

THE NEW COURIER

Nº12 February 2005

Institut d'Estudis Nord-Americans

Monthly Publication

STUDY ENGLISH IN THE USA



Experience the country and learn English in the USA

If you want to study English in the USA as you do at the IEN, you can. Choose your destination and dates and the Department for Studies in the US will help you with the processing. Contact us and have a great summer while learning English and living with people from all over the world.

For years, we've had the opportunity to help students who want to travel to the US and make their dream come true. You can take tours, attend sports and cultural events and experience a different culture, while at the same time sharing something of yourself and your culture with students and Americans and people from around the world. You'll meet people going through the same culture shock and adjustments and

you'll make a lot of new friends. You'll have a lot of new things to talk about later.

Do you think it will cost too much? Look at this: four weeks in San Diego, living with a family; starting at \$1,480- four weeks in New York in a student residence hall, or living with a family while you practice the language and get to know the culture first hand; starting at \$1,990.

What else can you find in the Department for Studies in the US?

We can help you with processing your papers for other studies in the US besides English. If you want us to help you apply for admission to a US university, find out what exams are required, or what the

admission requirements are, or with any other related questions, call us to make an appointment. Please also note that we are the only center in Barcelona authorized by Educational Testing Service in the US to give the TOEFL, GRE, GMAT, USMLE and SAT exams.

ADULT PROGRAM

Learn English, tour the US, meet new people and make this summer a unique experience!

We are at your disposal:

STUDIES IN THE US:

Tel. 807 317 425

Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:30 AM to 2 PM

Wednesday, 3:30 to 6 PM

St. Valentine's DAY

Every February 14th, around the world, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine

Verses and Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, when lovers said or sang their valentines. Written valentines began to appear after 1400. The oldest written "valentine" in existence was made in the 1400's and is in the British Museum. Paper valentines were exchanged in Europe where they were given in place of valentine gifts. Paper valentines were especially popular in England. Early valentines were made by hand and were made with colored paper, watercolors, and colored inks.

In America there have been many different forms of cards given on Valentine's day over the years. Many of these may not have been nice as there were cards that were often rude and almost cruel in their humor, but there were many that were intricate and a lot of thought went into them. There were cards in the times of the civil war that were flagged with rich color, patriotic and political motifs. There were ones that showed lovers, their heroes and generals, and skits and comical ones.

There were also cards not in the best of taste that some men would send to former loves or people they wanted to get back at for some reason or another. These cards were sent to cause discomfort and might say things such as "boss-eyed" or other similar phrases.

There were many Valentines that were especially lithographed and hand-colored, beautiful in their design and that had a distinction of their own. Many cards were imported from overseas due to the local paper's being of poor quality and not suitable for embossing.

There were many cards that were produced with intricate lace paper, decorated with ornaments such as beads, sea shells, cones, berries, and all different kinds of seeds. Some may even have seaweed or moss with dried flowers or artificial flowers all of which was attached to a string so as it could be hung creating a three-dimensional picture.

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ACADEMIC INFORMATION

OFFICIAL ENGLISH EXAMS AND CERTIFICATES OFFERED AT THE IEN

Upper Intermediate English Certificate (UEC)

The UEC evaluates students at an Upper-Intermediate level. This certificate can be obtained upon the successful completion of at least Upper Intermediate 3 and Upper Intermediate 4 at the IEN. External students or students who have only completed Upper-Intermediate 4 are required to take the UEC Exam to receive the UEC Certificate.

University of Michigan Exam for the Certificate of Competency in English (ECCE)

The Michigan Competency evaluates English abilities at an upper-intermediate level. The University of Michigan Competency Certificate is roughly equivalent to the First Certificate of the University of Cambridge. This is generally considered the level required to be able to function at work in English, so it is a practical way to certify one's level of English for work or university studies. We recommend this exam for students who are studying in the upper intermediate cycle of the *Adult Curriculum*.

EXAM DATE:

Once a year at the end of May.

Exact date is announced in April.

RECOMMENDED LEVEL:

Upper Intermediate 2 completed.

PREPARATION COURSE:

Five-week intensive course in the Spring trimester.

Advanced English Certificate (AEC)

The AEC evaluates students at an advanced level. This certificate can be obtained upon the successful completion of at least Advanced 3 and Advanced 4 at the IEN. External students or students who have only completed Advanced 4 are required to take the AEC Exam to receive the AEC Certificate.

University of Michigan Exam for the Certificate of Proficiency in English (ECPE)

The Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English (ECPE) evaluates English competency at a proficiency level. Proficiency is considered to be a native-like level of English, so the Michigan Proficiency is useful for anyone wanting English level certification when looking for work or for university studies. We recommend this exam for students who have completed the proficiency courses of the *Adult Curriculum*. The fourth class in the proficiency module is a preparatory course for the Michigan Proficiency.

EXAM DATE:

Once a year at the end of November.

Exact date is announced in October.

RECOMMENDED LEVEL:

Advanced 4 completed.

PREPARATION COURSE:

Five-week intensive course in the Fall Trimester.

LEVEL REQUIRED FOR COURSE:

Advanced 4 completed.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

The TOEFL is the most widely recognized exam for entrance into American universities and many European programs, including many MBA programs in Barcelona. It is a computer test that evaluates students' levels on a point system. The number of points required for entrance varies depending on the university or program. The TOEFL does not give a certificate; students receive a number score only.

EXAM DATE:

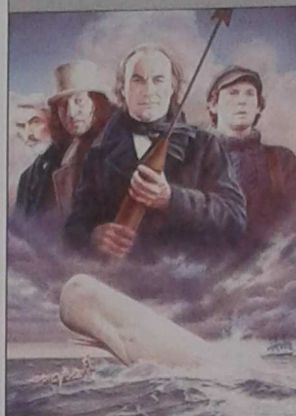
Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

Thursdays at 9 a.m. or at 1:30 p.m.

From October to June, one Saturday a month.

FILM CLUB

AMERICAN NOVELS TURNED INTO FILMS: WORDS-INTO-IMAGES CYCLE



Words

John Juston "Moby Dick"

British edition (entitled *The Whale*) was expurgated to avoid offending delicate political and moral sensibilities. It was published in three volumes on October 18, 1851 by Richard Bentley, London. The first American edition was published November 14, 1851 by Harper & Brothers, New York.

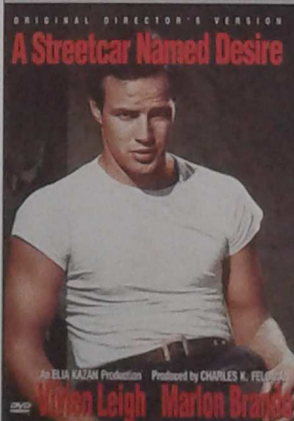
As letters to Richard Henry Dana and Richard Bentley attest, Melville was far along on a new book by May 1850. This latest work was apparently another relatively simple adventure narrative in the manner of *Typee* or *Redburn*, "a romance of adventure, founded upon certain wild legends of the Southern Spinn Whale Fisheries, and illustrated by the author's own personal experience, of two years & more, as a harpooner..." That August Everett Duyckinck wrote that the story was "mostly done -- a romantic, fanciful & literal & most enjoyable presentment of the Whale Fishery -- something quite new."

The Epilogue, explaining how Ishmael survived the destruction of the *Pequod*, was inadvertently omitted from Bentley's edition, leading many British critics to condemn Melville for leaving no one alive to tell the first-person narrative.

Images

John Juston "Moby Dick"

From Melville's story, in which we have highlighted the metaphysical aspects of the White Whale, Huston has taken a coherent and highly rhythmic cinematographic story where a light and humorous introduction (Ishmael goes towards the port to find Queequeg the Indian and the frightening whaler) contrasts with the serious development of the plot. This change of mood is carried out by Father Mapple's long sermon, inspired by the biblical chapter where Jonas is taken by a whale. The first-person narrator, young Ishmael, has been kept but in order to get "a headway plot", Huston has gotten rid of many chapters devoted to cetacean classifications, for they were indeed very difficult passages for a Hollywood film, and has favored fishing scenes where action almost races out of control.



Words

Tennessee Williams "A Streetcar Named Desire", 1947

Tennessee Williams's play "A Streetcar Named Desire" came to Broadway in 1947, won the Pulitzer Prize for drama, and was made into an award-winning film. But you don't have to wait to see a stage or video version of the play. "Streetcar" is one of those theatrical triumphs which also succeeds in book form as a compelling read.

Taking place in New Orleans, "Streetcar" tells the painful story of aging southern belle Blanche DuBois, her sister Stella, Stella's brutish husband Stanley, and the circle of people who frequent Stella's home. Williams creates an incisive examination of human sexuality and socio-economic difference. His characters come to life with powerful dialogue; this play is a heartbreaking read.

"Streetcar" is an unforgettable tapestry of desire, shame, and disturbing revelations. An essential text for anybody with an interest in 20th century drama.

Images

Elia Kazan "A Streetcar Named Desire", 1951

Playwright Williams adapted his own play for the screen version. This film masterpiece was directed by independent director Elia Kazan (his first piece of work with Williams), a socially-conscious director who insisted that the film be true to the play (which he had also directed on Broadway).

The visceral film, considered controversial, decadent, and "morally repugnant" challenged the regulatory Production Code's censors (and the Legion of Decency) with its bold adult drama and sexual subjects (insanity, rape, domestic violence, homosexuality, sexual obsession, and female promiscuity or nymphomania). Ultimately, it signaled the weakening of Hollywood censorship (and groups such as the Catholic Legion of Decency), although a number of scenes were excised, and new dialogue was written. Also the Production Code insisted that Stanley be punished for the rape by the loss of his wife's love at the film's conclusion. In 1993, approximately three to five minutes of the censored scenes were restored in an "original director's version" re-release.

Jubilee Jazz Club

This month we're having:

February Calendar

February 10th

NAT "KING" COLE (1917-1965)
EN EL RECORD

Directed by Albert Malloré

February 24th

FILM: Colin James presents
THE BLUES MASTERS

Directed by Miquel Abella

Free! Thursday February 10th and February
24th at 7:00 PM, IEN Conference Room

st. VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day, a holiday honoring love and lovers, is celebrated on February 14th. In the spirit of the holiday, we invite you to a little celebration for the holiday of "L INCLUDEPICTURE" <http://www.holidays.net/amore/images/heartsm.gif> * MERGEFORMATINET VE!"

The Story of Valentine's Day

The holiday of Valentine's Day probably derives its origins from the ancient Roman feast of Lupercalia. In the early days of Rome, fierce wolves roamed the woods nearby. The Romans called upon one of their gods, Lupercus, to keep the wolves away. A festival held in honor of Lupercus was celebrated February 15th. The festival was celebrated as a spring festival. Their calendar was different at that time, with February falling in early springtime. One of the customs of the young people was name-drawing. On the eve of the festival of Lupercalia the names of Roman girls were written on slips of paper and placed into jars. Each young man drew a slip. The girl whose name was chosen was to be his sweetheart for the year.

Legend has it that the holiday became Valentine's Day after a priest named Valentine. Valentine was a priest in Rome at the time Christianity was a new religion. The Emperor at that time, Claudius II, ordered the Roman soldiers NOT to marry or become engaged. Claudius believed that as married men, his soldiers would want to stay home with their families rather than fight his wars. Valentine defied the Emperor's decree and secretly married the young couples. He was eventually arrested, imprisoned, and put to death.

Valentine was beheaded on February 14th, the eve of the Roman holiday Lupercalia. After his death, Valentine was named a saint. As Rome became more Christian, the priests moved the spring holiday from the 15th of February to the 14th - Valentine's Day. Now the holiday honors Saint Valentine instead of Lupercus.

Autobiography of St. Valentine

There are various accounts as to whom St. Valentine was. It is said that there were two St. Valentines who died at around the same time and are buried virtually in the same place at the Flaminian Way, both of these saints has been said to be the saint associated with the Patron Saint of Lovers "Saint Valentine".

The first of the Saints was considered to be a Roman Priest or Bishop of the Christian faith, who was also a physician and practiced his trade from his house. They say he cured the sick of ailments, giving them special medicines

or ointments and that he did this out of the goodness of his heart, sometimes refusing any payment whatsoever or accepting a loaf of bread or whatever could be spared by the sick person or his family. One Day the jailer brought his daughter to Valentine, to see if he could get her sight back and Valentine was said to have rubbed an ointment on her eyes and told the jailer to bring her back once a week to have the ointment rubbed on her eyes.

Every night he would pray under the dark of night for the sick to be cured. As a

result of his beliefs he was arrested and thrown in jail. The jailer, who could not do a thing to help him, went to see Valentine moments before he was to be executed at which point Valentine asked for a piece of paper and pen. On the piece of paper, he was supposed to have written "from your Valentine" and inside the paper also was a blossom which gave the girl her sight.

The second of the Saints was said to have been a priest also, but, that he was secretly carrying out marriages of young lovers, which under Emperor Claudius II's laws was forbidden, as Claudius did not want the men to get married, because they needed to be able to concentrate on war and not their loved ones.

Which ever story is true, today we celebrate St. Valentine's Day by exchanging gifts such as cards, candy, and flowers. The reason why we celebrate it on February 14th is that this was the day on which it is said that St. Valentine was executed.

The Most Famous of St. Valentine's Symbols

Cupid has always played a role in the celebrations of love and lovers. He is known as a mischievous, winged child, whose arrows who would pierce the hearts of his victims causing them to fall deeply in love. In ancient Greece he was known as Eros the young son of Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty. To the Roman's he was Cupid, and his mother Venus.

One legend tells the story of Cupid and the mortal maiden, Psyche. Venus was jealous of the beauty of Psyche, and ordered Cupid to punish the



mortal. But instead, Cupid fell deeply in love with her. He took her as his wife, but as a mortal she was forbidden to look at him. Psyche was happy until her sisters convinced her to look at Cupid. Cupid punished her by departing. Their lovely castle and gardens vanished with him and Psyche found herself alone in an open field.

As she wandered to find her love, she came upon the temple of Venus. Wishing to destroy her, the goddess of love gave Psyche a series of tasks, each harder and more dangerous than the last. For her last task, Psyche was given a little box and told to take it to the underworld. She was told to get some of the beauty of Proserpine, the wife of Pluto, and put it in the box. During her trip she was given tips on avoiding the dangers of the realm of the dead and also warned not to open the box. Temptation would overcome Psyche and she opened the box. But instead of finding beauty, she found deadly slumber.

Cupid found her lifeless on the ground. He gathered the sleep from her body and put it back in the box. Cupid forgave her, as did Venus. The gods, moved by Psyche's love for Cupid made her a goddess.



Chocolate *sweet heart* cakes for two



Prep
Time:
30
min.

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons cocoa
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 cup water
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon white vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

CHOCOLATE FROSTING

(recipe follows)

1 tube pink decorating icing

Instructions:

- Heat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour 8-inch square baking pan.

In medium bowl, stir together flour, granulated sugar, brown sugar, cocoa, baking soda and salt. Add water, oil, vinegar and vanilla; beat with whisk or spoon until smooth.

Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes; remove from pan to wire rack. Cool completely. Transfer to cutting board. Using 3 1/4 inch heart-shaped

cookie cutter, cut cake into 4 pieces.

Spread CHOCOLATE FROSTING

on top of two pieces; place remaining two hearts on top. Garnish with decorating icing. Makes 2 small cakes

CHOCOLATE FROSTING

1 tablespoon butter or margarine, 2/3 cup powdered sugar, 1 tablespoon cocoa, 2 to 3 teaspoons milk, 1/8 teaspoon vanilla extract. In small microwave-safe bowl, place butter. Microwave at HIGH (100%) 20 seconds or until butter is melted. Stir together powdered sugar and cocoa; add to butter mixture alternately with milk, beating with spoon or whisk until smooth. Stir in vanilla. About 1/3 cup frosting.

How *I love you* is said?

Arabic - *Habibtek, Habibik*
 Arabic - *BelHubbak, BelHubbik*
 Bulgarian - *Obicham te*
 Burmese - *chit pa de*
 Cambodian - *Bon vra lach aon*
 Cambodian - *kh phnom xoro...*
 Latin - *aher, ah*
 Canadian French - *Sh'neur*
 Cantonese - *Moi oiy neiy*
 Cantonese - *Ngo oi ney*
 Croatian - *Ljubi te*
 Danish - *Jeg elsker dig*
 Dutch - *Ik hou van jou*
 Dutch - *Ik ben verliefd op je*
 Filipino - *Mahal ka ta*
 Filipino - *Imbig Kita*
 Finnish - *Mina rakastan sinua*
 French - *Je t'aime*
 French - *Je t'aime*
 Gaelic - *Tu gra agam ort*
 German - *Ich liebe Dich*
 Greek - *e'nyra*
 Greek - (old) (Ego) *philo su*
 Hungarian - *Szeretlek*

Hungarian - *Szeretlek te'ged*
 Indonesian - *Saya cinta padamu*
 Indonesian - *Saya cinta kamu*
 Indonesian - *Saya kasih sayang*
 Iranian - *Maha doostast doh...*
 Irish - *Tuim e' ngra leu*
 Italian - *Ti amo*
 Italian - *Ti voglio bene*
 Japanese - *Kimi o ai shiteru*
 Japanese - *Aishiteru*
 Japanese - *Chuu shiteyo*
 Japanese - *Ore ome mo koto ga...*
 Japanese - *uki da*
 Japanese - *Ore wa ome ga aiki da*
 Japanese - *Saitonnen*
 Japanese - *Sakunnen*
 Japanese - *Sukiyo*
 Japanese - *Watashi wa Anata Ga...*
 Japanese - *Suki Desu*
 Japanese - *Watashi wa Anata Wa...*
 Japanese - *Aishite imasu*
 Japanese - *Watashi wa anata...*
 Japanese - *ni shimasu*

Japanese - *Suki desu*
 Romanian - *Te iubesc*
 Romanian - *Te ador*
 Russian - *Ja vas lubliu*
 Russian - *Ja tebe lubliu*
 Russian - *Ja polubvet e' tebya*
 Russian - *Ja Tibok Lublin*
 Scott Gaelic - *Tha gra'ch agam ort*
 Serbian - *Izabam te*
 Spanish - *Te quiero*
 Spanish - *Te amo*
 Swedish - *Jag a'lskar dig*
 Swiss-German - *Ch ha di ga'ru*
 Thai - *Khao Rak Khao*
 Thai - *Phom Rak Khao*
 Vietnamese - *Em ye'u anh*
 Vietnamese - *Tôi yêu em*
 Vietnamese - *Aish ye'u em*
 Welsh - *Rwy'n dy garu di*
 Welsh - *Yr wyf i'n dy garu di (chwi)*
 Yiddish - *Ich lub dich*
 Yiddish - *Ich han dich lub*
 Yiddish - *Ich Hobe Dich Lub*
 Yugoslavian - *Ja te volim*

TEACHER PROFILE

Mary Black



1. Where were you born?

I was born in the town of Southampton, New York, although when I was very small my family moved to Illinois, so I consider myself an Illinoisan.

2. What was it like growing up in Illinois? What was Illinois like and how has it changed?

Most people associate Illinois with Chicago, but it's actually a very big – I should say long – state; driving from my town to Chicago takes 6 about hours. I am from a university town, called Carbondale, so it was like an oasis amid corn fields and apple orchards and coal mines. My parents, as New Yorkers, were mortified at first with how rural and backwards Southern Illinois was compared to the Big Apple. I remember my mother being horrified that she couldn't get my sister and me white gloves for our Easter dresses! But that has certainly changed. Maybe you still can't find white gloves for girls, but with mass marketing and chain stores and chain restaurants everywhere, "culture" has come to Carbondale.

3. What is Illinois like? If you were planning a trip to your state, what would you recommend visiting?

Illinois has a little of everything. Obviously, Chicago is the big city attraction, but Southern Illinois is actually quite beautiful for nature lovers. There are many national parks and nature reserves within a short drive, with everything ranging from tall cliffs to white-water rafting, and hiking trails to cypress swamps. My town is just a few miles from the Mississippi river, so when people here look confused when I say I'm from "Illinois," I just say "you know, Huckleberry Finn" and they get the picture!

4. Have you always been a teacher?

When I was a university student, I actually studied book binding and conservation. I loved that field but didn't see much of a future in it, so I decide to pursue my other love – languages. I got my Master's in Linguistics and have been working as a teacher and translator ever since, first in the US, then in Japan, and finally here.

5. What do you like best and least about Barcelona?

My answers are the same as every teacher you've interviewed, and probably the same as every single person living in Barcelona! I love the climate, the combination of sea and mountains, and – most importantly for me – the food (and drink – especially cava). But although I live outside Barcelona, I especially love the city itself: the architecture, the shopping, the culture, the fact that it's a city that people really inhabit. Coming from the US, where so many cities are huge sprawls, everything accessible only by car and deserted wastelands at night, I like the fact that you can always find people on the streets in Barcelona. From the moment I got here, I felt that the city was accessible – I could explore it and walk the streets easily without fear. As for what I like the least: crowds and pollution – I think we all agree on that, too.

6. What about your hobbies and interests?

My hobbies are reading, swimming, going to the movies/concerts/theater and drinking cava... well, not really. Well, yes, really! I'm also very domestic; I like to cook (and eat!) and sew quilts. On the other hand, my social side loves getting together with friends and spending the entire afternoon eating, drinking, talking, talking, talking...!

February Activities

9 Wednesday	7:00 PM	FILM CLUB MOBY DICK Directed by John Huston	Theater
10 Thursday	8:00 PM	JUBILEE JAZZ CLUB NAT "KING" COLE Directed by Albert Mallofré	Conference Room
23 Wednesday	7:00 PM	FILM CLUB A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE Directed by Elia Kazan	Theater
24 Thursday	22:00 PM	DINNER IN ENGLISH	Restaurant "El Mussol"
24 Thursday	8:00 PM	FILM Colin James presents THE BLUES MASTERS	Conference Room

Upcoming Activities in March

9 Wednesday	7:00 PM	FILM CLUB THE POSTMAN ALWAYS RINGS TWICE Directed by Tay Garnett	Theater
17 Thursday	22:00 PM	DINNER IN ENGLISH	?

MONTHLY REGULAR EVENTS

Twice a month at 7:00 PM	FILM CLUB in the IEN Theater. American novels turned into Films.
Every two Thursday at 8:00 PM	JUBILEE JAZZ CLUB Concerts and lectures.
Once a month at 10:30 PM	DINNER IN ENGLISH Practice your English in a natural setting while you eat, drink, and socialize with IEN teachers and fellow students!
*Tickets are available at the reception desk (approximately 20.00).	

SPECIAL PRICE FOR IEN STUDENTS!
Alan Berliner's Film Collection

What do you know about the filmmaker, Alan Berliner? 3 Emmy Awards and 12 international film awards for "Nobody's Business", his best-known film.

You'll have a chance to experience his collection, only recently published in Spain by Benecé Productions. The collection includes four works by Berliner in O.V. with optional subtitles in Spanish and Catalan.

You can obtain the films individually or as a collection in a pack.

IEN students can obtain them at a special price of 15€ per film, or 48€ per collection.

The collection includes the following:

Family Album, *Intimate Stranger*, *"Nobody's Business"*, & *"The Sweetest Sound"*.