and the Liberal Tradition"
- Prof. C. Bigsby

7:00 Fulbright Junior and Senior Lecturers Meeting

Role of Grantee in each Department
a. ways to increase participation
b. usefulness of standardizing function of grantee
c. information not included in Orientation

Nature of courses
a. problem of books
b. exchange of syllabuses

Saturday, 13 December, 1975:

12:00 "The Crisis in the American Theater"
- Prof. C. Bigsby

4:00 "Changes in Style in the American Novel, II"
- Prof. M. Bradbury

7:00 Fulbright Junior and Senior Lecturers Meeting

Visiting Lecturers-usefulness, topics of each

English Weeks-plans for each

10:00 Celebration Dinner for all Participants

Sunday, 14 December, 1975: Free

Monday, 15 December, 1975:

12:00 "The American Economic Miracle"
- Prof. H.C. Allen

4:00 "The Cold War and the American International System"
- Prof. H.C. Allen