

Nuclear Texts & Contexts

Spring 1989

No. 2

International Society for the Study of Nuclear Texts and Contexts Formed

Believing that the survival of the human race is endangered by the threat of nuclear war, and seeking ways to confront this threat through the study and teaching of modern languages and literatures and other relevant disciplines, eighteen concerned scholars organized the **International Society for the Study of Nuclear Texts and Contexts (ISSNTC)** on 26 August 1988. The founding members are from twelve states and Canada. By mail we have formulated, revised, and approved our bylaws (see p. 8) and chosen, by a nominating ballot and an election ballot, our officers and our organizational name. Jean Kittrell (Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville) is President; she and Paul Brians (Washington State University) are Co-Editors of *NT&C*; and William J. Scheick (University of Texas at Austin) is Treasurer. Other executive board members: H. Bruce Franklin (Rutgers University, Newark) and Daniel L. Zins (Atlanta College of Art).

As scholars we feel a need for an informational network to promote scholarly exchange about the nuclear threat. As teachers we need to know ways in which other teachers have incorporated nuclear texts into classes in language, literature, composition, linguistic analysis, and other disciplines. As concerned citizens of planet Earth we need to encourage in our students and colleagues a sustained awareness of the nuclear threat. To serve these needs we will use *Nuclear Texts & Contexts*, which becomes our official newsletter with this issue, and which will, in the future, be financed by ISSNTC membership dues.

We are proud of and excited about our organization. Prior to its formation many of us pursued what are now our organizational aims as isolated individuals. We invite you to join ISSNTC. A membership application form is printed on the reverse of your mailing wrapper with this issue (or enclosed if you live outside the US). Please forward it with a \$5 dues payment to Treasurer, ISSNTC, William J. Scheick, Department of English, Parlin Hall 108, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712-1164.

Please note that this is the last free issue of *NT&C*, and that to receive future issues (two per year), you must be a dues-paying member of ISSNTC.

JK

Nuclear War Session at MLA

Our Modern Language Association Convention special session on "Nuclear Texts and Contexts," was held December 28 in New Orleans. Apart from the fact that weather prevented Jean Kittrell, who had organized the session, from attending, it was a great success, with over thirty people in the audience, most of whom signed up on the ISSNTC mailing list. Several joined us for our first ISSNTC membership meeting over lunch. Daniel L. Zins' paper "Exploding the Canon: Nuclear Criticism in the English Department" nicely framed the other presentations by calling for more analyses of nuclear issues by English teachers. H. Bruce Franklin discussed the stories of several Japanese women authors who experienced the Hiroshima or Nagasaki bombings. Paul Brians compared four works which depict the impact of nuclear war on a typical family, all of them created by women. Diane Dowdey discussed the ways in which scientists conceive of their relationship to nuclear weapons in their personal essays. A lively discussion followed. Paula Elliot served ably as Chair in Jean's absence. Board members held a business meeting later, and decided to meet again at the 1989 MLA Convention in December in Washington, D.C.

PB

M/MLA Panel on Nuclear War Education

A panel entitled "Nuclear Bombs in the Classroom?" chaired by Jean Kittrell was held at the convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association, held in St. Louis, Missouri, November 3-5, 1988. Papers included Jacqueline R. Smetak's "The Conventions that Mark off Nuclear Holocaust Fiction from Other War Fiction," James R. Bennett's "Leaders in U.S. Cold War Nuclear Crisis Novels," Becky R. McLaughlin's "In the Classroom: How to Combat Nuclear War Using Female Gender Identity Formation, the Idea as Gift, Pop Music, and Brecht's 'Alienation Effect.'" Jeff Gundy presented a paper analyzing the conventional concept of the hero as inadequate for nuclear war fiction. Panel respondent, Jack G. Voller (Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville), suggested using Brian Aldiss' *Helliconia* trilogy, based on the "Gaia hypothesis."

Jack Voller

Forthcoming Meetings

The most ambitious conference yet dealing with nuclear war imagery is being planned for June 8-11 at Salve Regina College in Newport, RI: "Facing Apocalypse II." Honorary Chair is Senator Claiborne Pell, who originated the idea of the conference. Approximately 35 Soviet and 35 American participants have been invited from a variety of fields. An exhibit of art on apocalyptic themes by Soviet painters will be brought from its opening in Moscow, and some of the artists will be in attendance. *Letters from a Dead Man* will be shown, and the next day the screenwriters (Boris and Arkady Strugatsky, and Vyatchislav Ribakov), the director (Konstantin Lopushansky), and the star (Rolan Bykov) will discuss the making of the film.

Other notable participants on the tentative schedule: theologian Harvey Cox, Secretary for Ideology of the USSR Vladimir Medvedev, Soviet historian Henry Trofimenko, poets Robert Bly, Andrei Voznesensky, and Yevgeny Yevtushenko, writers Grace Paley, Susan Sontag, Maurice Sendak and Ales' Adamovich, journalist Bill Moyers, composers Philip Glass and Stephen Sondheim, film director/producer George Lucas and leading theoretician of *perestroika*, Dmitry Likhachev. ISSNTC members Vladimir Gakov and Paul Brians will together present a ninety-minute session on nuclear war in science fiction, East and West. Other invited participants whose attendance is less certain at this point: Raisa Gorbacheva and Ingmar Bergman.

Final fund-raising efforts for the conference are going well, and the organizers are fairly confident that they will be able to carry out most, if not all, of their plans. Besides 50 distinguished guests, there is room for 80 paying participants. For further information, write Judith B. Powell, Executive Director, *Facing Apocalypse II*, 5101 River Road, #1116, Bethesda, MD 20816. Or phone (202) 244-1911 or (301) 907-8599.

Peter Schwenger has proposed a special session on "Nuclearism and Literary Theory" which, if it is approved, would take place at the 1989 Modern Language Association Conference. The deadline for papers is March 1st. The final shape of the proposal will depend on what is received; there are many possible directions to go. Literary theory might be applied to the dynamics of the nuclear situation, or it might be used to analyze literature written about that situation. Literary theory itself might be scrutinized to question its role in relation to nuclear politics, or to reveal unsuspected influences (buried metaphors, implicit political ramifications) of nuclearism on theory. Papers submitted for earlier attempts to win a special session are welcome. Send papers or abstracts by March to Peter Schwenger, 742 Avenue Walker, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H4C 1H4.

The third Nuclear War and Peace Education Conference will be held June 2-4, 1989, focussing on "the new context for nuclear war and peace education, including opportunities and problems created by a new era in US-Soviet relations, and a new US administration." Although this conference is more oriented to the social sciences than to the humanities, it has been receptive to humanities contributions in the past. Stipends of \$200 are paid to presenters from outside the Greater Washington, DC metropolitan area. The deadline for abstracts is February 20, 1989. Write Robert Ehrlich, Physics Department (Conf), George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030.

A conference on "Nuclear Weapons and American Culture" will take place at Northwestern University, February 24-25, with presentations on art, literature, film, and nuclear discourse. Speakers will include, among others, Len Ackland, editor *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, Paul Boyer, Edward Tabor Linenthal, and Jean Bethke Elshtain. For further information, phone the Northwestern University Program in American Culture at (312) 491-3525.

Announced in the January 1989 *PMLA*: a conference on "Literature, Revolution, and War," University of Auckland, July 6-8, 1989. Write David Bevan, Department of Romance Languages, University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland, New Zealand. **PB**

Gakov Lecture Tour

Soviet journalist and critic, Vladimir Gakov, about whom we published an article in the last issue of *NT&C*, will be touring the U.S. in May, speaking at universities and to other groups on the following topics: "Soviet Nuclear War Fiction," "Utopian and Dystopian Science Fiction in the U.S.S.R.," "Soviet Journalism, Then and Now," "Changes in Soviet Attitudes toward Religion and Religious Freedom," and "Soviet Science Fiction in the Age of the Fantastic: What Perestroika Promises Us." For further information, and to arrange for an appearance, please phone Paul Brians at (509) 335-5689 as soon as possible. Gakov has moved, and can now be reached at Leninsky prospekt 79, korp. 2, kv. 35, Moscow 117261, USSR (allow four to six weeks), or phone him at home: 930-55-39 (call in the morning US time to reach him in the evening). **PB**

Forthcoming Special Issue of *Papers on Language and Literature*:

Papers on Language and Literature, a scholarly journal of literary criticism published quarterly by Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, is planning a special issue in late 1989/early 1990 on the topic, tentatively titled: "Nuclear Texts and Contexts: Resources for the Study of Nuclear Threat." The editor, Alvin Sullivan, has asked Jean Kittrell to serve as guest editor. Contributors so far include Hamida Bosmajian (Seattle University), Paul Brians (Washington State University), Terrence Holt (Rutgers University, New Brunswick), William J. Scheick (University of Texas at Austin), and J. Fisher Solomon (University of California, Los Angeles). If you have a paper which might be suitable for this journal, please submit it to me by 15 March. Jean Kittrell, 1104 Florida Street, Edwardsville, IL 62025. **JK**

Tapes

The American Audio Prose Library, Inc., offers contemporary literature on audiocassette. Items of interest to *NT&C* readers:

A *reading* of the first chapter of John Hersey's *Hiroshima* followed by the Father Kleinsorge section of "The Aftermath," written on the 40th anniversary of the bombing (approximately 55 minutes, order #8051, price: \$12.95).

An *interview* with John Hersey in which he discusses a wide range of topics, including his childhood in China as the son of a missionary, his growth as a writer from journalist to

novelist, and his interest in using fictional devices to bring focus and humanity to nonfiction accounts of large-scale historical events such as Hiroshima (approximately 80 minutes, order #8052, price: \$12.95). The reading and interview may be ordered as a set (#8053, price: \$23.00).

William Gass Interview. A wide-ranging discussion of Gass' debate with John Gardner over the issue of "moral fiction" and his holocaust novel, in progress since 1965 (88 minutes, order #1072, price: \$12.95).

Frank Waters Interview. Gives Waters' viewpoint on the implications of nuclear energy and its development in American Indian culture, plus a wide range of issues surrounding his long life and career, including his Jungian perspective and the relationship between his biography and his nine novels (69 minutes, order #3132, price: \$12.95).

To order any of these tapes, write The American Audio Prose Library, P.O. Box 842, Columbia, MO 65205. **JK**

Fiction

A list of some works not included in *Nuclear Holocausts*, mostly suggested by our readers. See issue no. 1 for others. Berman, Mitch. *Time Capsule*. New York: Putnam, 1987.

Canal, Richard. *La malédiction de l'éphémère*. Paris: Éditions la découverte, 1986. Cyberpunk-influenced tale of the effects of "Z-bombs" which both kill and stimulate the creativity of those exposed to their rays. An intelligent exploration of human self-destructiveness.

Cohen, Robert. *The Organ Builder*. New York: Harper & Row, 1988. Theme linked to the Manhattan Project.

DeLillo, Don. "Human Moments in World War III." *Esquire*, July, 1983. Although the war in the title is not specifically nuclear, one of the story's themes is how technology shields us from the effects of warfare, and apparently makes it sterile and bloodless.

—. *End Zone*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1972. Ostensibly about college football, but with a strong secondary theme about the jargon of nuclear strategy and its effect on our conceptions of violence. It depicts a nuclear-holocaust game similar to those described in *NT&C* no. 1.

McAlpine, Rachel. *Limits of Green*. Penguin, 1986. Deactivating nuclear power plants in New Zealand by "mind power."

Neidle, Alan. *Fables for the Nuclear Age*. New York: Paragon House, 1988. Recommended by Louise Kawada as satire suitable for classroom use.

Pausewang, Gudrun. *Die letzten Kinder von Schewenborn, oder...sieht so unsere Zukunft aus?* Ravensburg: Otto Maier, 1983. Although this was marketed as a novel for young readers, it is the most graphic, detailed, and realistic account of the aftermath of a nuclear war ever published. Uncompromisingly focusses on disease and death and avoids the usual clichés. An English translation is urgently needed.

See, Carolyn. *Golden Days*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1987. A satirical look at Southern California New-Age culture, both before and after a nuclear war.

Sheffield, Charles. *Trader's World*. New York: Ballantine, 1988. Postholocaust high tech-low tech adventure.

Notes from *Locus* magazine:

The Hungarian book club, Galaktika Barati Kor is publishing a translation of Mordecai Roshwald's *Level Seven*.

Viacheslav Rybakov's original story "The Time Came," on

which the Soviet nuclear winter film "Letters from a Dead Man" was based, has been reprinted in an anthology entitled *The Day of Achievements: Works of Young Writers of SF*, edited by Nataly Nikitayskaya (Leningrad, in Russian).

Two new postholocaust adventure series:

Phillips, Tony. *Turbo Cowboys* (Ballantine, 4th volume due out in March or April).

Westcott, C. T. *Eagleheart* (Dell, 3 parts)

Notes:

Masuji Ibuse's *Black Rain* has been reissued by Kodansha International, and is still being distributed by Harper & Row.

First there were General Sir John Hackett's two books about World War III, then William Jackson's *Alternative Third World War, 1985-2035* (Brassey's, 1987) and Harold Coyle's best-selling *Team Yankee* (Berkley, 1988), both of them inspired by Hackett's work. Now read the comic books: *Team Yankee* nos. 1-6 (First Publishing, 4535 N. La Salle, Chicago, IL 60610).

Compiled by PB

Drama

Somerville, John. *The Crisis: The True Story about How the World Almost Ended*. 1974. A play in four acts (62 pages). To be reissued Summer 1989 by John Somerville, 1426 Merritt Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020. \$3.00. A documentary play, based on Robert F. Kennedy's *Thirteen Days: A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis*, depicting how U.S. leaders almost plunged the world into a nuclear holocaust.

Gubarayev, Vladimir. *Sarcophagus*. Trans. Michael Glenny. New York: Vintage, 1987. Russian play about Chernobyl.

JK & Peter Schwenger

Atomic Attack Film Available

Bruce Franklin has called to our attention that *Atomic Attack*, the 1954 television version of Judith Merrill's *Shadow on the Hearth*, may be purchased for \$45.00 plus postage from International Historic Films, Inc., Box 29035, Chicago, IL 60629. Or phone (312) 927-2900. Though not a great drama, it offers insights into the attitudes of Americans toward nuclear war in the fifties, especially in comparison with the book, whose more daring and innovative features it blunts.

PB

Miscellany

Peter R. Beckman, et al. *The Nuclear Predicament: An Introduction* (Prentice-Hall, 1989) is a new reader with a chapter called "Living in the Nuclear Age: The Social and Cultural Impact of Nuclear Weapons," which addresses our concerns. Not to be confused with Donna Gregory's earlier, and very useful *The Nuclear Predicament: A Sourcebook*.

The University of Oregon is offering a traveling exhibit called "Nuclear Visions" for a moderate rental fee. Write Dept. of Visual Arts Resources, 1802 Moss Street, Eugene, OR 97403-1947.

Bruce Franklin's *Countdown to Midnight* is out of print, but copies may be obtained directly by writing him at Rutgers in Newark, New Jersey.

Schools with substantial programs in dealing with security in the nuclear age can receive large grants for public programs from an organization called "Options." Write Marta Daniels Troy, Executive Director, Box 875, Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA 16652, or phone (814) 643-3554. **PB**

Reviews Scholarship

Andrews, Valerie, Robert Bosnak, and Karen Walter Goodwin, eds. *Facing Apocalypse*. Dallas, TX.: Spring Publications, 1987. Paper, 195 pp.

The essays (ten in all) and poems in this collection were presented at a 1983 conference at Salve Regina College, Newport, RI, by educators, theologians, and psychologists as diverse and extraordinary as Norman O. Brown and Denise Levertov, to suggest ways to apprehend and thereby help avert nuclear disaster. In "the image of 'the end of the world'" psychologist Robert J. Lifton states the fundamental theme of the conference: "We must imagine something close to nuclear extinction in order to prevent it. We must extend our psychological and moral imaginations in order to hold off precisely what we begin to imagine." The writings in this book go a long way toward achieving both those ends. The target of this collection is a deadly (and deadening) literalism that prompts us, for example, to count nuclear warheads. The call to arms is to reawaken the imagination and to live with a renewed sense of purpose and urgency. Centered in the volume is Denise Levertov's cluster of poems which function as a bridge between imagistic apprehension and the possibility of action to avert nuclear disaster. Psychologist Mary Watkins draws portraits of those of us "too busy" to consider nuclear threat, while James Hillman, also a psychologist, shows why we need the spirit of mars in order to "wake up and live the martial peace of activism." From Lifton's stark quotations of Hiroshima survivors to Norman O. Brown's extraordinary synthesis of nuclear imagery with Islamic texts, this collection is at once an erudite assessment and a radical reevaluation of current beliefs and attitudes. [See page 1 of this issue for news of "Facing Apocalypse II," a sequel to the conference which produced this volume.]

Louise Kawada

Mick Broderick. *Nuclear Movies: A Filmography*. Northcote: Post-Modem Publishing, 1988. Foreword by Helen Caldicott. 135 pages. Price unknown. ISBN 0 7316 4648 7.

This self-published volume arrived just as the current issue of NT&C was going to press, but it is so valuable that it seemed wise to include a brief review, even though we can't do it justice here. Broderick has assembled a chronological list of almost 500 feature films and shorts which include nuclear themes (weapons, war, reactors, etc.) and provided brief annotations for each, including the date, country of origin, name of the studio, whether the film is in color, length, director, producer, screenwriters, cinematographers, and actors.

The plot descriptions average about 50 words each, which will make it necessary for researchers and teachers to use other sources to get a clearer notion of what the film is like (such as Jack Shaheen's much more limited and dated *Nuclear War Films*, which contains substantial, if uneven, essays on each book it lists). The range is astonishing, listing films as early as 1914 and as late as 1988, and from many countries, including several Eastern European nations and Japan. A limited number of cross-references are provided to films with related themes.

This is an indispensable resource for all teachers and scholars working with nuclear film. It could be even better, however, in its next edition. Here are my desiderata for an improved version: cite the novel or short story from which a

film is derived (this is done only once that I noticed—how many people are likely to be aware that the 1979 Czech film *The Black Sun* is based on Capek's 1924 novel *Krakatit?*), arrange the list of index headings on p. 31 into a table, and provide a key to the abbreviations used for countries. The graphics screened into the filmography itself are distracting and confusing and should be eliminated.

The usefulness of a reference source such as this is largely determined by its indexes, but there is only a title index. An index by country would be valuable, as would an index by genre (monster movies, nuclear terrorist spy thrillers and post-apocalyptic action films, for instance). Also valuable would be lists of all the items in a series (the *Planet of the Apes* films, for instance; the first film is unhelpfully cross-referenced thus: "cf. the sequels"). The twenty-two page introductory essay would be much more useful if it were indexed as well.

UMI Research Press will probably publish a US edition later this year, and perhaps some of these enhancements can be included; but many of us will not want to wait. Contact Broderick at Post-Modem Publishing, 5 Gordon Grove, Northcote, Victoria, Australia 3070. Do not use the address given in issue no. 1 of NT&C. Broderick moved last July, and not all his mail is being forwarded. He will be traveling in the US between late March and early July of 1989, doing further research for his more detailed study of nuclear films: *The Apocalyptic Muse*.

Paul

Brians

H. Bruce Franklin. *War Stars: The Superweapon and the American Imagination*. New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1988. 256 pages. \$22.95.

"To create the objects that menace our existence, some people first had to imagine them. Then to build these weapons, a much larger number of people had to imagine consequent scenarios—a resulting future—that seemed desirable. Thus our actual superweapons originated in their imagined history, which forms a crucial part of our culture." So H. Bruce Franklin introduces *War Stars*, his highly readable exploration of the fantasies of superweapons and their beneficent uses that have pervaded American thought from the days of the Revolution onward. Franklin begins with Robert Fulton, who combined a genius for naval-warfare technology with the touching belief that submarines, torpedoes, and steam warships would bring on universal peace. Turning to the 1880-1914 years, Franklin examines an outpouring of novels and stories that imagined a future global war, often originating in Asia or Africa, in which U.S. military genius eventually triumphs. In Jack London's "The Unparalleled Invasion" (1910), for example, such a race war ends in genocide when U.S. airplanes rain plague germs over China.

In two interesting chapters on Thomas Edison and General Billy Mitchell, Franklin argues convincingly that they not only offered updated versions of the ultimate weapon (mass electrocution of advancing armies in Edison's case; aerial bombing in Mitchell's), but that they also helped turn the popular mind from preoccupation with a single "super-weapon" to a more complex fantasy of "American military-industrial invincibility" as the surest guarantor of world peace.

In treating the nuclear theme, Franklin argues, novels, science fiction, and the movies have played a dual role, both anticipating all the ideological assumptions underlying the

U.S. nuclear build-up, and also warning of the possible consequences—both global and domestic—of just such a course. Along with the late 19th-early 20th century novels that offered sometimes amazingly prescient visions of atomic war, Franklin examines such divergent recent cultural products as Mordecai Roshwald's memorable *Level 7* (1959); Judith Merrill's chilling tale of mutant babies, "That Only a Mother" (1948); and the 1953 film *The Beast From 20,000 Fathoms*, in which New York City is menaced by a dinosaur jolted out of the Arctic permafrost by nuclear testing.

Franklin concludes with a sketchy but provocative overview of US nuclear policy, mass culture, and antinuclear activism in the 1980s. President Reagan's Star Wars program, he argues, must be understood in the context of a long national quest for a superweapon that would at last assure global security and peace—under U.S. auspices.

Franklin is almost unremittingly critical of the United States, and while this gives the book moral energy and an appealing quality of personal engagement, it sometimes leads to questionable historical judgments. Even revisionist historians may wonder, for example, at the assertion that the decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan in August 1945 "had nothing whatsoever to do with saving American lives" (p. 151, emphasis mine). Little attention is paid to the nuclear arms race as a global (largely bilateral) process involving the Soviet Union as well. The book's central thesis is a dark one: our fertile capacity to imagine new weapons has been matched by a tragic failure of the imagination (or a deep capacity for self-delusion) when it comes to anticipating the actual long-range effects of introducing such weapons into the world.

The great strength of *War Stars* is its discussion of specific novels, short stories, and films. Franklin's training in literature and American Studies shows through in his treatment of scores of now-forgotten popular-culture products. His treatment of the thorny problem of the "impact" of this material is cautious and generally persuasive.

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But though its perspective may be somewhat limited, and at times overly shaped by ideology, *War Stars* remains an extremely valuable book. H. Bruce Franklin has excavated vast stretches of buried cultural terrain that we Americans have traversed on our way to the dangerous present.

Paul Boyer

J. Fisher Solomon. *Discourse and Reference in the Nuclear Age.* Norman: Oklahoma University Press, 1988. 298 pages. \$24.95.

At a time when post-structuralist discourse has saturated contemporary thought to such an extent that many have

come to treat such questions as what is real, what is true, or what is good as useless, Solomon's book comes as a breath of fresh air. Solomon's offensive against the emphasis of post-structuralism on the historization, subjectivization, and relativization of reality consists of a potentialist metaphysics. Conceding that (as the post-structuralists have indicated) reality is not ultimately knowable, Solomon persuasively insists upon an empirical potentiality, a potential external reality, which can serve as a limiting "objective" referential ground (*épistémè*) for subjective belief (*doxa*) and action because it can be projected or calculated through our experience of probability, propensity, or regularity.

For Solomon, the most urgent instance of the propriety for such a potentialist metaphysics is the nuclear threat of our time. This threat can be defined by an empirical potentiality that comprises a predictability which has extrinsic reality insofar as it bears within itself its own concrete propensities for probable development. While many of us are engaged at the axiological level of ethics, Solomon has taken the high ground for his discussion; for he knows that unless we can seize the high ground of extra-perceptual, extra-textual ontology, all of our concerns about the common good are stillborn. He has approached this task so lucidly, so reasonably, so compellingly, and so daringly that his book finally provides a solid textual ground for our future arguments concerning the nuclear threat. Solomon has constructed a sturdy philosophical foundation and legitimization for our own future discourse and activities concerning the nuclear referent. Members of ISSNTC should think of Solomon's book as required reading, a book worth recommending to anyone who might be susceptible to genuine Solomonic persuasion.

William J.

Scheick

Kentucky English Bulletin: Teaching English in a Nuclear Age. 34 (Winter 1984-85) No. 2. Kentucky Council of Teachers of English. 106 pages. \$6.00. c/o Ruth Redel, Elizabethtown Community College, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

This publication by the KCTE will be of great value to teachers who wonder if and how they can incorporate nuclear issues into English classes. Two of the eleven articles argue persuasively for teachers to assume the responsibility of helping students achieve awareness of the nuclear threat. One provides a prospectus for a course on "War, Peace, and Apocalypse in Western Thought and Literature" for use as an English or interdisciplinary course. One article reports on "teaching the unthinkable" in a film/drama course. Another inventively relates Chaucer to the nuclear age. Three articles suggest ways to incorporate nuclear issues into composition classes. One of these also describes a literature/film/photography/music course examining ways in which the arts have been used during crucial periods of human history to express despair, protest, and hope. Two proceed on a more general level, one suggesting ways college teachers can use the media in teaching about nuclear issues, another suggesting that teachers should train their students to be more skillful at analyzing the euphemisms, distortions, evasions, half-truths, and outright lies they receive daily through the media. An annotated bibliography of nuclear fiction for the English classroom is included, suggesting 29 novels, 14 short stories, and 2 dramas. Finally there is a poetry checklist, a list of poems "which express concern about the nuclear arms buildup and the increasing likelihood of holocaust, perhaps the end of the world, unless the arms race is stopped."

Contents: Sandi Albertson: "Some Observations on Teaching English in a Nuclear Age;" Alice Budge: "Thinking the Unthinkable;" Barbara Eckstein: "Nuclear Arms in a University English Class;" Michael Foley: "Teaching Chaucer in a Nuclear Age;" Michael E. Gorman & George P.E. Meese: "Nuclear Weapons in the Composition Classroom;" Carol Rainey: "Poetry in the Nuclear Age: A Checklist;" "Dick Ringer: "Propsectus for a Course on War, Peace, and Apocalypse in Western Thought and Literature;" Peggy Stamon: "Resurrecting Relevance in the Composition Classroom;" Sam Totten: "The Future? Educating about the Nuclear Arms Race" and "An Annotated Bibliography of Nuclear Fiction;" Beverley E. Trail: "Hope for a Hopeless Situation;" Robert D. Woodward: "The American Media and the Nuclear Threat;" and Daniel L. Zins: "Nukespeak."

A valuable source of practical ideas.

Jean Kittrell

Note: Published but not yet received as this issue went to press: Martha Bartter: *The Way to Ground Zero* (Greenwood Press).

Recent Scholarship

This review of recent scholarship is limited to the items brought to our attention by our readers. In some cases complete publication data was not supplied. We urge all readers to contribute suggestions, and to kindly provide all the necessary details, including dates and page numbers.

Bennett, James R. *Control of Information in the United States: An Annotated Bibliography*. Westport, Conn.: Meckler Publishing, 1988. Contains entries on censorship of nuclear discourse.

Chilton, Paul. *Language and the Nuclear Arms Debate: Nukespeak Today*. London: Pinter, 1985.

_____. *Orwellian Language and the Media*. London: Pluto Press, 1988. Contains a section on Nukespeak.

Dorsey, John T. "The Use of the Grotesque in Betsuyaku's *Zo*." *Studies in International Relations* (Nihon University) 4 (November 1982).

_____. "The Theme of Survival in John Hersey's *Hiroshima* and Ibuse Masuji's *Black Rain*," in *Tamkang Review*, Spring, 1984.

_____. "The Responsibility of the Scientist in Atomic Bomb Literature." *Comparative Literature Studies*, 24 (November 30, 1985).

_____. with Naomi Matsuoka. "Without a Trace: *Ashita*." *Studies in International Relations* 9 (November 30, 1988).

Dowling, David. "Russell Hoban's *Riddley Walker*: Doing the Connections," *Critique* (Spring 1988) 179-187.

Holt, David. "Riddley Walker and Geenham Common: Further Thoughts on Alchemy, Christianity, and the Work Against Nature." *Harvest* 29: 29-54.

Kawada, Louise, ed. *The Apocalypse Anthology*. Boston: Rowan Tree Press, 1985.

Luckham, Robin. "Of Arms and Culture." *Current Research On Peace and Violence* 7 (1984), 1-64.

Noel, Daniel C. "The Nuclear Horror and the Hounding of Nature: Listening to Images." *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 70 (Fall/Winter 1987), 289-308. On technology ravishing nature, focusses on *Riddley Walker*.

Raymond, Richard C. "Reading and Writing on the Nuclear Predicament." *College Composition and Communication* 39 (February 1988), 69-74.

Rifas, Leonard. "U.S. Comic Books & Nuclear War." *itchy Planet* no. 1 (Spring 1988), 28-32. An illustrated essay on the subject by an extremely well-informed scholar / cartoonist. The entire first issue of *itchy Planet* is devoted to the subject of nuclear war. Available for \$3.00 from Fantagraphics Books, 1800 Bridgegate Street, Suite #101, Westlake Village, CA 91361.

Scheick, William. "Continuative and Ethical Predictions: The Post-Nuclear Holocaust Novel of the 1980s." *North Dakota Quarterly* 56 (Spring 1988), 61-8 reprinted in *Visions of Peace*. North Dakota Quarterly Press, 1988, 261-82. Brilliant survey of post-holocaust novels of this era, contrasting them to Walter M. Miller's *A Canticle for Leibowitz* (1959) and later imitations of that book, by showing their more specific efforts to wrestle with the possibility of a new world order.

Schwenger, Peter. "Writing the Unthinkable." *Critical Inquiry* 13 (Autumn, 1986), 33-48. Discusses literary strategies for expressing the idea of nuclear holocaust.

Zins, Daniel. "E. L. Doctorow's *Drinks Before Dinner*," *Southwest Review* 66:1 (Winter 1981) (review).

_____. "Deterrence and Doublespeak." *Quarterly Review of Doublespeak* 12:4 (July 1986), 10-11.

_____. "Imagining the Real: The Fiction of Tim O'Brien." *The Hollins Critic* (June 1986).

_____. "Nukespeak." *Kentucky English Bulletin* 34:2 (Winter, 1985).

_____. "Rescuing Science from Technocracy: *Cat's Cradle* and the Play of Apocalypse." *Science-Fiction Studies* 13:2 (July 1986), 170-181.

Compiled by PB

Forthcoming Scholarship

Brians, Paul. "The USSR and the Nuclear Threat in Popular Culture." *Left Coast Review*, Spring? 1989.

Chernus, Ira, and Linenthal, Edward Tabor, eds. *A Shuddering Dawn: Religious Studies in the Nuclear Age*. State University of New York Press. Includes essay by Linenthal entitled "Restoring America: Political Revivalism in the Nuclear Age," a comparison of the Committee for the Present Danger and Physicians for Social Responsibility as political revival groups) early 1989.

Gakov, Vladimir and Paul Brians. "Nuclear War Themes in Soviet Science Fiction: An Annotated Bibliography." *Science-Fiction Studies*, Spring, 1989.

Henderson, Bruce. "Student Panel Presentations: A Collaborative Oral Exercise," to be published by the National Council of Teachers of English in Classroom Practices in *Teaching English*, 1987, ed. Patricia Phelan. Henderson describes a two weeks' assignment on nuclear issues including topics, research activities, oral panel presentations, and written papers.

Linenthal, Edward Tabor. *Symbolic Defense: The Cultural Significance of the Strategic Defense Initiative*. University of Illinois Press, late summer 1989.

McKenzie, James. "Nuclear Weapons of Grand Forks: An Interpretive Catalogue." *Peace Issues* (University of North Dakota Center for Peace Studies), 1987.

Witham, Barry. "English Playwrights and the Bomb." *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society* (Winter 1988).

PB & JK

Work in Progress

Dick Bennett (University of Arkansas, Fayetteville): a paper on U.S. nuclear crisis novels, bibliography on *Control of Media in the U.S.*

Paul Brians (Washington State University): "Nuclear Chic," a slide lecture on nuclear war imagery in popular culture (advertisements, comics, etc.), entries on the Trinity Test and Hiroshima & Nagasaki for *The Book of Days* (Pierian Press), comprehensive study of nuclear war in comic books.

John T. Dorsey (Nihon University): several papers on the bombing of Hiroshima in literature, translations of two Japanese novels in collaboration with Naomi Matsuoka: Ota Yoko's *Half Human* [Han ningen], depicting the experiences of a woman "atomic bomb writer," in the psychiatric ward of a hospital five years after the bombing of Hiroshima, and Inoue Mitsuharu's *Tomorrow* [Ashita] about Nagasaki on the day before the bomb was dropped (recently made into a film by Kuroki Kazuo). The collaborators are currently at work on a monograph on atomic bomb literature in Japan, Europe, and America from the point of view of comparative literature.

Vladimir Gakov: a comprehensive study of science fiction and war, East and West, to be published in Russian.

David A. Huisman: "'Hoap of a Tree: The Devil Quotes Scripture in *Riddley Walker*,'" and a book focussing on major nuclear war fiction from the perspective of biblical eschatology.

Louise Kawada (Alliance of Independent Scholars): "To Bethlehem and Back: Women Poets and Nuclear Issues."

Barbara Lounsberry (University of Northern Iowa): "Nuclear Rhetoric: John McPhee's *The Curve of Binding Energy*."

Mark Osteen (Loyola College in Maryland): a paper on nuclear themes in three novels by Don DeLillo and a history of nuclear war fiction films. He is willing to share his filmography.

Sydna Stern Weiss (Hamilton College): "Chernobyl: Literary Portrayals in the GDR and USSR."

Daniel Zins (Atlanta College of Art): "Rendering Democracy Impotent and Obsolete: The Experts, The Public, and the Discourse of Star Wars," "The Writer and the Bomb: E. L. Doctorow Confronts the Nuclear Age," "The Bomb in the Classroom: Artistic Responses to the Nuclear Predicament."

Contributions

We are always seeking contributions to *Nuclear Texts & Contexts*. Because adding even one page to our current size would double our mailing costs, all contributions will be edited for space. (My apologies to those whose work had to be sharply trimmed this time; this was a very tight issue).

Contributions may be submitted in the following ways, in order of preference: 1) on Macintosh diskettes, as Word, MacWrite, or ASCII files, 2) on IBM diskettes (the new, smaller size only), as ASCII files, 3) via BitNet to HRC\$Ø4 at WSUVM1, 4) double-spaced, typed in a monospaced font suitable for scanning, or 5) typed or printed out in any legible fashion.

Directory

If enough people join ISSNTC (see front page article and the reverse of your mailing wrapper), we hope to be able to publish a directory to facilitate communication among our members. Please join now to ensure your inclusion.

Corrections

An unfortunate number of mostly minor errors crept into the first printing of issue no. 1 of *NT&C*. These are the corrections for the significant errors of which we are aware. The title of H. Bruce Franklin's book is *War Stars: The Superweapon and the American Imagination* and of David Dowling's book: *Fictions of Nuclear Disaster*. Diane Dowdey's name was misspelled. Fred Allhoff's "Lightning in the Night" was first published in 1940 (see Franklin's *War Stars*, pp. 138-141, for details), reprinted Prentice-Hall, 1979. Carl W. Spohr's "The Final War" was published in 1932, not 1978.

The third printing of issue no. 1 has all these items corrected as well as several minor typographical errors. Libraries and individuals wanting a corrected copy of the third printing should write us and enclose a check for \$1.00 and a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Correspondence

Thanks for *Nuclear Texts & Contexts*—a much-needed aid in this complex field.

Especially I like the emphasis on fiction, which often confronts problems on a human scale invisible in the usual wargame scenarios. I do protest, though, your description of my preface to *Nuclear War*, edited by myself and Marty Greenberg, as "pro-SDI." The preface doesn't even mention SDI by name, and is a meditation on the emergence of defense in strategic planning in our time. One can favor defense as stabilizing without being in favor of a particular program, or part of a program. For the record, I favor ground-based defenses with parallel build-down of offensive capabilities. *part* of SDI funding goes for this end—the majority, actually. Certainly I give no blanket support to any specific orbital defense methods.

Gregory Benford

I am carrying on research which weaves together certain aspects of cognitive theory (along with more traditional literary analysis), positive peace theory (and nonviolence theory), and anthropology, specifically the study of the ritual process and its narrative colleague, myth. I have been looking at the development of peace conceptualization in the ancient world, using non-Western comparative models to clarify by juxtaposition what we see in Greco-Roman thought and its descendents, and have been finding elements of highly advanced peace theory in certain thinkers, like Augustine and Epictetus, and would like to find out to what extent and how they may have been influential. I would like to get into a consideration of the ritual processes that have, as I see it, taken over alarming extents of American political life and ask under what circumstances such inexplicit illusions are successfully dispelled. I would like to hear from anyone who can "relate to" these interests.

Michael Nagler
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International Society for the Study of Nuclear Texts and Contexts Bylaws

Formation of Organization

Believing that the survival of the human race is endangered by the threat of nuclear war, and seeking ways to confront this threat through the study and teaching of modern languages and literatures and other relevant disciplines, eighteen concerned scholars organized the **International Society for the Study of Nuclear Texts and Contexts (ISSNTC)** on 26 August 1988. The founding members were: Paul Brians Washington State University, Pullman; Diane Dowdey, Texas A&M University, College Station; H. Bruce Franklin, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ; Bruce Henderson, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, NJ; David A. Huisman, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI; Helen Jaskoski, California State University, Fullerton; Louise Kawada, Alliance of Independent Scholars, Cambridge, MA; Susan M. Kelley, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA; Jean Kittrell, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville; Barbara Lounsberry, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA; Mark Osteen, Loyola College in Maryland, Baltimore, MD; William J. Scheick, University of Texas at Austin; Peter Schwenger, Mount St. Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada; Lee Schwenger, University of North Carolina at Wilmington; Jacqueline R. Smetak, Iowa State University, Ames, IA; J. Fisher Solomon, University of California, Los Angeles; Sydna Stern Weiss, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY; Daniel L. Zins, Atlanta College of Art.

Purpose and Function

ISSNTC is founded in order (1) to promote scholarly exchange about the nuclear threat through an informational network; (2) to consider ways to incorporate nuclear texts into classes in language, literature, composition, linguistic analysis, and other disciplines; and (3) thereby to encourage in students and colleagues a sustained awareness of the nuclear threat. The main instrument to supply information to the membership of ISSNTC is *Nuclear Texts & Contexts (NT&C)*, a newsletter published at least twice a year, more often if justified. This newsletter informs members about (1) recently published books (non-fiction as well as fiction), articles, and presented papers on all aspects of the nuclear threat, (2) professional meetings and other activities where pertinent issues are to be considered, and (3) ways in which teachers of language, literature, composition, linguistic analysis, and other disciplines include nuclear discourse in their classes. The first two issues of *NT&C* were funded by the endowment of the Department of English, Washington State University. Subsequent issues are funded by membership dues to ISSNTC. All paid-up members will receive *NT&C*.

ISSNTC holds an informational meeting at least once a year at the annual convention of the Modern Language Association (MLA).

Dues

The amount of annual membership dues for ISSNTC is determined by the Executive Committee. Dues pay for the publication and mailing of issues of *NT&C* (after the first two issues) and for other miscellaneous expenses (e.g., long distance telephone calls re the organization and the newsletter). The Treasurer of the organization, appointed according to the organizational structure described below, will maintain the financial records of the organization.

Membership

Membership in ISSNTC is open to scholars, teachers, editors, laypersons, libraries, and institutions throughout the world who are concerned about the nuclear threat to the survival of humanity, and who seek ways to confront this threat through the study and teaching of modern languages and literatures, composition, linguistic analysis, and other disciplines. ISSNTC members may attend the annual meeting of ISSNTC, held at the annual convention of the MLA, without being members of MLA, so long as they register for the MLA convention. Those ISSNTC members who propose Special Sessions for or are invited speakers at any meetings on the Program of the MLA annual convention must also be members of MLA (with the exceptions noted in *PMLA*).

Organizational Structure

Officers and Method of Selection:

The organizational structure includes these officers: a President, nominated by the Executive Committee and elected by the membership; a Treasurer, selected by the Executive Committee and appointed by the President; the Editor(s) of *NT&C*, selected by the Executive Committee and appointed by the President; and a five-member Executive Committee, including the President, the Treasurer, the Editor(s) of *NT&C*, each selected as noted above, and two At-Large Members, nominated and elected by the membership.

Term of Office:

The President and the Treasurer serve four year terms. The Editor(s) and the two At-Large Members serve three year terms. However, to achieve continuity of experience by staggering the terms, the Treasurer serves an initial five-year term, the term thereafter reverting to a four-year term; and one At-Large Member serves an initial four-year term, the term thereafter reverting to three years. All terms may be renewable. Pres. 4-year term: 1989-92, 1993-96, 1997-2000, 2001-2004, Treas.: Initial 5-year term; thereafter 4-year term: 1989-93,

1994-97, 1998-2001, 2002-2005, Editor: 3-year term: 1989-91, 1992-94, 1995-97, 1998-2000, At-Large: 3-year term: 1989-91, 1992-94, 1995-97, 1998-2000, At-Large: Initial 4-year term; thereafter 3-year term: 1989-92, 1993-95, 1996-98, 1999-2001. All terms begin in January and end in December.

Responsibilities:

The President is responsible with the Executive Committee for the ongoing leadership of the organization and for chairing meetings of the organization and of the Executive Committee. In the necessary absence of the President from a meeting, the President appoints an Acting President from the Executive Committee to preside. The Treasurer is responsible for receiving dues, disbursing payments for expenses, and keeping the financial records of the organization. The Treasurer is also responsible for keeping the Editor informed of paid membership dues entitling members to receive *NT&C*. The Treasurer makes a yearly financial report to the membership. The Editor(s) of *NT&C* is(are) responsible for publication of the newsletter when warranted and mailing it to all paid-up members of the organization. The five-member Executive Committee is responsible, together with the President, for the ongoing leadership of the organization. The Executive Committee is also responsible for encouraging members of the organization who are also members of MLA to submit Special Session Proposals to MLA relevant to the general topic of the nuclear threat and for reminding proposers of deadlines. If ISSNTC achieves "allied organization status" from MLA (see "Procedures and Policies," September issues of *PMLA*), then the Executive Committee is responsible for selecting speakers for the two meetings at the annual MLA convention. The Executive Committee may decide to place an open call for papers or a call for papers on designated topics in the *MLA Newsletter* for the Winter (December) issue preceding the year in which the program is to be held or in the Spring (February) issue of the year in which the program is to be held; or the Executive Committee may decide to select speakers on a particular topic. The Executive Committee aims to make the programs lively, provocative, and informative, and to consider alternative approaches to the traditional reading of short papers (e.g., panel discussions on recent books or articles on new directions in research that would be of interest to the entire group). Allied organization meetings and social functions that are listed in the body of the MLA Convention Program are open to all persons registered at the convention. The President of ISSNTC is responsible for submitting to MLA headquarters final copy for the Program by the deadline announced for that year, usually in May of the year of the convention. The Executive Committee meets at least once annually, usually at the MLA annual convention.

Amendments

Suggested amendments to these Bylaws may be submitted by any member of the organization to the Executive Committee. If the suggested amendment is either approved by a majority of the Executive Committee or supported by the signatures of one-third of the members, it will be circulated to the membership by *NT&C* and voted on at an annual meeting of the organization or by mail ballot.

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Jean Kittrell, President

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