PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Strengthening our organization and expanding its membership continues to be a major concern of your board. Toward that end we can report a number of developments. In June, Ellen Huppert and I met with Lilian Tsappa of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars and Sam Gusman, president of the San Diego Independent Scholars for a pleasant lunch to exchange ideas about our organizations. We agreed to try to establish regular communications (we called them “Conversations”), using the NCIS Newsletter to explore problems and achievements of our respective organizations. With our first exchange accomplished (see www.ncis.org), we hope that other members of the National Coalition will join in.

On June 23, members of the board and our outreach committee met at the home of Georgia Wright for an overview of present state of TIHS and to consider plans for membership development. Ann Harlow, Ellen Huppert, Joanne Lafler, Cornelia Levine, Liz Nakahara, Maria Sakovich, Georgia Wright, and I attended. Our session was expertly led by Carla Silver of the Santa Fe Leadership Center, who kindly volunteered her services. The discussion proved to be quite fruitful. We began with some individual and organizational history. Long-term members explained why they had formed the Institute in the 1980s and reviewed its development over the years. We noted that the core values of the organization had remained pretty constant. We sought, and still seek, intellectual camaraderie, mutual support, life-long learning in a group of like-minded people devoted to history in the largest sense of the word. Membership in the Institute peaked in the 1980s at about 150 members and has declined to something like 90 members at present. The problems we face now are that the Institute is an aging organization and that the kinds of people who originally founded it, graduate students emerging into a world without jobs, while still in great supply, find other means of connection and support.

Are we still relevant? Our discussants had no doubts about this. We still serve most of our members quite well. Where can we find new members? The general feeling was that we were not

—continued on page 7
The Indefatigable, Irrepressible Albert "Mickey" Bender

Ann Harlow presented her work-in-progress at the home of Ellen Huppert on August 19. Bender was an important early 20th-century collector of art and books and a generous donor to numerous cultural institutions in the Bay Area, including libraries and art museums. He was a founding member and long-term treasurer of the Book Club of California and his gifts and activities laid the groundwork for putting San Francisco on the map as a major center of the book arts. Other Bender donations extended to Ireland, France and New York.

Ann gave us a vivid portrait of this son of a rabbi, born in Ireland, who came to San Francisco as a fifteen-year-old in 1881 to work in an uncle's insurance business. A generous and gregarious person, Bender quickly and easily got connected to the Jewish aristocracy and other elites of San Francisco, founded his own insurance brokerage, and used its proceeds to buy art and nurture friendships.

Bender's interest in art was likely kindled by his close relationship to his cousin Anne M. Bremer, who became a supporter of modern art after studying painting in New York and Paris in 1910-11. The two of them resided in adjoining apartments where they entertained together. One of their friends reported that they were very much in love, but being first cousins made their relationship taboo. Anne died in 1923 of leukemia.

Bender's gifts to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art constituted about 1,100 of its first 1,200 works, and when he died, he left the museum a fund for future purchases, along with more art from his own collection.

He also supported other forms of culture, including music, dance, and photography. A friendship with Ansel Adams, who was Bender's junior by thirty-six years, lasted until Bender's death at seventy-four in 1941 and resulted in the first-ever publication of Ansel Adams' photographs, "Parmelian Prints of the High Sierras," underwritten and promoted by the generous benefactor. The "indefatigable, irrepressible" man of Ann's title blended his Irish and Jewish roots with a huge amount of energy that greatly enriched the cultural and social life of San Francisco.

The discussion following Ann's talk was lively and far-reaching. There were questions about the nature of Bender's education in Dublin and of his religious persuasion and practice on which Ann did not have definitive information, though she told us that Bender underwrote the printing of selections from the Old Testament and that his memorial service was held at Temple Emanu-El. His political persuasion appears to have been left—he may even have been a socialist—but he was not particularly active in politics. We wanted to know more about the nature of the art he collected and learned that it included both European and Asian art. He was a champion of Bay Area artists, like the painter Gottardo Piazzoni and the sculptor Benny Bufano with whom, however, he later had a falling-out. Bender was instrumental in bringing Diego Rivera to paint murals at the Art Institute and elsewhere in San Francisco. He also helped many writers.

Ann will present the final version of this illustrated talk at the Book Club of California centennial symposium in October.

—Cornelia Levine
GROUP REPORTS

Writers Group

The renamed Writers Group welcomed a new member, Judith Taylor, at the August meeting. Judith has published a number of books on horticultural history, with an emphasis on California. She is now working on her fifth book about the lives and work of forgotten flower breeders. Liz Thacker-Estrada asked the group about her “zombie project,” a manuscript of the life of Abigail Fillmore for which she has a contract with a publisher. Since she hasn’t found her editor responsive, she wondered if she could look for a different publisher. The group agreed that she should do so.

Other members of the group shared pages from their current work for comments. Rob Robbins offered new material on Dzhunkovskii’s involvement in politics after the Revolution of 1905. Rob’s summary of the development of representative institutions within Russia was extremely clear and helpful. Liz Nakahara used the experiences of Philip Jones Griffiths to explain the situation of photojournalists in the 1960s, with particular interest in the Vietnam War. Ann Harlow’s Chapter 9 featured events in the Bay Area art scene after the Panama Pacific Exposition in which Anne Bremer played a prominent role. Joanne Lafler reworked part of her chapter on Harry Anderson Lafler’s response to General Funston’s self-glorifying account of his efforts to fight the fire set off by the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco. Lafler and Funston had a bit of a feud over the issue. Ellen Huppert offered a short piece drawn from Lizzie Gurney’s journal account of the fire which destroyed the jail in her home town, Centreville, Michigan, in 1854. The piece is intended to be placed in the local historical museum to supplement a pair of shackles and an iron key which survived the fire.

The group welcomes other members of the Institute to join. Meetings are held the second Sunday of each month. Contact Ellen Huppert at ellenhuppert@gmail.com.

—Ellen Huppert

Medieval Studies Group

In June, Jennifer Bator told the group about The Swerve: How the World Became Modern, by Stephen Greenblatt. Greenblatt’s basic thesis is that in the early 1400s, Poggio Bracciolini, hunting for manuscripts in German and Swiss monasteries after the Council of Constance, found a copy of Lucretius’s poem, “On the Nature of Things,” which had been “lost” for approximately 1,000 years and was thought to have been destroyed. Poggio copied the poem and distributed it among his humanist friends, and Greenblatt posits that the rediscovery changed the course of culture, leading to modernity as we now know it. Along with the discussion of Lucretius’s poem, there are also some worthwhile detours in Greenblatt’s book: the history of book collecting; paper making; libraries and calligraphy.

In July, Lorrie O’Dell reported to the group on Roger Bacon, the 13th-century philosopher and scientist. Although many people have heard of Bacon, little academic study has been done about him or his work for many years. Also, many facts of his life are unclear or contested. He was born about 1220 in Ilchester, England and entered Oxford, at about age thirteen, where he received a master’s degree. About 1245, he began to lecture at the University of Paris where he may (or may not) have received his doctorate. He joined the Franciscan Order ten years later, but he ran into trouble because of his Aristotelian views, and sometime around 1278, he was either imprisoned or placed under house arrest. When finally released, he returned to Oxford where he lived in 1294. His main philosophical work was the Opus Majus, which he wrote at the request of
Pope Clement IV. Bacon is often seen as a modern experimental scientist, but there is little evidence to support this claim.

In August, Georgia Wright joined us to discuss an article she has written in which she challenges one of the standard interpretations of Medieval Cathedral architecture: that the Biblical scenes shown on facades, such as Adam and Eve or the Last Judgment, were to be used to teach the laity about church doctrine. Georgia argues that, generally, many images were so high up and so small that the average parishioner could not really see them. Also, there is no evidence that there was any attempt on the part of the clergy to identify them or use them as a teaching device in their sermons. Georgia sees these works as architectural enhancements to beautify the cathedral and to impress the nobility and other ecclesiastics with their expense.

—Lorrie O'Dell

History-play Readers

During the summer, we read Shakespeare’s play, The Tragedy of King Richard the Second. The first recorded production of the play (first printed in 1597) took place in February 1601.

The historical background: King Richard II, son of Edward, the Black Prince, was born in 1367 during the reign of his grandfather, Edward III. He became heir apparent to the throne after the death, first, of his older brother, and then of his father in 1376. Upon his grandfather’s death the following year, he succeeded to the throne at the age of ten. Rather than a regency, a council under the leadership of Richard’s uncle, John of Gaunt, ruled England. After several years into Richard’s reign, a group of nobles, known as the Lords Appellant, took control. However, Richard finally prevailed and ruled in relative peace for close to a decade. In 1397 he took his revenge, executing or exiling many of the Appellants. He sent the son of John of Gaunt, Bolingbroke, into exile, despite predictions from his court that Bolingbroke would retaliate. When John of Gaunt died, despite continued warnings, Richard seized his land and money to fund a war with Ireland. Bolingbroke secretly returned to England, intent upon usurping the throne.

The action of the play begins in April, 1398 with Richard listening to Bolingbroke, Duke of Norfolk, and Mowbray, Duke of Hereford, accusing each other of treason. Bolingbroke rallies forces against the king, defeating and executing many of those thought to be Richard’s favorites. Aumerle, the son of Gaunt’s brother, the Duke of York, helps Richard to defend his Crown. Richard’s soldiers, when misinformed of his death, disperse. There are revolts as leaders switch sides. Richard flee with Aumerle and encounters Bolingbroke, who forces him to hand over the Crown and name him King Henry IV.

The new king orders Richard to Northern England and his queen to return to her native France. (In reality, she was eleven years old at the time.) Aumerle plots against Henry, but his mother’s plea brings a pardon by the new king. In the play, Richard, now in prison, is murdered by Sir Pierce of Exton, believing this to be King Henry’s wish. When Exton shows Richard’s body to Henry, the king, although he may have wished for Richard’s death, now realizes that the murder will only bring slander down upon him, and he vows, in his final speech of the play, to voyage to the Holy Land to wash away the blood.

Richard II is Shakespeare’s only play written in verse. Richard is a strong, mercurial character, willful and unjust, but his tragic end as portrayed
HISTORY BY OTHER MEANS

by Shakespeare has made him something of a sympathetic character. From the turmoil of his misrule and deposition we find the antecedents of the War of the Roses between Lancaster and York.

At its next meeting, the play readers will read *The Island* by Athol Fugard, a play about political prisoners in South Africa during Apartheid. Those interested in attending please contact Joanne Lafler at jwlafler@gmail.com.

—*Edith Piness*

**Wikipedia as an Outlet for Your Scholarship**

I recently shared with the members of the writing group that I had become a Wikipedian, and they encouraged me to write about it for the Newsletter. Although it’s essentially anonymous, and of course unpaid, I enjoy contributing to Wikipedia because of the instant gratification of seeing my words up on the Web for anyone in the world to find. Every time I edit an article started by someone else or create an article of my own, I’m contributing in some small way to the body of knowledge on a subject. It’s quite easy to do if you’re willing to learn a few formatting codes and guidelines. If your expertise is in a controversial subject, you can get caught up in some pretty acrimonious debate, but for most of us, that’s not likely to be an issue.

If you see an error while reading a Wikipedia article, all you need to do is click on “Edit” and fix it, adding a short summary of what you did. It is preferred that you become a “registered user” and write something about yourself on your own User Page. After you’ve tried editing a few articles, you may want to write some yourself. I first got involved by editing the article on Albert M. Bender and later adding articles on Anne Bremer and Bertha Damon, as well as expanding one on Arthur Upham Pope. This may be diverting me from my book-writing project, but at least it’s a form of publishing, and helps establish that these are notable people.

So I encourage you, too—especially if you’re not driven to produce something for print publication at this point in your life—to consider Wikipedia editing as an enjoyable hobby for anyone who likes to keep learning and helping others to learn about history or any other field of knowledge. Wikipedia itself is full of information about how to contribute. Just enter key words in its search window, such as “Wikipedian” or “Tutorial” (preferably preceded by “WP:”). There are also at least two books on the subject, *Wikipedia: The Missing Manual* and *Sams Teach Yourself Wikipedia in 10 Minutes*. (You can’t learn it quite that fast, but it’s a short book divided into ten-minute lessons.)

The open, collaborative nature of Wikipedia means there will inevitably be some misinformation in it, but it’s self-correcting to a significant degree, and the Wikipedia community has developed high standards for documentation of sources. We scholars can help maintain those standards and help others learn where to find out more about a subject. If you have already published an authoritative book, I think you should at least make sure it is cited in one or more related Wikipedia articles.

—*Ann Harlow*

**Annual Dinner**

Mark your calendar for **Friday, November 9** for our annual dinner, to be held at Redwood Gardens in Berkeley, with an illustrated talk by Judith Taylor “Moving Plants around the World: An Exercise in Historical Geography.”
To the Editor:
I wish to thank the Institute for the opportunity to present my work “France and World War II: The Tourist Perspective During and Since” this past May and Cornelia Levine for her write-up of it in the Summer 2012 Newsletter. Meeting with the group was a most enjoyable experience and the discussion was very helpful. I would like, however, to direct Newsletter readers, and especially any who might wish to follow up with some reading of their own, to a few errors that crept into the article. They are presented in order of appearance in the article.

- The standard term for war-related tourism has become “battlefield” not “battleground” tourism, though logically, there is no reason “battleground” might not be used.
- The purpose of publications such as “What’s Going on in Paris?,” which I believe refers to “Paris Programme,” was not designed to draw tourists away from the German-fortified coasts. Both German and French authorities blocked tourists from visiting the fortified coastal areas. “Paris Programme” was designed, as today’s “Pariscope,” to inform its readers about events in the city.
- The 1918 armistice ending World War I was signed in a railway car in the Rethondes clearing, in a forest near Compiègne. In 1940, the Germans insisted that the new armistice, ending hostilities at least for the time being in World War II, be signed in the same railway car at the same location. It was not brought to Paris but rather to Berlin where German visitors could see it during the war.
- The Memorial de la Shoah [Holocaust Memorial] in Paris was inaugurated in 1956, not the 1960s, and is commonly spelled “Shoah,” not “Shoa.”
- The French Marshal (one, not two l’s) referenced as having a memorial site is Leclerc not Leclere.
- The Musée de la Grande Guerre that opened in 2011 is in Meaux, not Paris. In June I had an opportunity to visit the new museum, which is about an hour away from Paris by train and bus. It is worth a visit for those interested in how World War I is currently portrayed in France.

Statistics on war-related tourism over time can be hard to obtain and equally difficult to assess, because in France they have been collected by different agencies using differing criteria, therefore making comparisons tentative. The figures I showed indicated war-related tourism in all of France to have been 15% of total tourism there in the 1962 “Annuaire Statistique de la France.” This ratio declined to 9% in the “2009 Memento du Tourisme,” whose statistics related to the year 2008. The figure of 38% mentioned in the Newsletter write-up refers to a different image I showed, addressing the Lorraine region only. Given that Lorraine was the site of so many battles over the years, it is not surprising that its ratio of battlefield tourist visits would be higher than that of France as a whole.

- The article’s conclusion of “a decline in interest over time” relates more specifically to World War II sites as the war recedes in time and becomes part of the larger heritage of French military sites that includes locations related to the Roman conquest, Joan of Arc, medieval châteaux, the Vauban fortresses, and the 1870 and 1914-1918 wars, among others.

Again, I thank the Institute for organizing this talk and all the participants for making it most pleasurable and useful.

—Bert Gordon
CONTINUATIONS

President's message continued from page 1

going to reach thirty-somethings, but that there were others whom we could tap. We especially need to look to groups which have history-oriented members who often feel isolated from the field: librarians, archivists, family historians, and the staffs of small museums and local history societies. We felt that a goal of 120 members was possible, and we are seeking ways to get there. As always, word-of-mouth advertisement and individual recruitment are the best means. But approaching target groups is also necessary. Recently board member Kathy O’Connor has volunteered to set up a public meeting with panel discussions with local archivists, that will bring our members and the public up to speed on new acquisitions and research opportunities. We hope that this will take place early in 2013.

Until then, “keep on truckin’.” We all probably know someone who would benefit from membership in the Institute. In that spirit, I offer special thanks to Ann Harlow, Jim Shere, and Ellen Huppert for recruiting most recently Lilian Tsappa, Judith Taylor, and Peter Meyerhof to our ranks!

—Rob Robbins

Book review continued from page 9

anti-Semitism (a recurring theme in the book) prevented Marks from obtaining a position in academe until 1946. He would teach at the University of Connecticut from that time until his retirement in 1978, enjoying the respect and affection of colleagues and students.

While Carol was growing up, her father never discussed his radical political past or his increasing disillusionment with the Communist Party—a second rude awakening—which led to his withdrawal from Party membership at the end of the 1930s. For him this was a dead issue. But seven years after he began teaching at UConn, there came “the knock on the door,” as Carol titles the chapter about his encounter with McCarthyism. Through her father’s personal experiences she illuminates the era that Lillian Hellman called “Scoundrel Time.” Her discussion begins with the investigations of suspected Communists by administrators and faculty at many colleges. (The UConn “Committee of Five” sounds eerily Jacobin.) She reports at length her father’s cooperative testimony before HUAC in 1953. I admire the candor and sensitivity with which she writes about this most painful chapter in his life. Her intention is to understand, not exculpate.

Although I already knew something about the “interesting times” in which Harry Marks lived, in coming to know him through the pages of this book I learned much more.

—Joanne Lafler

MEMBER NEWS

IN MEMORIAM: GRACE LARSEN

Grace H. Larsen, a longtime member of the Institute, died February 18, 2012 at the age of 91. Grace taught history at Holy Names College (now University) and also served as dean of the college. She was always supportive of independent scholars of history and of women in the profession and served as a mentor and model for younger women. This was due in part to her own difficulty in finding a teaching position in the San Francisco Bay Area. She worked for many years as a researcher in the Agricultural Economics department at UC Berkeley before moving to Holy Names. In 1969, Grace suggested to her fellow historians at Holy Names that a west coast organization of women historians, modeled after the Berkshire Conference, would be a good idea. From her idea came the Western Association of Women Historians. She will be missed.

—Ellen Huppert
MEMBER NEWS


In August as part of the Fort Ross Bicentennial at the Presidio Trust and the Sonoma County Museum, Maria Sakovich participated in a panel with her talk “The Chapel at Fort Ross: A Remarkable Social History,” illustrated with forty-four images. She also made a presentation on the Jewish experience at the Angel Island Immigration Station to the Sacramento Jewish Genealogical Society in early September.

Welcome to new members Lilian Tsappa, Judith Taylor, and Peter Meyerhof. Lilian has a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina in comparative literature. Her current interests include: mystical iconography, mystery schools, ancient Greek tragedy and philosophy, Brecht, political philosophy and astrophysics. Originally from Cyprus, she lives in Fremont and looks forward to scholarly collaboration and camaraderie.

Judith and Peter come from medical backgrounds. While still practicing medicine (M.D. from Oxford University), Judith began writing on horticultural history topics. She has published five books, including The Olive in California: History of an Immigrant Tree and The Global Migrations of Ornamental Plants: How the World Got into Your Garden. She has agreed to be the speaker at the Institute’s annual dinner in November. With a Ph.D. in Zoology (University of Toronto) and a D.D.S. (UCSF) Peter still practices dentistry (in Sonoma) but is also particularly interested in the early history of California, especially the transition from Mexican to American rule. His most recent history publication is “Dr. Robert Semple, the Personification of Benicia’s Struggle with San Francisco” in the current issue of The Argonaut.

ANNOUNCEMENT

A Day in the Valley of the Moon:
October 20, 2012

Institute member Jim Shere, executive director of the Glen Ellen Historical Society, together with the Institute’s California Roundtable, has organized what should be a fun and informative outing for us in Jack London country (Glen Ellen, Sonoma County) on Saturday, October 20. In the morning members and guests will gather at 9:30 for a private tour of Jack London State Historic Park, including the Cottage, the farm buildings of the Beauty Ranch, and the museum in the House of Happy Walls (Charmian London’s later home). Linger in this museum full of history or walk (or ride) the short distance to the ruins of Wolf House and Jack London’s grave. At noon we will drive two miles to Jack London Village, a mid-19th-century grist mill complex where the Glen Ellen Historical Society has its office and archives. There we will have a "brown-bag" lunch and further discussion of the history of the area and of the state park, which was threatened with closure and is now managed by the nonprofit Valley of the Moon Natural History Association.

At 2 p.m. there will be a free, public panel presentation at Mayflower Hall (midway between the park and the village). Speakers from the Valley of the Moon Natural History Association and other local experts will talk about their dreams for pursuing Jack London’s vision of a sustainable relationship with the land.

Guests are welcome: Is there a potential member you might invite to join us? Details forthcoming via e-mails.

The famous curse, “May you live in interesting times,” was certainly the fate of Harry Marks. Carol Sicherman’s absorbing study offers readers a unique perspective on those times. Harry Marks was her father, but she has not written a family memoir or a conventional biography. In telling this story her purpose is “to show the impact on an American intellectual of three movements: the rise of Nazism in Germany; Communism as a world phenomenon and, more particularly, its presence in the United States; and the reaction to Communism known in the United States as McCarthyism.” In addition to numerous secondary sources she had access to extensive primary materials, including Marks’s letters and diaries, testimony (his own and others’) before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and interviews.

Born in New York City in 1909, Harry Marks was the grandson of German-Jewish immigrants and the son of a public school educator. His childhood was comfortably middle-class and thoroughly Americanized, unlike that of Yiddish-speaking children whose families had immigrated more recently from Eastern Europe. Despite his “superior pedigree,” Carol writes, he “shared certain Eastern European qualities offensive to WASPS” at Ivy League schools, including lack of social polish and studying hard. In the chapter “Harry’s Harvard,” she discusses anti-Semitism in elite academic institutions and the ways in which enrollment of highly qualified Jewish students was regulated before, during, and after Marks’s years as an undergraduate (1927–31) and graduate student.

Having written his senior thesis on the early history of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD), Marks looked forward to two years of postgraduate study at the University of Berlin. For the shy, somewhat unworlly young man, this was a time of great personal and intellectual growth. That his coming-of-age coincided with the rise of Nazism, and that he was a keen observer of people and events, make the chapters “A Young Scholar in the Old (New) World” and “Germany 1933” especially valuable for historians. Through excerpts from his diary and letters we learn of his love affair with Germany in 1931 and experience his first “rude awakening”—the troubled election year of 1932, Hitler’s appointment as chancellor in January 1933, crackdowns on dissent, and the purging of Jews, Communists, and socialists from public employment, including universities. By September 1933, when Marks left Germany, many Jews, including relatives and close friends, had begun the exodus that would impoverish German professional, intellectual, and cultural life.

Upon his return to Harvard, Marks prepared to work on his doctoral dissertation, but he was also caught up in left-wing politics. For him, as for many idealists of the period, the Communist Party represented a bulwark against fascism and militarism. In 1934 he joined a Communist youth organization, the National Student League. The chapter “Harry and the Communists” focuses on his NSL activities and on the peace strikes that attracted both Communist and non-Communist students across the country. Harry also fell in love with Sarah (Bunny) Frager, whom he married in 1935. Bunny was an equally ardent radical, but when she became pregnant she urged Harry to complete his doctoral work. His “gargantuan dissertation staggered to the end of its two volumes” in the spring of 1937, just in time for Carol’s birth.

Although he obtained a prestigious PhD and had excellent recommendations, home-grown —continued on page 7
CALENDAR

October 6       Board meeting
October 20      Tour and meeting: Jack London State Park and Glen Ellen Historical Society
October 21      Work in Progress: David Chadwick
November 9      Annual dinner

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 msakovich@juno.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.

The deadline for the next NEWSLETTER is November 30, 2012.

The NEWSLETTER is the official publication of the Institute for Historical Study, a scholarly organization designed to promote the research, writing, and public discussion of history. Membership in the Institute is open to independent and academically affiliated scholars who are in agreement with its aims and who have a commitment to historical study. Membership inquiries should be sent to the Institute address.