



LITERATURE OF THE AMERICAS. A Journal of American literary history

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LoA 2021 THEODORE DREISER special collection CALL FOR PAPERS

Dear colleagues,

Literature of the Americas, a scholarly journal of American literary history, is planning a **special THEODORE DREISER COLLECTION** dedicated to Dreiser 150th birth anniversary in the **2021 November issue**. During the Soviet period Theodore Dreiser was praised in the USSR as the greatest XXth century American writer and a “living classic”; however, his image and literary reputation in the Soviet Union differed greatly from those in the States. In the post-Soviet period Russian academia obviously lost interest in Dreiser, who remained unwanted in the 1990s-2000s. Now Dreiser studies are coming back to the Russian intellectual landscape – recent publications show growing interest in him and his heritage, which (paradoxically!) still remains underestimated and understudied in many aspects. On the one hand, there are certain texts and genres that didn’t exist for the Soviet reader: they were excluded from Dreiser’s Russian editions for various reasons. Among such blind spots that remain untranslated, unpublished and almost

unknown in Russia – Dreiser’s poetry, plays, travel books, *This Madness*, a vast part of his political writing, etc. On the other hand, time has come to recommence excavating Russian archives, investigating and introducing into scholarly discourse documents and materials that for decades were being kept in dark. Scholars in the US are doing titanic work carrying out impressive projects – book series, online resources, bio- and bibliographic studies, text studies, etc. etc. No doubt co-working with our American colleagues will be a source of inspiration for the Russian scholars. We hope that it will thereby spark the beginning of in-depth and comprehensive research in this country, and represent a remarkable expansion of TD studies, both in Russia and worldwide.

LoA invites proposals for papers on any “Dreiserian” topic for the special 2021 TD collection and especially welcomes proposals on

- * new materials from the writer’s archive;
- * TD as a poet and playwright; his travel books, autobiographies, correspondence;
- * new readings of his prose, whether of specific works or predominant themes;
- * studies in biography;
- * studies in translation in relation to TD;
- * TD’s impact on American and European poets and writers;
- * screen and stage adaptations of Dreiser’s works;
- * TD's politics reconsidered;
- * TD studies: scholarly projects, book series, online resources, reviews of new critical works, etc.

Papers may relate to TD’s prose, poetry, plays, translations, textual analysis, biography, comparative studies, literary or political influence, letters, historical matters. Proposals from younger scholars (postgraduate and graduate) and pre-prints are encouraged.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: September 30, 2021.

If you are interested in giving a paper, please send a short proposal (300-500 words) (as Word Attachment or as email text). Please include your paper title, name(s) and affiliation(s), and email address in the proposal.

Please send proposals by email to:

literatura.da@gmail.com attn Olga Panova

Literature of the Americas is a peer-reviewed semiannual scholarly journal of the American (New World) literary history issued by the Gorky Institute of World Literature of the Russian Academy of Sciences. It has both online and printed versions. Online access to all issues of the

journal is permanent, free and gratis. The essays are accepted in Russian, English, Spanish, French, German.

The journal is targeted at both the professional audience - scholars, historians of literature, and all readers interested in the New World literary history.

LoA publishes new articles (that have not been previously published); normally we do not re-publish materials. All publications in *LoA* are free of charge — authors don't pay for reviewing, editing, translating, proof-reading, layout design. *LoA* doesn't pay author's fee / royalties.

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