Bibliography of William Carlos Williams Scholarship 2011

Life Along the Passaic River
& Selected Recent Scholarship


Examines the question of medical ethics in “The Use of Force.”


Argues that students of medicine benefit from education in the humanities, and discusses a wide variety of literature with a medical context, including Life Along the Passaic River.


Boone examines the question of form in The Great American Novel, and argues that Williams uses elements of metafiction, creating a novel “that anticipates postmodern fiction.”


This essay discusses Williams’s interest in Paterson immigrants and an Italian neighborhood on the margins of Paterson, focusing on the cultural gap between the residents and the poem’s speaker.


Describes Laura Boss’s personal connection with Williams, his support for younger writers, and his influence on her work.


Discusses Williams’s embattled relationship with Partisan Review in the 1930s.


Both essays discuss Williams’s “doctor stories.”

A collection of essays that examine Williams’s contribution to various 20th-century branches of poetics as well as his connections to modernism, abstract impressionism, surrealism, and other cultural movements that influenced the development of American poetry.


A collection of seventeen essays that examine the modernist dimensions and development of Williams’s poetry, fiction, drama, and non-fiction. Highlighted are Williams’s influence on younger poets, the importance of the American idiom on Williams’s poetics; and a separate section, distinguished by two long essays by Gary Grieve-Carlson and Mark C. Long that focus on *Paterson.*


Examines the concurrent development of modernism and the professionalism of medicine in the United States, and explores scientific perspectives that are present throughout Williams’s work.


Discusses narration in “Mind and Body.”


Entin examines fiction and photography of the 1930s that adopts the “sensationalism” of popular culture, such as tabloids or pulp fiction, in order to show the injustices inflicted on the working class, as evidenced in their damaged and disfigured bodies. Contains an extended study of *Life Along the Passaic River.*


Favis explores the “sense of place” that both Bluemner and Williams found in the city of Paterson, examining the connection between Oscar Bluemner’s paintings of Paterson’s silk factories and Williams’s writing, especially *Paterson.* Just as Williams believed that Paterson was an appropriate subject for contemplation by “the mind of modern man,” Bluemner believed that Paterson, with its history of immigration and labor struggle, could serve as a symbol of the essence of America.


Honorable mention, Louis Martz Prize 2009.

A study of thematics and stylistics in Williams's short fiction.

Hahn, Stephen. "It was ... civilization I was after": George Tice, William Carlos Williams, and the Archaeology of Paterson.” *Literary Review* 50.4 (Summer 2007): 62-82.

A thorough and insightful review of two books that engage the sense of place of Paterson: Paterson, and Paterson II, by photographer George Tice.


A comparative analysis of the short fiction of Poe and Williams, and the use of a “medical slant” in these works. Discusses “A Face of Stone.”


Examines the influence of the city of Paterson city to the poem Paterson. Contains a description of the city, the references to Paterson, and examines Williams’s choice of Paterson as a subject for a book-length poem.


Awarded 2009 Louis Martz Prize for best essay on Williams published outside the *WCW Review.*


Considers Williams’s politics, especially in his “Depression writings.” including Life Along the Passaic River.


Discusses “Face of Stone.”


Recounts Kinnell’s personal interaction with Williams during a visit to Rutherford, New Jersey.

An examination of Williams’s fiction before 1950, including *The Knife of the Times* and *Life along the Passaic River.* Koch argues for their importance in the development of Williams’s career and of the modern American short story.


Laughlin, Williams’s editor at New Directions, offers a brief recollection and fond anecdotes that recall his relationship with Williams.


Examines the friendship and relationship between Williams and Robert Smithson, the well-known New Jersey artist.


Examines Williams’s dual careers as physician and writer, and the ways in which those callings interact in his Passaic River stories.


An examination of psychosexual aspects of doctor-patient relationships in several “doctor stories” in *Life along the Passaic River.*


A study of Williams’s story “Jean Biecke,” which appeared in the first issue of *Blast,* and Williams’s desire to create a form that would respond to the social needs of the time.

Slate relates Williams's theories about writing short fiction to the stories themselves, demonstrating the modern qualities of Williams's thought and practice.


Wagner surveys Williams's short fiction, relating its subjects and techniques to those of contemporaneous writings.


Early review of the book upon its publication by New Directions in 1938 – priced at $1.95. In Walton’s words, “Dr. Williams takes no detours around life” in the collection of “sketches,” as she calls them. Brutally honest in their representation of life in the “Passaic river town,” the collected stories, Walton claims, offer the reader “the shock of observing bone suddenly and cleanly unfleshed.”


A close examination of a 48-page typescript sent by Williams in 1960 to his editor at New Directions, James Laughlin.

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