

# THE INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL STUDY

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# NEWSLETTER

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The NEWSLETTER is sent to all Institute members, as well as colleges and university libraries and other interested scholars. The Institute appreciates all tax-deductible contributions made by non-members who wish to remain on its mailing list.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we move into the fall, many of us refreshed by summer vacations, I hope we are all reinvigorated in pursuing our various historical interests.

The Institute's schedule reflects our usual round of meetings of special interest groups. We will also have the opportunity to meet together for the Annual Dinner, scheduled for November 11. Look for the formal invitation in October.

I'd like to call your attention to the work of the California Council for the Promotion of History (CCPH). The Institute has collaborated with this organization in the past in pursuit of one of our common aims, bringing history to the public outside of the classroom. Institute members may find interesting connections with this group.

Much of the CCHP's membership consists of "public historians," historians not in academic positions, but in museum work, historic preservation, and state agencies with commitments to cultural preservation. This is reflected in the conference of the CCHP, to be held in San Jose, October 26-29, 2006. Among the agencies represented on the program are Caltrans and California State Parks. The program includes sessions on such topics as architectural history, archives, cultural preservation, and archaeology. There will be a special session at the Santa Clara County Archives, featuring its newly hired archivist, **Michael Griffith**, a long-time Institute member.

You can see the program on line at the CCHP's website, ([www.csus.edu/org/ccph](http://www.csus.edu/org/ccph)) and some of our members may be interested in attending the conference, conveniently located in the Bay Area.

*Ellen Huppert*

## WORK-IN-PROGRESS – David Rosen

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### *“Admiral Canaris and the Role of German Counter-Intelligence in WW II”*

David Rosen’s work-in-progress presentation about the life and role of Wilhelm Canaris (1887-1945), German Navy Admiral, WW I hero and spymaster for the Nazis introduced a fascinating subject to his audience. Displaying a fine sense for telling the amazing story of Canaris, who was one of the most inscrutable figures of the Nazi era, David Rosen outlined the stages of his career from being a war hero in WWI to his rise as chief of military intelligence (*Abwehr*) under the Nazis and eventually his execution in the last days of WW II for his role in the plot to assassinate Hitler in 1944.

In 1933, however, Canaris, a fervent anti-communist, greeted the takeover of the Nazis positively, eventually rising to become chief of German counter intelligence and maintaining close ties to members of the Nazi hierarchy. Heinrich Himmler, head of the *Schutzstaffel* (SS), seemed to protect Canaris for self-serving reasons because Canaris may have had damaging information against him. Other high ranking Nazis also held a protective hand over Canaris, among them Field-Marshal Keitel and General Jodl.

From about 1938 on, after the *Anschluss* of Austria, there are indications that Canaris began having second thoughts, particularly since he could see the coming of a two-front war. When war finally did come, Canaris is reported to have said: “This is the end of Western civilization.” Since about the same time, the SS began keeping files on Canaris.

According to David Rosen, Canaris put his neck on the line against Hitler by assisting in four assassination attempts. He exchanged vital information with military intelligence in London and aided the Allies by weakening the defense of France. He also persuaded the *Wehrmacht* that the Allies would land at the *Pas de Calais*, diverting key German forces from the invasion at Normandy. Moreover, in 1940 he personally convinced his old friend General Franco of Spain to stay neutral and not attack Gibraltar, which would have cut a key link to the British Empire.

Canaris considered himself a patriot who was working on behalf of Germany, but against Hitler. To this end, he knowingly committed treason by protecting active military resistance fighters like Hans Oster and Hans von Dohnanyi, both of whom worked for him in the *Abwehr*. Canaris was instrumental in assisting Dohnanyi and Oster in saving Jews, for which the latter two were eventually arrested. Canaris himself helped smuggle a rabbi out of Warsaw. They were playing a dangerous double game that eventually led to their arrest and execution.

After the arrest of his close co-workers in military intelligence, Canaris himself became suspect and was removed from his position in military intelligence. After the assassination attempt on Hitler on July 20, 1944, Canaris was arrested because information found among the conspirators incriminated him. Along with Dietrich Bonhoefer, he was executed in the last days of World War II.

With Bonhoefer, the spiritual father of resistance against Hitler, Canaris belongs among the group of Christians whose ethics put them in the camp of anti-Nazi resistance. They were idealists in contrast to those who opposed the regime for purely opportunistic reasons.

It is now known that Canaris passed knowledge about purges and killings going on in Germany even before World War II to British intelligence. The British were skeptical about information relayed through Canaris’ office. Winston Churchill for one was convinced of Canaris’ important role in passing useful information to the British. John Foster Dulles considered him a courageous and great man. Yet, to this day his role remains somewhat of a riddle.

*Monica Clyde*

*Slavery and the French and Haitian Revolutionists.*

by Anna Julia Cooper.

Edited and translated by Frances Richardson Keller.  
New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.

Waiting for her doctoral dissertation to be read, Frances Keller spent three glorious months in the Regenstein Library at the University of Chicago, browsing in the history stacks and selecting any book that interested her. There she found a slender volume—a doctoral dissertation written in French by an American woman. The subject interested her, but so did the woman herself. This Black American educator and scholar, born in slavery, had lived through Reconstruction, the period that had been the focus of Frances' graduate study. She felt an immediate connection with Anna Julia Cooper.

Little is known about how Cooper, born in 1858, managed to achieve her higher education, but her intellectual gifts must have been recognized early. She attended a school in Raleigh, North Carolina established to educate freed slaves to become teachers of other freed slaves. She is primarily known for her work as an educator at institutions such as the prestigious M Street Colored High School in Washington D.C., where she was principal for many years, and Freylinghuysen University, an adult school that she established in her own home. She died in 1964 at the age of 105. (For more information about Cooper's life, see the Winter 2005 issue of the NEWSLETTER.) Her scholarly work has been relatively unknown here, mainly because it was written in French. Frances's translation of Cooper's dissertation, the greater part of this book, is therefore a significant contribution.

In her introductory essay, "The Perspective of a Black American on Slavery and the French Revolution," Frances states that she believes Cooper brought a unique viewpoint to the study of the colony of San Dominge in the tumultuous years of 1789-1804. Although Cooper was only five when slavery was ended, she experienced first-hand the legacy of slavery in the United States—the institutionalized racism that persisted in the South throughout her adult life. The situation that Cooper

presents is one of complex interrelationships: between revolutionary ideals and pragmatic concerns; between colony and mother country; between competing interests in France; between class and race in San Dominge. It was France's largest, most prosperous colony, producing sugar, coffee and cotton, occupying the western third of the island of Santo Domingo. On the eve of the French Revolution its population was over 550,000, of whom 500,000 were black slaves; a little over 30,000 were whites. These numbers were, however, less significant than the issue of class and caste. Among the white population, there were deep divisions between planters, who were strong royalists even as they campaigned for greater political autonomy, and "petits blancs"—the artisans and shopkeepers whose loyalties would be with the new regime after the Republic was established. Although the great majority of blacks were slaves, there was a significant population of mulattos (the term used by Cooper), many of whom, as landowners and slave owners, were more hated by the slaves than the white slave owners. Throughout the early 1790s, parallel developments in San Dominge, where slave insurrections had begun, and in France, where the Revolution became increasingly radicalized, intensified the debates about abolition. On page 93 Cooper writes: "...each of the happenings of the Revolution had its repercussions on the unfortunate island." Only here, it seems, is she guilty of understatement.

For this new edition of the book, originally published by Mellen Press in 1988, Frances included new photographs of Cooper and a preface that provides non-specialists with background information about slavery, colonization and the history of Haiti—as San Dominge was called after achieving independence in 1804. Because this new edition is clearly intended for a broad readership, and because the dissertation assumes considerable familiarity with the history of the Revolution, it might have helped to include a chronology and perhaps a glossary. For this non-specialist, the insights of the dissertation were well worth some additional delving into history texts.

*Joanne Lafler*

## 2005 GRANT RECIPIENT REPORTS

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Living in Alaska has both an upside and a downside – and I'm not talking about the weather. As a scholar there is a wealth of good stories that have yet to be told; but Alaska is far from the National Archives where the bulk of the historical documents revealing those stories are located. Travel out of Alaska is expensive. Seattle is 2,500 miles away from Anchorage—or \$400 as Alaskans refer to the trip—and then you are only in Seattle. So Alaskan scholars 'gather grants.' We combine a trip to a family reunion with a stopover in Washington D. C. for research at the National Archives along with a layover in San Francisco to use the Bancroft Library and then another layover in Seattle to visit the University of Washington. (Unfortunately there is no scholarly reason for me to go to Honolulu.) In January. I received a \$500 Grant from the Institute which was immediately added to my travel budget to Washington D. C. There was enough for me to spend two more days in Washington which I spent at the National Archives. I was there when the Archives opened and had to be booted off the microfilm machines as the doors were closing for the evening. My primary focus was Alaska during the First World War. During that conflict Alaska was on the front lines because it was the source of canned salmon which was used to feed American troops. The canneries were considered as valuable as munitions factories and the federal government then—like today—went far beyond the bounds of reason and law to ferret out anti-war critics, suspected traitors and union organizers. Having used the FBI index before I went to Washington, I was able to find every file that had a World War I Alaskan connection. The information was astounding. People were investigated because they didn't catch enough halibut, were sloughing off on the job at a bakery or gave legal advice to clients that was accurate and correct but the United States Attorney did not like. The \$500 allowed me to finish the book I had started a decade ago titled *Holding Opinions Your Neighbors do not Share* and for that, I thank the Institute doubly, for I have now completed the research and the book. Now all I have to do is find a publisher. Thanks again for the \$500 Grant.

*Steven Levi.*

I have a thick folder of receipts for some of my research expenses. The Institute's \$500 grant helped with them. That IHS believed in me also helped my credentials. I rented a room in Berkeley for two weeks, where I needed to closely concentrate. I would not go to lunch with Frances Keller, whom I love to go to lunch with, because it would take minutes away from research and getting my records straight. My trip to the Huntington Library gave me insight into Juana's attorney, Henry Wager Halleck, who later became Abraham Lincoln's Chief of Staff. Land Commission records in Sacramento tell many a story, and Monterey County Records has material from Spanish and Mexican eras. Here is a partial list of other archives where I harvested jewels: Contra Costa County, Moraga, San Jose State University, Palo Alto, San Mateo County, Stanford, Archdiocese of San Francisco, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara Hall of Records, Bolinas, Marin County, History San Jose, Mountain View, Portola Valley, Los Altos, Santa Cruz, Half Moon Bay, California Historical Society, San Francisco Public Library, U.S. Geological Survey, and Mormon Centers. I attend conferences and meetings, and have learned much from Los Californianos, whose members are descendants of Juana's comrades. The four peer reviewers for the University of Arizona Press admired my research, but recommended changes in my presentation. I am rewriting based on their suggestions. The book may be out by the end of the year.

*Jeanne Farr McDonnell*

Thanks to a mini-grant from the Institute in the fall of 2005, I was able to move forward at a stately pace to complete the planning for the traveling exhibition of *The Face of Poetry*. This exhibition accompanies my most recent book of the same title, published in December of 2005. *The Face of Poetry* contains forty-six black and white photographic portraits and a selection of poems celebrating contemporary American poetry. The poets represent the extraordinary range and diversity in the work of poets today. Not only does *The Face of Poetry* speak eloquently of poetry, but also about the value

## GROUP REPORTS

of portraiture as an art form, so often taken for granted in our media-saturated culture. The exhibition is now being booked to travel to many audiences in public library, college, museum and university settings. Besides its role as a fine anthology, *The Face of Poetry* serves as the catalog of the show. It not only includes the full-page portraits, the selection of poems and biographies of the poets, but also a foreword by Robert Hass and introductions by me and my co-author, poet and translator Zack Rogow. The show traveled to Middle Tennessee State University in February. I invited poet Aleida Rodriguez to join me there on the first of April for a few days of talks and events. MTSU celebrated both Women's History Month (March) and Poetry Month (April) with the exhibition. On April 14 I participated in a reading from *The Face of Poetry* at Columbia University in New York with Zack Rogow, who edited the book, and poets Mark Doty, Linda McCarriston, Linda Pastan, Sekou Sundiata, Quincy Troupe and Bill Zavatsky. In late April *The Face of Poetry* opened with a poetry reading at The Mechanics Institute Library in San Francisco. They could accommodate only half of the forty-six portraits but they carried it over the summer so it is a wonderful way to have the focus on it in the Bay Area for longer. In the fall the Berkeley Public Library will show a portion of the exhibition and I will give a talk on Saturday September 23 at 3pm. From there, the whole show will be exhibited at Photo Central in Hayward in November and December. For some years now the arts have become a "special needs" part of the society as our overly commercialized culture does not seem to value what cannot be measured in dollars and cents. This is not something new. It is simply a more desperate situation today. For this reason I am especially grateful to the Institute for recognizing the importance of *The Face of Poetry*, as an historical as well as an artistic project. I want to close with special thanks to **Francesca Miller**, who wrote a remarkably insightful review of *The Face of Poetry* in the summer issue of the IHS NEWSLETTER. Her words made me glad to have stayed with this book idea for eight years!

*Margaretta K. Mitchell (Gretta)*

### BIOGRAPHY WRITERS

The Biography Writers met in July and in August. Most members, as usual, forwarded some pages of new work which were commented on by the group. **Ann Harlow's** biography of Albert Bender and Anne Bremer is coming along slowly but steadily, thanks, she says, in part to the group's expectation that something new will be prepared for every meeting. She appreciates all the suggestions and questions from the group, and enjoys sharing new knowledge about San Francisco cultural history with interested readers. **Ethel Herr** reported a July appearance in costume as Juliana von Stolberg, at the Christian Bookseller's Convention in Denver, where she signed copies of her newly released biographical novel, *Dr. Oma: the Healing Wisdom of Juliana von Stolberg*. Later that month she did the same at a writers conference, where they celebrated Juliana's 500th birthday at a party. Ethel and her friend, Ellen Cohen, are still waiting for word on their collaborated manuscript, *Conversations From the Rim of the Box*. At the last two meetings, **Joanne Lafler** presented pages from her chapter "The King and His Kingdom," which concerns Harry Lafler establishing residence—with his third wife, Mary—on his Telegraph Hill property in the years of 1916-23. Among the subjects she covers in this chapter is Lafler's marginal involvement in World War I. She has tried to weave some necessary background information about the war into Lafler's own story. At the July meeting, **Bonda Lewis** reported on her experience at the Santa Barbara Writer's Conference. Bonda's main goal for the next couple of months is to finish a first draft so the story can be started again and rediscovered. **Ellen Huppert** presented Barton S. Taylor's ideas on "The Harmony Between Science and Religion," in which he stated many reasons why modern science presented no challenge to people of faith. The group raised some very useful questions and made suggestions for expansion. Ellen's task now is to use those comments to improve her first draft.

*Ellen Huppert*

# GROUP REPORTS

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## HISTORY-PLAY READERS

As reported in the Summer NEWSLETTER, the history-play readers began reading Bertolt Brecht's *The Life of Edward the Second of England* at the end of June. The group then jumped centuries ahead to read *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*, by Rudolf Besier, the story of the family life and courtship of Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Both twentieth century plays, written scarcely a decade apart, the plays concern two radically different worlds—the reign of the hapless King Edward II in early fourteenth century England and the stifling home ruled by the overbearing patriarch Edward Moulton Barrett in mid-nineteenth century London.

Originally intended to be an adaptation of Christopher Marlowe's Edward II, Brecht's play is largely an original work which premiered in 1924. Edward, who reigned from 1307-27, was a vain and dissolute king who lavished power on his favorite, Gaveston, ignored Parliament's orders for Gaveston to be banished, and was ultimately deposed in favor of his son (who became Edward III) and then murdered.

Besier's *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* first played in the United States in 1930 with Katherine Cornell as the delicate, sickly English poet Elizabeth Barrett. The Barrett family at Number 50 Wimpole Street was held in tyrannical thrall by a despotic, Victorian father, who forbade all of his offspring, male or female, to marry. Elizabeth is, quite literally, swept off of her feet by the dashing poet, Robert Browning, determined to rescue her in which endeavor, as we all know, he succeeded. The play, as a 1934 movie, starred old favorites Norma Shearer, Frederic March and Charles Laughton., and a 1957 remake saw Jennifer Jones as Elizabeth and John Gielgud as the loathsome Edward Mouton Barrett. Katherine Cornell made her first television appearance in the play in 1956.

The play-reading sessions are delightful and the group welcomes all interested parties.

*Edith Piness*

## READERS OF MEDIEVAL HISTORY

On July 8, **Lyn Reese** hosted the members of the group and presented a report on the Italian Maritime Republics—Amalfi, Venice, and Genoa—during their heyday from the 12<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. As seaports, they were ideally situated to become sea-trading powers and each city had its own period of greatest commerce and trade. Amalfi, situated on the Gulf of Salerno in Southern Italy, sent goods from the North to ports around the Mediterranean until its commerce was overtaken by Genoa., located on the Ligurian Sea. Genoa's status as the leading trader in the Mediterranean was eventually overtaken by Venice, which received its big commercial boost from the needs of Crusaders for supplies as well as transportation. Venice's Arsenal, its shipbuilding facility, became Europe's largest commercial enterprise. Throughout these turbulent centuries, these cities were in constant competition with each other. In the major cities with which they traded, such as Constantinople, Alexandria, and Tunis, each republic had an area set aside for them to do business. Lyn illustrated her presentation with slides taken on her various travels to Italy.

Ancient Celtic manuscripts, especially the Book of Kells and the Lindisfarne, were the subjects of **Perri Hale**'s presentation on August 12, Perri doing double duty as presenter and host. Now housed at Trinity College in Dublin and at the British Museum, respectively, these wonderfully illustrated works were the products of monks on isolated islands sometime during the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries. They were written on extremely thin calf vellum, after the original writing was done on wax and an imprint made onto the back of the vellum. A candle was placed behind the stretched vellum, and the letters from the imprint were filled in on the front. The intricate illustrations and exaggerated first letters were added after the lettering was complete. Who these talented artists were is not known, and it is both amazing and fortunate that they have survived and survived in such beautiful condition.

*Lorrie O'Dell*

## NEW MEMBER

The Institute is pleased to welcome **Marilyn Boxer** to its community of scholars. A Professor Emerita from San Francisco State University, Marilyn received her PhD from the University of California, Riverside, and has taught history at various schools as well as working in various university administrations. Her list of publications is extensive and impressive. She is currently working on the history and historiography of the concept of "bourgeois feminism."

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**Tony Silva** has been awarded the 2006 Peterson Prize for his article, "To Overthrow the Enemy: Opposition to the California Workingmen's Party in Sonoma County, 1877-1882," by the Sonoma County Historical Records Commission. According to the citation, copies will be printed and offered for sale at the Sonoma County Recorder/Assessor's Office, the Sonoma County Museum, and other appropriate places in the county. Tony says "I'm afraid of what the \$500 prize will do to my amateur standing."

**Celeste MacLeod** is pleased to announce the publication of her new book, *Multiethnic Australia: Its History and Future* (McFarland Co., 2006). Blending past and present, the book shows why immigration policies changed, the conflicts they caused and the benefits they brought. A book party was hosted for her in Oakland, and she held a reading at Black Oak Books in Berkeley. (A review of Celeste's book will appear in a future issue of the NEWSLETTER.)

**Laura Tarwater-Scharp** reports that she officially received her MA in History from San Jose State University in May. She is doing freelance work with McGraw-Hill Online Learning and doing course writing and fact-checking for some of their online history courses, as well as volunteer work at Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont and the Computer History Museum in Mountain View.

**Autumn Stanley** says "I have some ALMOST good news, but hesitate to send it because I feel like the little boy who cried "wolf." After many years of working on my biography of Charlotte Smith (*More Hell and Fewer Dahlias*), I have nearly finished a first draft. I hope to send it off to the University of Indiana Press, which has asked to see it, next month."

**Maria Sakovich** received a "Scholastic/Authorship Award" from the Conference of California Historical Societies in "recognition for significant historical project or research" for her book *La Nostra Storia: Italian Americans of Richmond*. Also, because of her research on non-Asian immigrants at the Angel Island Immigration Station, she was asked to be part of a Scholars Advisory Group for the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation. (Maria only had to wait 4 years for her work to be acknowledged!)

In October, **Georgia Wright** will be presenting "Neutron Activation Analysis from Sarlat to Jumièges" at a Symposium in Honor of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the International Center of Medieval Art, in connection with her work with the Limestone Sculpture Provenance Project. There will also be a showing of her 1996 film, *Medieval Sculpture and Nuclear Science*.

## NOTES

Due to a variety of scheduling conflicts with many members who expressed great interest but couldn't make that date, the Work-in-Progress presentation on Korean family history by **Hildi Kang** on June 18 will be scheduled again next year.

If you have somehow misplaced recent issues of the NEWSLETTER, **John Rusk** has done a wonderful job of putting them on the Institute's web site, [www.tihs.org](http://www.tihs.org). Besides back copies, there are other good things to see. Check it out!

# CALENDAR

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September 10	Member Potluck with History Bee
September 15	Grant Application Deadline
September 16	California Round Table
September 24	Work-in-Progress – Bonda Lewis
October 22	Work-in-Progress – Richard Perruso
November 11	Annual Membership Dinner
November 19	Work-in-Progress – Mary Emma Harris, NCIS Guest
December 17	Work-in-Progress

Members are encouraged to let us know all their news—a paper being given at a conference; a new job or position; the awarding of a grant or fellowship. Please send all material for the NEWSLETTER either by e-mail to [lorrie@galleyslaves.com](mailto:lorrie@galleyslaves.com) or to the Institute's postal address given below. Also, we welcome the opportunity to review members' newly published books. Contact **Autumn Stanley** at [autumn\\_stanley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:autumn_stanley@sbcglobal.net). The deadline for the next NEWSLETTER is **November 30th**.

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