

THE INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL STUDY

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NEWSLETTER

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The NEWSLETTER is sent to all its 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 our mailing list.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have acquiesced to Lorrie O'Dell's impassioned plea and agreed to be president for one more year. Thanks to all of you who have said "yes" to filling the Institute's needs during the past year. That, combined with Lorrie's strong support, certainly makes being president of this organization a congenial and painless task.

Thank you also for your kind response to the presentation of *In Their Own Words* at the annual dinner meeting in November. And a very special thanks to Bonda Lewis for her professional interpretation of the reading. Obviously, my favorite part of researching local history is interviewing people.

Those of you who could not attend our annual membership meeting in February missed informative presentations lightened with humor by three new members of the Institute-- Ann Harlow, JulieTaddeo, and Richard Perruso. Please welcome them as well as old-timers Perri Hale, Ellen Huppert, Margaretta Mitchell, and Edee Piness, who have volunteered to be new members of the board. Also, remember to thank the outgoing board members--Monica Clyde, Oscar Berland, and Mike Griffith.

Thank you, Marian Kassovic, for all your hard work to make our events at Presentation Park so successful. Surely, that is not included in the purview of bookkeeper, so we need to thank you especially for your efforts. Thank you, Georgia Wright, for the years you have organized our works-in-progress.

Well, I'm sure that I left out someone in my thank-you saga. Whomever I missed--thank you on behalf of the Institute!

Anne M. Homan

PROGRAMS

ANNUAL DINNER

Braving heavy rains and winds, on Saturday evening, November 8th, Institute members and friends gathered at the Ginn House in Preservation Park in Oakland for our annual dinner meeting. The evening started with a no-host wine bar, tended by Bob O'Dell and Chuck Reese, an activity that has netted the Institute a small profit for it coffers each year. A buffet dinner, with animated and convivial conversation, followed.

The lights were then dimmed, and Anne Homan, Bonda Lewis, and Don DeFremery presented *In Their Own Words: The Story of the Morgan Territory Road*, based on Anne's book of the same name. Listeners were taken on a trip down the Morgan Territory Road in the hills of Contra Costa County, stopping along the way at the various places where there were settlements, from the time of the Volvon Indians to the newest residents. At each stop, the words of the people depicted were read by Bonda Lewis and Don DeFremery. These words were gleaned either from letters and diaries or from interviews conducted by Anne when working on her book. The presentation was highlighted by beautiful slides (taken by Anne's husband Don) -- pictures of the various residents, past and present, of the fauna and the landscape, and of the buildings that are part of the story.

Praise for the presentation was shown by the fervor of the applause, and the comments from many of those who attended.

FILM DISCUSSION

Although attendance was small, a pleasant afternoon was spent at Jules Becker's home discussing the historical aspects of the recent film, *Cold Mountain*. Set in the Carolina mountains toward the end of the Civil War, the story lent itself to a variety of opinions regarding its depiction of that turbulent time.

JEANNE MCDONNELL

The Institute owes the San Francisco Public Library many thanks for the use of its hall. As we have done in earlier years, the Institute sponsored a talk on early Wednesday evening, November 19th: Jeanne McDonnell presented *San Francisco Cultural Geography: The Case of Juana Briones-1812-1850*.

Helped by a PowerPoint presentation done by her husband Eugene, Jeanne used the life of Juana Briones to illustrate the growth of the peninsula from a military fort and settlement, to a Franciscan Mission, to a town called Yerba Buena, and ultimately to the city of San Francisco.

Juana Briones moved north from Mexico to the San Francisco Presidio with her father in 1812. At this time, the majority of the people living in the area were Indians, from whom she learned much about the local plants and herbs. In 1820, she married Apolinario Miranda at which time she may have moved to the area known as *Ojo de Aqua Figueroa*, right on the edge of the Presidio. In 1836, she separated from her husband (for reasons unknown), and built the first house in the Yerba Buena Pueblo on a cove (known as Juana's Cove), an area that is near Washington Square in North Beach.

A shrewd businesswoman, Juana bought property in her own name in Yerba Buena, and she also owned a residence in the San Francisco Mission, where her daughter lived for a time. Eventually she bought land on the Peninsula, and by the time California became a state in 1850, she had moved south to that property and lived there until her death in 1889.

Jeanne's presentation was a wonderful illustration of how using the story of one individual can demonstrate the changing patterns of life during an interesting period of local history.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The twenty-fourth annual meeting of The Institute for Historical Study was held at the Ginn House in Oakland on February 28th. Over thirty members attended. The meeting was called to order by president Anne Homan at 10:35. First on the agenda were committee reports.

Lorrie O'Dell reported that we have about 120 members; dues renewals will continue to come in through the end of March. She introduced the new members who were present: Richard Perruso, Ann Harlow, Julie Anne Taddeo and Alice Tobriner.

Wearing her (outgoing) program committee hat, Lorrie O'Dell reviewed activities of the year. The 2003 meeting was held, as required in our bylaws, on the last Saturday in February. The annual "Bastille Day" picnic was held in July in Briones Park, with the customary "history bee" that included— for the first time— pictorial questions. The membership potluck, a purely social event, was held in September at the home of Jeanne McDonnell. The annual dinner, which combined socializing with an after-dinner presentation by Anne Homan, was held in Oakland in November. (See PROGRAMS)

Lorrie reported that there were fewer work-in-progress meetings than usual during the past year, due in part to increased activities of the study groups. Presenters of works-in-progress included Ross Maxwell, on moral choices; Richard Herr, on American historians of Spain; Laura Tarwater, on the history of the San Jose light tower; Joanne Lafler, on her biographical subject's bicycle journey in 1900, and Georgia Wright, on new information about her biographical subject, a diarist during the French Revolution. The Institute also revived one of its activities of the past: discussion of a recent historical film, *Cold Mountain*.

Edee Piness reviewed the plays read by the history play-reading group, including two by Friedrich Schiller: *Don Carlos* and *The Wallenstein Trilogy*— the former about the son of Philip II of Spain, the latter about Albrecht von Wallenstein, a general during the Thirty Years War. The group also read

Christopher Marlowe's *Massacre of Paris*, which treats the fifteenth-century St. Bartholomew's Day massacre and the assassination of Henri III; Timberlake Wertenbaker's *Our Country's Good*, set in 1789 in the new penal colony in Australia, where convicts perform a popular English comedy; and Seldon Rodman's *The Revolutionists*, about the revolt against French rule under the leadership of Toussaint L'Ouverture, a subject that proved unexpectedly topical. They will begin *Richard II* by William Shakespeare at the next meeting.

Standing in for Autumn Stanley, Joanne Lafler reported on the biography group, where members present excerpts of their current writing for comment and discussion. Since the group now has over ten members, it was decided to disseminate new work via e-mail so it can be read before the meetings, which can then be devoted to discussion. Although the specific biographical subjects are quite varied, the problems of bringing them to life on the page are common to everyone and the discussions have been very helpful— as is the incentive to write.

Jules Becker reported on the California Round Table. The group, in existence for a number of years, began by having quarterly meetings at which members shared their current work. However, membership has declined and the group stopped meeting for a while, but the plan is to start up again this September. Over the next six months, they will be searching out IHS members who are working on the history of California and the west, hoping to create a viable group. If you're a historian in one of those fields, Uncle Jules Wants You!

Lorrie O'Dell noted that the medieval group is also going through a period of re-adjustment. It has a core of about six members who started out by reading original sources but ran into problems of availability. Recently, the group has been studying topics chronologically, starting with the reign of Charlemagne. Lorrie welcomes suggestions about subjects and methodologies and invites new members.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (2)

Before the report on the NEWSLETTER, Anne Homan thanked outgoing editor, Peter Browning, for his dedication and fine work over more than a dozen years. Monica Clyde announced Lorrie O'Dell as the new editor and that the editorial committee, consisting of herself, Oscar Berland and Joanne Lafler, will consult on each issue before it goes to press. Be prepared for changes in format.

Michael Griffith gave the treasurer's report, noting that since the Institute's fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31, the figures he presented are incomplete. A fund-raising letter that was sent at the end of 2003 was very successful, yielding \$1180 in donations. (Additional donations came in with the dues renewal.) For the year 2003, our investments earned approximately \$400 in dividends, and the current balance in our mutual fund of \$16,473 reflects an increased value of \$2481 over the previous year. Dues are coming in nicely but have not caught up with expenses yet. Total assets as of January 1 are approximately \$24,000, with an income operating account of approximately \$12,500. The report for the fiscal year will be mailed to members after March 31.

Outgoing Board members Michael Griffith, Oscar Berland and Monica Clyde were honored for their service, after which elections were held. All of the candidates for the Board - Perri Hale, Ellen Huppert, Gretta Mitchell, Edee Piness - and for the nominating committee - Judith Albert, Ann Harlow, Jeanne McDonnell, Wolfgang Rosenberg, John Rusk - were elected unanimously.

Under "new business" there was a lively discussion about increasing membership. New members told how they heard about us: some through friends, others through Internet searches that led to our website (www.tihs.org). Anne Homan expressed thanks to John Rusk, keeper of the Institute website. New member Julie Taddeo spoke about a website, www.beyondacademe.com, of which she is a co-creator. The site provides information about job searching "outside of the box" for people with higher degrees in history who are not working in academe.

The business meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. After lunch there were presentations by three new members, who discussed their work.

In "*A.M.B. and A.M.B.: Pioneers of Art and Literature in Early 20th Century San Francisco*," art historian **Ann Harlow** discussed her research for a dual biography of Albert M. Bender and Anne M. Bremer, first cousins and intimate friends who figured prominently in early 20th century San Francisco's literary and artistic life. In one sense they were an "odd couple." She was tall and reserved, a sensitive artist and poet. He was short and gregarious, so beloved in the community that all 3000 people at his memorial service in 1941 considered him their best friend!

Bremer studied painting with tonalist Arthur Mathews at California School of Design (now San Francisco Art Institute). Seeing a small Cezanne and a Matisse at a private home inspired her to study art in Paris. There, at the homes of the Stein family (Gertrude and her brother Michael), she was exposed to new work by Picasso and the Fauves. Her own art, after her return to San Francisco, was considered very advanced.

Dublin-born Bender, the son of an Irish rabbi, was brought to San Francisco by Bremer's father and became a successful insurance broker. Not an artist himself, he became an early collector of Asian art and, through Bremer's influence, a collector and patron of California artists and writers. Instrumental in the establishment of the San Francisco Museum of Art, he also donated works from his private collection, which formed the nucleus of the museum's first holdings. After Bremer's untimely death in 1923, Bender established a memorial library and scholarship in her name at the San Francisco Art Institute. Ann showed slides of Bremer's paintings, mostly from the Mills College collection. She is organizing an exhibition of Bremer's work that will open at the Monterey Museum of Art in January 2007 and travel to other museums.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (3)

Although the subject of "miserable persons" would not seem side-splittingly funny, **Richard Perruso**, trained as a lawyer and medievalist, brought a light touch to his presentation, *Legal Privilege for Widows, Orphans, and other 'Miserable Persons' in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Europe*. The issue was serious enough when it was first raised during Constantine's reign: namely, how widows, orphans, those chronically weak by sickness, and other "miserable persons" could defend themselves against lawsuits in the Emperor's Court if it meant traveling long distances to Constantinople. The privilege granted by Constantine permitted persons thus characterized to have cases brought against them in the district where they lived.

But law, as we know, evolves. For some centuries, after most defendants were given the right to answer charges in their own districts, this special privilege fell into disuse. By the late Middle Ages, however, it began to be revived and enlarged. "Choice of forum" was an important addition, whereby "miserable persons," under certain circumstances, could choose to defend themselves (or to bring cases) in ecclesiastical rather than secular courts. Moreover, a case lost before a secular court might be appealed to an ecclesiastical judge. In the Kingdom of Sicily, and later in Spain, a third choice became available: being heard in the Magna Curia, the high court. "Forum shopping" for the court that seemed most amenable to one's circumstances inevitably followed.

Here's where the humor enters. When such privileges are granted to "miserable persons," wouldn't everyone want to be miserable? And, indeed, the meaning of the term expanded over the decades, interpreting "widow" to mean not only women whose husbands were dead but those whose husbands were "inutile" (useless). "Other miserable persons" came to include "virgins, clerics, churches, universities, prisoners, peasants, merchants, the elderly"—and by the seventeenth-century, "the insane, the greedy, drunkards, the possessed, those condemned to the galleys and those blinded by love." As one can imagine, strategies to declare oneself "miserable" proliferated. The extension of

this privilege to so many people—some of whom "before seeking legal advice may not have been conscious of their own misery"—eventually served to undermine its effectiveness.

Twentieth century obsession with Victorian history and culture was the subject of **Julie Anne Taddeo's** *Nostalgia in Catherine Cookson Country*. Julie, a scholar of Victorian social history, remarked that although Cookson regarded her novels as social history in historical settings, historians have paid little attention to them. She argues that Cookson's work transcends the "romance fiction" category, and she is interested in the readers of the novels as well as the novels themselves.

Set in nineteenth-century Newcastle-on-Tyne, the books are a blend of careful historical detail, uplifting messages, and nostalgia for the "ordered" world we see on so many PBS "Masterpiece Theatre" offerings. Cookson drew upon her own childhood in the Tyneside slums. Her life, says Julie, "reads like a Victorian novel that was based on fact." And just as Cookson worked hard, succeeded in improving herself, lost her "Geordie" accent and made a "good" marriage, her books stress the importance of ambition and pluck. Yet, characters who rise out of misery tend to do so only to a limited extent: they "know their place" in society.

Writing when vestiges of Victorian Newcastle were still visible, Cookson brought that aspect of the city's history so vividly to life that an entire "heritage industry" resulted. She is credited with reviving the Tyneside economy in the 1980s. If you go there today, you can visit a Cookson museum. Different generations of readers have read her for different reasons, Julie notes. When her work first began to be published in the 1950s, her chiefly female readership was responding to the changes wrought by WW II. Younger readers are attracted by nostalgia for "Cookson Country," so foreign to their own world.

These fine presentations by our new members were a perfect note on which to end the meeting.

WORK-IN-PROGRESS – JOANNE LAFLER

On January 18, Institute members met at the home of Ellen and Peter Huppert to hear Joanne Lafler discuss the bicycle journey of Harry Lafler (the subject of her current biographical project) from Pocatello, Idaho to Portland in 1900, and her own experiences retracing that journey with her husband by car in 2003. She began by reading the opening passage of an article she expects to publish in the journal of the Oregon Historical Society, based on a letter Harry wrote to his family from Portland upon his arrival in October.

"His name was Henry Anderson Lafler. Twenty-two years old, tall, strong and brimming with energy, he had spent the preceding month traveling by bicycle from Payette, on the Idaho side of the Snake River, to The Dalles, where he boarded a steamer to Portland. The letter details his experiences in eastern and central Oregon, a countryside at once familiar and exotic to a farmer's son from upstate New York."

The reason for Harry's trip is not known. Joanne strongly suspects that he was out for adventures in travel and writing, and that he may have considered this a last fling before getting married to a Crete, Nebraska librarian whom he had met a few years earlier. The contrasts between Harry's travel of probably forty miles a day, carrying an extensive repair kit, changes of clothing, etc. on his "wheel," and the progress made by the Laflers in a modern automobile on paved and marked roads, was revealing. The modern travelers had maps, service stations and motels. Harry accomplished his journey with considerably different equipment than maps and service stations.

Joanne surmised that Harry had probably put himself and his bicycle on the train during parts of the journey, but because he did not leave a day-to-day journal, Joanne, looking for help with time and distance estimations, encountered a website for cycling history where she found a similar journey done by William Henry Sheneman five years earlier, which helped estimate times and distances.

Also, a strange envelope, sans letter, that Harry had saved, was sent from Harry's family in NY, and addressed to him in Denver; it had then been forwarded to Cheyenne, Wyoming, Laramie, Rawlins and Rock Springs, then on to Blackfoot Idaho, finally catching up with him in Pocatello. The envelope suggests that his bicycle journey had actually begun in Denver, and that he stopped to check his mail along the way. Her audience, trained well by current postal practice, was astounded that all this forwarding had taken place between the 21st and 28th of June.

Joanne accompanied her presentation with photographs, and it was wonderfully imaginative to compare the journeys then and now. Photographs of current conditions along the path Harry rode were a confirmation that in many respects the land is unchanged, still gloriously beautiful and fruitful. But rural eastern Oregon is much changed by history— the decline of rural America. Joanne discovered that the thriving communities through which Harry passed in 1900 are now much smaller— some essentially ghost towns. The presentation gave us a sense of history within the landscape— and a wonderful portrait of Harry, youth and adventure personified, making his way west.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

On Tuesday, December 9th, Paul C. Trimble formally donated his collection of photos and negatives, taken between the years 1896-1991, of San Francisco's newspaper pressrooms and activities of the San Francisco Web Pressmen & Prepress Workers' Union No. 4 to the Labor Archives and Research Center of San Francisco State University. The collection contains more than 350 images, a write-up about each one, as many identifications of people as memory will permit, and interesting anecdotes about the men who "got the papers out."

Paul's next project will be to catalogue his collection of memorabilia of the Web Pressmen's Union, which will include strike bulletins, badges, apprentice correspondence courses, collective bargaining agreements, pressroom rosters, and other items pertaining to the Union's rich history. When completed, this collection will also be made available to the Labor Archives and research center for preservation. These two collections, taken together with his as-yet unpublished history of the union, will comprise perhaps the most complete history of any labor union in San Francisco during the past century.

NEW MEMBERS

Richard R. Perruso is a "recovering" lawyer who has changed focus to the study of medieval law. At present, he is a visiting scholar at Boalt Hall School of Law, UC Berkeley. His current work is on the treatment of *personae miserabiles* under Roman and canon law (See ANNUAL MEETING report.)

Alice Tobriner is a historian of Tudor-Stuart England, with many years of teaching experience and a wealth of publications. Her latest project is *Growing Old 400 Years Ago: The English Experience*, a manuscript which she is looking soon to publish.

Joanna Menezes is an art historian with an interest in early American art, particularly narrative history paintings and how they have constructed the stories of American history. Joanna is also the curator of the works of Betty Long Rader, a San Francisco artist who died in 1998. Rader's work has been shown in Oakland, the World Trade Club in San Francisco, and in Stinson Beach.

HETCH-HETCHY RETREAT

We finally got to go to Hetch-Hetchy in September after a Code Orange had cancelled our visit in May. Henry Cohen, doing service on a grand jury, had discovered that non-profit groups could use a large cabin near the dam for free—some odd kind of reward for belonging to a do-good organization, even if most of the good is done for its members. Hetch-Hetchy, north of Yosemite, was once a grand valley like Yosemite, but San Francisco needed a reservoir, and so the dam was built and the valley filled. The dam is an awesome sight, holding back the vast waters of the Tuolumne River and shooting them out in a giant column at the bottom.

Twelve of us came up, loaded with food, on a Friday and staked claims to the beds and bunks, made dinner, and settled in. On Saturday we walked across the dam and on a narrow path by the lake. The weather was perfect, the mosquitoes in hibernation, the cliffs properly towering, and the waterfall considerably falling.

Monica and Georgia noted a historic marker on Route 120 at Knights Ferry where they visited a covered bridge, built in 1863 after an earlier one had washed out. Bridges were covered in order to preserve the wooden roadway from rain and rot. (Indeed, why had that not leapt to mind?) The bridge led to Tulloch's Mill, converted later into an electrical generating plant, and after that into a jail. Of dressed sandstone, brick, and fieldstone, the remnants were very pleasing to the eye. What a treat, a covered bridge on the Stanislaus River!

GROUP REPORTS

BIOGRAPHY WRITERS

The biography writers group continues to meet about every six weeks and continues its mission, which is to share and discuss the members' recent writing and discuss general problems, challenges, etc. Over the past few months there have been some new developments. Bonda Lewis presented the opening pages of her fictionalized biography of children sent to Nebraska on an "orphan train" in 1912. Her challenge is to present the historical material she has gathered in a way that will appeal to young readers, and we agreed that with "The Train to Holdredge," describing the journey from New York, she has made an excellent start.

Ethel Herr completed the manuscript of her fictionalized biography of the mother of William of Orange— *Dr. Oma: The Healing Wisdom of Countess Juliana von Stolberg*— and sent it off to her publisher. ("Oma," which is German for "grandmother," is what the novel's young heroine calls Juliana.) Ethel has embarked on a new project, autobiographical and collaborative, which takes the form of a dialogue between a secular Jew and a Protestant Christian in search of common ground on which to build a friendship. At recent meetings she talked about how she is organizing and presenting this material, which is unique in a number of respects.

For the last two meetings, we have experimented with sharing material by e-mail before we meet, allowing more time for discussion at the meeting itself. This seems to be working very well. Members are encouraged to attend meetings even if they don't have new writing to share. The group continues to grow, which is most encouraging. For information about meeting times and dates, e-mail jwlafler@ix.netcom.com

HISTORY PLAY READERS

In the last NEWSLETTER Joanne Lafler noted that the Play Reading Group began the Schiller trilogy *Wallenstein* about the life of Albrecht von Wallenstein, the Duke of Friedland. At the time of publication we had completed *Wallenstein's Camp*, and were reading *The Piccolomini*. Since then we have read *Wallenstein's Death*, finishing the play. It took several months to do so, partly because of the length, but largely due to the animated discussions as to Schiller's interpretation of historical events and the dynastic and religious struggles in the course of the Thirty Years War. Although Schiller had written a history of the Thirty Years War, in the plays he adds non-historical characters as well as a love story. Much time was devoted at our meetings to analyzing the character, ambition, rivalries and ultimate fall of Wallenstein.

Schiller treats Wallenstein as a tragic hero. We view him through the lens of German romanticism of the late 18th century. Wallenstein had an extraordinary career, an enormous income, great power and, at least for a time, a devoted following. Born in Bohemia, a convert to Catholicism, he was ambitious, successful, misguided, overreaching. Did he betray the Emperor? Did his quarrels with the Church result in his fall? Did he have a sense of a united Germany, or was Schiller simply projecting his own perceptions? These are questions with which we wrestled, frequently with no conclusions as there is little historical certainty about the motives for his conduct. He was murdered in 1634, at the age of fifty. His ambition produced both his greatness and his ultimate ruin.

The group will begin to read William Shakespeare's *Richard II* at its next meeting. For information about meeting times and places, please contact Lorrie O'Dell at lorrie@galleyslaves.com.

GROUP REPORTS

MEDIEVAL STUDY GROUP

Continuing our search for answers as to how medieval society developed, the November meeting of the Medieval Study Group focused on how land-use patterns came into being, and how this affected the social, economic and political relations of the various social groups. We relied heavily on the work of Marc Bloch, the French historian who, as a member of the *Annales* School, wrote works on feudal society that remained the definitive studies of the field for decades.

In December, we discussed the everyday workings of a manor, the various divisions of labor and the responsibilities of each definable group. Legal status was also discussed, and we tried to determine the difference between a free man and a serf, between a bondsman and a servant. Our reading highlighted the conclusion that social stratification was not the simple pyramid often taught in history classes. Serfs could control large areas of land, and free men could live in poverty; a bondman could be a high official of a lord while a free servant could simply work in the manor's kitchen.

Unfortunately, illnesses and other commitments led to the cancellation of our next meeting, and we decided to gather at the Annual Membership Meeting in February to chart our next course. After some discussion, a regular meeting date was set (the fourth Saturday of each month). Instead of assigning a different discussion topic for each session and each member choosing their own reading, we decided to return to a previous format. At each meeting, a member will do a presentation on a topic of his or her choosing, with general discussion to follow. Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 27th, when John Rusk will make a presentation on medieval commerce.

For information about the Medieval Study group and its future meeting schedule, contact Lorrie O'Dell at lorrie@galleyslaves.com.

CALIFORNIA ROUND TABLE

The California Round Table is slowly, and perhaps not so slowly, disappearing, because of illness of some of the participants and lack of interest among others. But Peter, Masha, Jose, and Jules have decided to give it one more try, and we are planning to contact all Institute members whose field is California history, or the history of the American West, to determine whether there is any desire to keep the Round Table alive.

The next, and could-be final, meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 18, at a site and time to be announced via e-mail in August. At past meetings of the Round Table we have exchanged information on what we are working on, and we have also had papers delivered on topics in the field. But we are certainly open to any other format that sounds attractive and/or challenging.

Jules Becker will try to contact all Institute members working in California or Western history between now and Labor Day to do a bit of proselytizing about September 18. We believe there is still much value in the Round Table for our members, but we could be wrong.

EDITOR'S NOTE

As I work to finalize this, my first edition as Editor of the Institute's NEWSLETTER, I am immensely impressed by the time, skill, and dedication of the previous editors: Peter Browning, Elaine Rosenthal, Monica Clyde, and Joanne Lafler. The Editorial Committee has helped design this new format, and we hope this deviation from its historic style meets with your approval.

All the information in this publication comes from Institute members. We are most pleased to consider any contribution you would like to make to enhance it contents. -- Lorrie O'Dell

CALENDAR

- March 21 Sally Wages will present her work on English Gardens in History
April 25 Annual Membership Potluck Dinner, a social event where members
meet, visit and exchange ideas over food and drink.
May 16 Work-in-Progress – Maria Sakovich
June 20 Work-in-Progress – Mike Griffith
July 11 Membership Picnic with Annual “History Bee”

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 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_dave@compuserve.com. The deadline for the next NEWSLETTER is **MAY 31st**.

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 given below.

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