

Vita for Richard Ruland

BA Assumption College, The University of Western Ontario (1953)
--English & Philosophy

MA University of Detroit (1955) -- English & American Literature

PhD University of Michigan (1960) -- English Language & Literature
with minor in American Literature

Doctoral Thesis: A Usable Past in the Criticism of Babbitt, More,
Sherman and Mencken (University Microfilms, 1960).

1953-60 TA, English Composition, U of Detroit, U of Michigan

1960-68 Instructor to Assistant Professor of English & American Studies,
Yale University

Director of Undergraduate Studies, 1963-64

Director of Honors Program, 1965-66

Graduate Faculty, 1967-68

1964-65 Visiting Bruern Professor of American Literature, Leeds University
(England)

1967 Visiting Professor of English, U of Michigan

1967- Professor of English & American Literature, Washington University

1969-74 Chairman of Department of English, Washington University

1972-73 Executive Committee, Association of Departments of English
(Helped plan and initiate first ADE/ADFL Job Lists)

1974 President, Association of Departments of English

1974 Visiting Professor of English, University of Oregon

1975 Visiting Fulbright Professor of American Literature, University of
Groningen (The Netherlands)

1978-79 Visiting Fulbright Professor of American Literature, School of
English and American Studies, University of East Anglia (GB)
(Initiated negotiations leading to WU-UEA student exchange)

1980 Member National Screening Committee, Council for International
Exchange of Scholars (Fulbright Awards)

1980-81 Visiting Distinguished Professor of American Literature,
The College of William and Mary

1982-83 Guggenheim Fellow--year of research in Britain on British
Backgrounds of American Literature

1988- Member St. Louis Science Center's Humanities Steering Committee
(\$1 million award from National Endowment for the Humanities)

1993-94 Acting Chair, Comparative Literature Program, Washington University

Awards and Fellowships: Bruern Fellow (GB), 1964; Morse Fellow, 1966; Fulbright Fellow,
1975, 1978; American Council of Learned Societies Travel Grant, 1981; Guggenheim Research
Fellow, 1982-83.

Directory Entries: Directory of American Scholars, Contemporary Authors: New Revision Series, Who's Who in America , Strathmore's Who's Who, Who's Who in the Midwest, Who's Who in Education

Membership by nomination: International Association of University Professors of English
Unsolicited employment inquiries: California-Irvine, New Mexico, Oregon, Northwestern, UCLA, Texas A&M, William & Mary (2), Purdue, Illinois, Illinois-Chicago Circle, Maryland (2), George Mason, North Carolina, California-Santa Cruz, Sussex (GB) (2), Amsterdam (2), Groningen (Netherlands) (3)

Referee: Guggenheim Fellowships, Fulbright Awards, promotion, tenure and grant assessor for various universities.

Lectures and Conference Participation

"The Educational Theory of Rousseau," U of Western Ontario, 1953

"The American Tradition of Paul Elmer More," U of Michigan, 1959

"Emerson and Thoreau: Nineteenth-Century Radicals," Old Sturbridge Village, 1963

"Reading Longfellow," National Council of Teachers of English, Boston, 1965

"America as Metaphor in Contemporary European Literature," Bruern Lecture, Leeds University (GB) and American School at Lugano (Switzerland), 1965

"Melville's Typee," American Literature Section, Modern Language Association, Chicago, 1965

"America as Metaphor in Modern French Literature," Comparative Literature Section, Modern Language Association, New York, 1966

"Teaching Writing," English faculty of Parkway School District, 1968

"American Voices: Twain's Huck and Roth's Portnoy,"
Catholic University of Mexico City, 1970

"Why English?," Presidential Address, Association of Departments of English, Princeton, 1974 and WU Departmental Colloquium, 1974

Invited Participant, Conference on Truth and the Media, U of Indiana, 1975

"American Studies: The State of the Art," Groningen (Netherlands), Leeds and Stirling (GB), 1975

"The Art of Kate Chopin," Public audiences in Groningen, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Arnheim (Netherlands), 1975

"Introductory Remarks" and "Discussion," as Chair of "Culture and Society: Literary Connections" at the Association of American Studies meeting, Boston, 1977

"Henry James and Hawthorne," U of Keele (GB), 1978

"The Study of American Literature," Sheffield University (GB), 1978

"Poetry in the United States," U of Groningen, 1978

"The American Studies Movement, Present and Future," American Embassy Library Lecture Series, Ankara, Turkey, 1979

"American Literature," U of Ankara and Ankara Technical College (Turkey), 1979
. (Invitation to Sarejevo declined)

"The Study of American Literature in the United States," American Studies Seminar, Cambridge University, 1979

"Using Literature: Is American Studies Possible?", U of East Anglia, 1979

"Two Anniversaries: American Literature and the Fulbright Program"
Invited address to the American Literature Section, MLA, New York, 1979

"The Mission of American Literary History," European Association of American Studies, Amsterdam, 1980

"Literary Biography as Literary Criticism," College of William & Mary, 1981

"American Literary Symbolism: The Pond, the Grass and the Whale," invited address, U of Amsterdam, 1981

"British Backgrounds of American Literature," U of East Anglia, 1983

"'Exceptionalist' Literary History," Department Colloquium, 1984

"Kate Chopin's The Awakening," Department Colloquium, 1987

"Walt Whitman as Doubloon" and "Writing Literary History," Invited lectures for the Conference on the American Renaissance, Washington State University, 1987

"On The Rediscovery of American Literature, The Native Muse and my other writings on the American canon," teleconference with graduate seminar, Loyola University of Chicago, 1987.

"Jazz at the Frankfurt School: Theodor Adorno and America's Music," Faculty Seminar, Washington University, 1988

"Modern American Literature," address and discussion sponsored by the Congress of the South Forty, Washington University, 1988

Invited Participant, Conference on "The Founding Fathers: Church and State," U of Virginia, 1988

Invited Panelist, "Sites and Sources of American Cultural Criticism," Midwest Modern Language Association meeting in St. Louis, 1988

"Akira Kurosawa's Rashomon" and "Wuthering Heights, Novel and Film," Combined WU comparative literature seminars, "What is Literary History?" 1989

"Philosophy Without Mirrors: An American Context for Richard Rorty's Neo-Pragmatism," Faculty Seminar, Washington University, 1990

Organizer and welcoming speaker, Second Graduate Student Symposium on Comparative Literature, Washington University, 1993

"Pick Up on South Street," American Culture Studies Film Series, 1994

"Norris' McTeague and Von Stroheim's Greed," American Culture Studies Film Series, 1994

"Musical Discriminations in The Gig," American Culture Studies Film Series, 1995

Panel Chair, "Reading Miles" section of "Miles Davis and American Culture" conference, Washington University, 1995

Telephone discussion of F.S. Fitzgerald. Senior Honors Project, Lafayette Highschool, 1996

"Textual Studies and the Problem of History." Panel Moderator and Discussant, Mid-America American Studies Association Conference on Changing Models of American Studies, 1996

Panel Chair, "Round About Midnight: Three Critics on Miles Davis" section of "Miles Davis and American Culture II" conference, Washington University, 1996

Invitations to speak at Czech universities (Masaryk, Palacky, Ostrava) and Charles University, Prague, November 1997. Declined due to illness.

Invited to Czech Republic by the Czech & Slovak Association of American Studies, the Institute of International Relations (Prague), USIS and the City of Pilsen, May 1998
"The Evolution of American Literature" (Requested topic)
Purkyne University, University of Liberec
[Charles University in Prague--cancelled due to illness]

"Conversation with Professor Richard Ruland"--with Professor Josef Jarab
American Cultural Center, Prague. (Bi-lingual audio tape available.)
Discussion centered on From Puritanism to Postmodernism, the first history of American literature translated into Czech since World War II
Book signing, press conferences, radio and television interviews in Prague and Pilsen

Participation in "Big Read" program sponsored by NEA, March 2007
Radio discussion KWMU
"Fahrenheit 451" discussion leader, Missouri Historical Society
Offered special full term and four-week courses in Banned Books

Participation in British film documentary dealing with the music of Bruce Springsteen and its roots in American populist literature. Lengthy discussion and reading from the works of Poe, Emerson and Walt Whitman. June 2009

Publications-Essays

"A View from Back Home: Kafka's Amerika," American Quarterly, XIII (1961), 33-42.

"The Second Show," with David Anderson. Film essay for the Yale Alumni Association on mounting an art gallery exhibition, 1962

"The American Plays of Bertolt Brecht," American Quarterly, XV (1963), 371-389.

"Tocqueville's De la Démocratie en Amérique and The Education of Henry Adams," Comparative Literature Studies, II (1965), 195-207.

"George Parsons Lathrop," The New Catholic Encyclopedia, 1966

"Longfellow and the Modern Reader," English Journal, LV (1966), 661-668.

"Recalling H. L. Mencken," The New York Times (June 18, 1966); reprinted in America at Random, ed. Herbert Mitgang (NY: Capricorn Books, 1970), 218-220.

"The Disappearance of H. L. Mencken," Menckeniiana, No. 20 (1966), 7-8.

"Mencken and Cabell," The Cabellian, I (1968), 13-20.

"Melville and the Fortunate Fall: Typee as Eden," Nineteenth-Century Fiction, XXIII, (1968), 312-323. Reprinted in Critical Essays on Herman Melville's Typee, ed. Milton R. Stern (Boston: G. K. Hall, 1982), pp.183-93, and in Herman Melville: Critical Assessments, ed. A. Robert Lee (London: Helm, 2001); abstract appears in A Critical Guide to Herman Melville, eds James K. Bowen and Richard VanDerBeets (Glenview, IL: Scott, Foresman, 1971), pp.74-75.

"Why English?" ADE Bulletin, No. 42 (September, 1974), 27-34. Presidential Address, Association of Departments of English.

"Undergraduate English at Washington University," Options for the Teaching of English: The Undergraduate Curriculum, ed. Elizabeth Wooten Cowan (New York: Modern Language Association Publication Center, 1975), 104-107. By invitation.

"A Christian Humanist," in Teacher and Critic: Essays By and About Austin Warren, ed. by Myron Simon and Harvey Gross (Los Angeles: The Plantin Press, 1976), 43-46. By invitation.

"The Search for Walden," ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance XXIII (1977),188-200. By invitation.

"The Shape of the Profession," The CEA Forum (College English Association), VIII (1977), 23. By invitation.

"Beyond Harsh Inquiry: The Hawthorne of Henry James," ESQ, XXV (1979), 95-117.

"The American Studies of Sigmund Skard," Journal of American Studies (Britain), XIV (1980), 137-142. By invitation.

"The Mission of American Literary History," address delivered at the Amsterdam meeting of the European Association of American Studies in April, 1980. Collected in The American Identity: Fusion and Fragmentation, ed. Rob Kroes, European Contributions to American Studies III (Amsterdam: The Amerika Instituut and the European Association for American Studies, 1980), pp. 46-65.

"American Literature, 1910-1930: A Bibliographic Essay of Criticism and Scholarship," with Richard Cook, American Studies International, XXII (1984), 32-86. By invitation.

"Slatkin! A Symphony," internationally screened 60 minute video by Jill Petzall. Served as musical and editorial advisor (1986).

"Kate Chopin and The Awakening," Essays on English and American Literature. Ed. J. Bakker, J. A. Verlun, and J. v. d. Vriesenaerde (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1987),pp 119-130. By invitation.

"Form and Meaning in American Literary Criticism," in The New Pelican Guide to English and American Literature, ed. Boris Ford. 11 vols. (London: Penguin Books, 1988), Vol IX,

478-500. A shorter version, "'Theory too is interesting'," appeared in Intellectual History Newsletter, 9 (1987), 35-47.

Both publications were by invitation.

"Art and a Better America," American Literary History, 3, (1991), 337-359.

Related "Exchange of Letters," 4 (1992), 329-336. Both by invitation.

"Literary History and the Legacy of Pragmatism," American Literary History, 6 (1994), 354-370.

"F.O. Matthiessen, Christian Socialist: Literature and the Repossession of Our Cultural Past," from The Rediscovery of American Literature, reprinted in Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism, ed Jennifer Baise (The Gale Group, 2000).

Publications--Books

Author:

The Rediscovery of American Literature: Premises of Critical Taste, 1900-1940 (Harvard University Press, 1967). Intensive study of several critics to examine what would now be called the ideology of canon-formation, the impact of their value systems on their influential formulations of the American literary past.

America in Modern European Literature: From Image to Metaphor (New York University Press, 1976). (The working title is more accurate: "America as Metaphor in European Literature"). A history and bibliographic survey of Europe's evolving idea of America. Culminates in a critical account of the metaphoric uses 20c French, German, Italian and Russian authors have found for the imagery their traditions bequeathed them.

From Puritanism to Postmodernism: A History of American Literature (London: Routledge, 1991; New York: Viking-Penguin, 1991; London: Penguin Books, 1992; Translations--Budapest: Corvina, 1997; Prague: Mlada Fronta, 1997). With Malcolm Bradbury. A one-volume history of American Literature from the 17th to the 20th century. Selected as Book-of-the-Month Club alternate.

Editor:

Walden: A Collection of Critical Essays (Prentice-Hall, 1967). "Introduction," pp. 1-6.

The Native Muse: Theories of American Literature, Volume I: From Bradford to Whitman (E. P. Dutton, 1972, 1976). Representative discussions with extensive editorial comment on the means by which the nation's writers might make their work most truly American.

A Storied Land: Theories of American Literature, Volume II: From Whitman to Edmund Wilson (E. P. Dutton, 1976).

In progress: Using the Past Imperfect: America's Literary Traditions and Individual Talents, a selection of my lectures and essays with extensive historical and methodological commentary.

Reviews in the Journal of the University Film Producers Association, The Yale Review, South Atlantic Quarterly, Nineteenth-Century Fiction, American Literature, The Journal of American Studies (England), The American Historical Review, Nineteenth-Century Literature, ESQ, American Literary History and others.

Editorial Board: ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance, 1971-2005

Editorial advisor: Presses of Pennsylvania State, U of California-Berkeley, Chicago, Columbia, Oxford and Routledge of Great Britain; many manuscript and project reviews in response to requests from individuals.

Teaching and research interests: literary history, tradition and canon formation; literary taste and judgments of value; cultural nationalism; British-American cultural relations; the history, theory and method of literary study in the United States.

Committee Assignments

English Department: Executive, Graduate, Undergraduate, Awards, Composition and Adjunct Faculty, Journalism Internship Advisor, various appointment, curricular, Honors, MA and PhD committees. Chair: Honors Program

University: Senate Council, Academic Planning Committee, Personnel Advisory Committee, Review Committee on Faculty Personnel Procedures, Curriculum Committee (at its inception), Student Fulbright Advisory Committee, Faculty Reader for Honorary Scholarship Competitions (1990-). Executive Committees for Comparative Literature and for American Cultural Studies Institute. Ad hoc committees: Chancellor selection, Mercantile Library, Judicial Review (of David Colfax tenure decision--Sociology), Review of Personnel Advisory Committee, Humanities Review Committee, Humanities Chairs, various promotion committees.

At William & Mary: chaired committee to review promotion and salary practices.