

THE INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL STUDY

VOLUME 29, NO. 4, SPRING 2010

NEWSLETTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ann Harlow President
Richard Herr Vice-President
John Rusk Secretary
Cornelia Levine Treasurer
Jules Becker
Mike Griffith
Bill Issel
Georgia Wright
Nancy Zinn

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Lorrie O'Dell
ASSISTANT EDITOR Joanne Lafler
BOOK REVIEW EDITOR Autumn Stanley

Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 5743
Berkeley, CA 94705

www.tihs.org

THE INSTITUTE is affiliated with the **National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS)**, the **American Historical Association (AHA)**, and the **National Coalition for History (NCH)**.

The NEWSLETTER is sent to all Institute members, as well as college 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 I began my second year on the Institute's board at the annual meeting, my fellow board members elected me president for 2010-11. I am one of the newer members of the Institute, having joined "only" about seven years ago. The time has flown, as I've enjoyed getting to know quite a few of you through the California Roundtable, the Biography Writers Group, and numerous events for the membership at large.

At the annual meeting I had a chance to learn about the institute's history. Most of the original members remain active thirty years on, and many have done a great deal of service for the organization. I want to acknowledge **Lorrie O'Dell** in particular for her dedicated work as newsletter editor for the past six years, coordinator of Works in Progress, and the person who sends out frequent informative e-mails.

Also deserving thanks are outgoing board members **Peter Mellini** and **Patricia Swensen** and new board members **Bill Issel** and **Georgia Wright**. **Maria Sakovich**, our managing secretary, keeps track of memberships, income and expenses, does mailings, and is trying out the job of newsletter editor with this issue. We really appreciate her.

We are also deeply indebted to **John Rusk** for creating the web site and managing it for years. A group of us, including John, met recently to talk about how we might update the website. It doesn't have to be elaborate. Is there anyone out there who could take on this task?

It's high time we had another "seminar" series for our members. Please talk to **Georgia Wright**, our new program chair, for more information about developing a seminar and, perhaps, related public events.

Finally, a reminder: You can apply for grants using the Institute as your non-profit fiscal agent. Ask Georgia!

You are welcome to e-mail me, annharlow@pacbell.net, with suggestions for the Institute's website, programs, or social events. I hope to see many of you soon.

Ann Harlow

WORK-IN-PROGRESS – Richard Robbins

Guest at the Banquet: A Russian Life in Peace, War, Revolution and Terror,
a biography of
Vladimir Dzhunkovskii, (1865-1938).

A small group braved the rain to meet at **Ellen Hubert**'s house on January 17 to hear **Richard Robbins** discuss the progress of his book, *Guest at the Banquet: A Russian Life in Peace, War, Revolution and Terror*, a biography of Vladimir Dzhunkovskii (1865-1938). Richard told us that the "banquet" was Russian history, and Dzhunkovskii served as its guest, being both witness and participant in these tumultuous times.

Richard feels that writing a biography of a relative unknown official affords a different angle when presenting Russian history. Although little known, Dzhunkovskii was positioned to become part of the key changes occurring in Russian society. As part of the elite, Dzhunkovskii joined the military, becoming a general. He headed police security at the court of Nicholas II; later he was head of internal security for the entire Russian empire. It was his stint starting in 1905 as governor of Moscow, however, that best reveals his likable personality and political smarts.

It seems that Dzhunkovskii was basically a good man who was extremely popular and involved in all civic affairs. This held him in good stead when, during future imprisonments, Moscovites of all classes again and again came out in support of him, thus gaining his pardons. Dzhunkovskii's experiences placed him at the front in World War I, and he witnessed the important trials in the 1920s. He was arrested but eventually pardoned by the Bolsheviks, and became consultant to internal security affairs under Stalin. Although Dzhunkovskii wrote a multi-volume memoir, his work is pedantic and reveals little of his life. His personal story is mostly missing. Richard solves

this problem in his first chapter by describing Dzhunkovskii's execution in 1938, a victim of one of Stalin's purge trails.

The discussion centered around the ways the rest of the book, which looks back on Dzhunkovskii's life, might match the excitement of this introductory event. A liberal use of anecdotes throughout the book of Richard's collection of anecdotes about Dzhunkovskii, particularly those that best illuminate the history of the period, was suggested. It was also felt that playing up the theme of a good man, one who was an example of the new model administrator formed in the 19th century, might entice today's readers eager for tales of positive role models.

Lyn Reese

California Round Table

At the January meeting of the California Roundtable, hosted by **Ellen Huppert, Cathy Robbins** talked about her book *All Indians Do Not Live in Tepees—or Casinos*, to be published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2011. The title signals her willingness to tackle loaded subjects such as racial and cultural stereotypes, casinos on Indian land, and the matter of the word “Indian” itself. Indians themselves, she noted, are equally comfortable with the terms “Native American”—which they rarely use—and “American Indian.” More commonly they identify themselves by the tribal names: Diné, Tlingit, Ashiwi, etc. (I was pleased to see that on the U.S. census form that we received on March 15, one of the boxes to be checked under “race” reads: “American Indian or Alaska Native” and provides a space to print “name of enrolled or principal tribe.”)

Tribal identity is a key to understanding the subject of her book—the importance of “coming home,” of reclaiming histories that have been erased by conquest and diaspora. Cathy first became aware of this subject as a journalist in Albuquerque in 1999, when she covered the story of the repatriation of the remains of 2,000 bodies and funereal artifacts from the Peabody Museum at Harvard to the ancestral grounds of the Jemez/Pecos in New Mexico. After she moved to San Diego she witnessed another “coming home”—a ceremony held on Point Loma in 2006 to acknowledge this site as the ancestral land of the Kumeyaay-Diegueños.

In the book Cathy examines the situation on Indian lands around the country, but her talk focused on Indians in California. Those of us who thought we knew the subject still had much to learn about this shameful history. By 1900, the Indian population in California had been reduced to 16,000, down from an estimated 300,000 at the time of first contact with Europeans. This

degree of destruction *greatly* exceeded the percent of decrease in Indian population in other parts of the country. The many Indian deaths caused by disease and dislocation during the Mission period are well known, but Cathy emphasized that the worst period was the Gold Rush and settlers hungry for land in California who engaged in deliberate genocide.

Twentieth-century U.S. policy toward reservations also contributed to cultural erasure. Belief that Indians should be assimilated into the general population led to legislation in 1953 that gave control of reservations to states. This policy did away with treaty rights that had been guaranteed by the Federal government and in other ways made reservation life untenable. In California, where reservations were called “rancherias,” a 1958 act specifically called for distributing the assets of rancherias among members of the tribe. Those who accepted the compensation were no longer eligible to receive Federal services, but far worse than that was the loss of the places and the social relationships that connected them to an ancestral past.

The process of repatriation and reclaiming, spurred in part by legislation such as the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act of 1990, has been exciting and rewarding for Cathy to observe. It was certainly rewarding to learn about.

Joanne Lafler

ANNUAL MEETING

After a little time for registration and coffee, Institute Board President **Mike Griffith** opened the **Annual Membership Meeting** on February 27 at Oakland's Dimond Library. Treasurer **Ann Harlow**, who distributed copies of the third quarter Financial Report, made the first presentation. She commented that although the amount of dues collected seems low, most dues are received during the fourth quarter. The annual financial report will be sent to the membership after March 31, the end of our fiscal year. Membership Chair **Peter Mellini** introduced new member **Rose Marie Cleese**. A discussion followed about the need for new members. **Jody Offer** volunteered to lead a committee to look into redesigning the Institute's website (this.org) to possibly attract new applicants. Programs for last year were discussed: five Works-in-Progress—**Celeste MacLeod, Anne Homan, Georgia Wright, Lyn Reese, Richard Robbins**; the four study groups continue active; a tour of the Santa Clara Archives and San Jose's History Park was held; a potluck picnic took place in China Camp State Park in Marin County; and the annual dinner featured Samuel Haber as guest speaker. **Lorrie O'Dell** announced that she is stepping down as the Newsletter Editor and turning over that responsibility to **Maria Sakovich**.

The morning session ended with the election of five members to the Institute's 2010 Board of Directors: **Mike Griffith, John Rusk, Bill Issel, Georgia Wright, and Nancy Zinn**. (**Jules Becker, Ann Harlow, Richard Herr, and Cornelia Levine** remain on the Board.) During the lunch break, the new board members met and elected the following officers: President, **Ann Harlow**; Vice President, **Richard Herr**, Secretary, **John Rusk**, Treasurer, **Cornelia Levine**. **Nancy Zinn** is the new Membership Chair, and **Georgia Wright** the new Program Chair.

Lorrie O'Dell

Following lunch, a group of founding Board members—**Paula Gillett, Ellen Huppert, Lorrie O'Dell, Peter Mellini, and Joanne Lafler**—responded to questions about their early involvement in the organization. The first question was “How did you learn about the Institute? It turned out that before the Institute came into being most of the founding members had known one or two, but not all, of the others—in graduate school, through teaching jobs, through a “Marin connection,” or through what was then the West Coast Association of Women Historians. It was clear that **Paula Gillett** and **Francesca Miller** were the chief contact points for the diverse group of people who became the Institute's founding Board. From the beginning the decision was made to include academically affiliated members like **Peter Mellini**, and Peter acknowledged that association with independent scholars had encouraged him to become more independent in his historical research.

Historians, we soon discovered, are not the best rememberers of their personal history. But being true residents of the Bay Area, we did remember the Chinese restaurant where plans for the first membership meeting, and for incorporation of the Institute, took place. In the spring of 1980, the Institute was incorporated as a non-profit, public benefit educational organization.

Questioned about our personal visions of the Institute in those early days, founding members talked about the dual purpose: bringing the work of historians to the general public and benefitting members. At first there was an emphasis on helping historians find ways of using their academic training in jobs outside of academe. This was, after all, the time of the first “PhD crunch.” At our first public meeting, Institute member Harold Anderson, a scholar of modern European history who had found a new career as an archivist at the Hoover Institution and then at Wells Fargo, addressed the subject

of making this transition. Most of us noted that we were primarily interested in establishing a scholarly community. Study groups were being formed as early as the fall of 1979, and work-in-progress meetings began sometime later. Memories were not clear about exactly when WIP meetings were instituted. **Joanne Lafler** noted that the Institute archive—yes, we have an archive!—has a complete run of newsletters that can be consulted about this and other aspects of our early history.

Jody Offer then wondered how all of the members present had heard about the Institute and what it had meant to them. The ensuing discussion proved a brilliant success, for although many of us thought we knew each other well, it turned out that we knew little about these personal histories. **Ethel Herr** recalled that while she was researching material for a historical novel set in The Netherlands in the sixteenth century she heard about us from a UC librarian who was an Institute member. He encouraged her to apply for membership even though she did not have a college degree. Earlier, the founding Board members had talked about the issue of membership eligibility and the decision to include “work of scholarly merit” as an alternative to advanced degrees. But Ethel noted that after she became membership chair, she was not sure that she would have accepted *herself* as a member! Some members heard about the Institute through our website or at public meetings, but the great majority had a connection with a member. **Georgia Wright**’s name came up often as that connection. Some members, being “good historians,” simply could not remember exactly how, or when, they learned about the Institute. The important thing is that they are still happy to have discovered us.

Joanne Lafler

Medieval History Study Group

In January, **Nancy Zinn** reported on *The Last Knight : the Twilight of the Middle Ages and the Birth of the Modern Era* by Norman Cantor (New York: Harper Perennial, 2005). The Last Knight in Cantor’s work is John of Gaunt, born March 6, 1340, the fourth son of Edward III and his Belgian queen, Philippa of Hainault. On his father’s death (1377), Gaunt became ten-year-old Richard II’s stand-in; during this minority Gaunt was careful to avoid suspicions of undue influence. The Peasant’s Revolt in 1381 occurred in large part due to poor taxation decisions. Cantor presents Gaunt as representative of the acme of the aristocracy—supporter of the crown and the church, a shining example of chivalric code and the military adventures in France and Spain during the Hundred Years War. His son by his first marriage to Blanche of Lancaster, became king of England as Henry IV. The children of his third marriage to Katherine Swynford, who had been his mistress of many years, were given the name Beaufort when they were legitimated after the marriage.

In March, **Lyn Reese** presented a report on the silk trade, based on the book *Sea of Silk: A Textile Geography of Women's Work in Medieval French Literature*, by E. Jane Burns (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009). The geographic and multi-cultural expanse of the medieval trade in silk goods tied medieval France economically to Muslim Spain and Sicily, North Africa, the Levant, and Constantinople. Actual silk production held its mostly female workers almost in slavery; the crucial labor of women cultivating silk worms contributed to the livelihoods of many families in cities of Constantinople, Greece, Venice, Florence, and France.

Lorrie O’Dell

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Steven Levi sends his thanks to the Institute for the mini-grant he received last year. Being an Alaskan scholar it is very expensive to get to the Lower 48 to do research. As a result, he combines research with holidays, usually to the West Coast because that is where the primary archives for Alaskan resources are. “My most recent trip—research made possible by the mini grant—was to Los Angeles and Portland for a day each researching the sinking of the PRINCESS SOPHIA. The SOPHIA was the largest non-military maritime disaster up to its time (1918). More than 350 people lost their lives. What makes the PRINCESS SOPHIA so interesting to Alaskan history is that it had the cream of the Alaskan Interior onboard, the movers-and-shakers of every community along the Yukon River: newspaper editors, businessmen, mine owners, teachers, philanthropists, and so forth. When the SOPHIA went down, so did the economic heartbeat of the Alaska Interior. My research on the SOPHIA is part of my book on maritime traffic during the Alaska Gold Rush.”

The Institute welcomes new member **Rose Marie Cleese** who is working on a biography of her grandfather, San Francisco mayor Angelo Rossi. Her main interests are San Francisco history, politics, and its mayors, particularly from 1890 to 1950.

Dick Herr has been busy for over a year, but more so recently, organizing a conference at UCB in honor of the Centennial of the Portuguese Republic. The monarchy was overthrown on October 5, 1910, and never returned. The conference was held March 12-14 to avoid conflicting with the celebrations in Portugal in the fall. Dick is preparing a paper, “What was meant by a republic in 1910.” “It has led me to some interesting observations. The idea of a republic found much more appeal in Catholic countries than Protestant ones.”

Bill Issel presented a paper, “The Vatican and the Golden State: Documenting the Influence of Papal Encyclicals on Catholic Politics in 20th Century California,” at the American Catholic Historical Association meeting held during the AHA conference in San Diego. He also presented an illustrated talk, “Mass in a Mosque and Other Adventures of a Fulbright Professor in Hungary,” at the Mills College faculty colloquium series.

Anne Richardson reports that in its Issue no 38, *The Tyndale Society Journal* will print her essay on William Tyndale’s attack on St. John Fisher’s sermon against Martin Luther. They will also reprint from *Moreana* (June 2009) her critique of James Simpson’s *Burning to Read: English Fundamentalists and their Reformation Opponents*.

The March history post for *The Coast Guard Compass* is **David Rosen**’s “The Piracy Mission: Then and Now.” From the Revenue Cutter *Louisiana* of the early 1800s to the *CGC Boutwell* of 2009, Coast Guard cutters have helped suppress piracy in the Caribbean and off the Horn of Africa today. In Caribbean waters about 500 merchant vessels worth \$20 million were seized illegally, far more booty than pillaged by the Barbary Coast buccaneers.

Judith (Jody) Offer’s history play, *Compared to What?*, was performed by a theater in Vallejo in February (Black History Month) 2010. She is still trying to find a way to premiere it in Oakland, since it is set there. Her current play, *Possessions*, is not a history piece, but is almost done and should have a first reading soon. When that is scheduled, Institute members will be informed as to time and place.

Also, the Institute welcomes back **Kathleen O’Connor**.

***For Both Cross and Flag: Catholic Action,
Anti-Catholicism, and National Security
Politics in World War II San Francisco***
(Temple University Press, 2010)
William Issel

Issel's splendid book covers the years between World War I and the end of World War II. It focuses on the career of Sylvester Andriano, an Italian immigrant who graduated from St. Mary's College and Hastings College of Law, then became a prominent San Francisco attorney and politician. He also became a leader of Catholic Action, formed after World War I to put Catholic principles into action during a period when the Catholic Church had substantial influence in the San Francisco Bay Area. Among its goals were the fight against birth control, advocating decency in movies and literature, the struggle for a just wage and the fight against socialism and communism.

The book highlights Andriano's efforts on behalf of the Church to bring its message to Italians in the Bay Area and his endeavors to help them manage the tensions involved in celebrating both their Italian heritage and their lives as Americans. It concludes with the largely forgotten episode in which not only Japanese- and German-Americans, but Italian-Americans—including Andriano himself—had their civil rights suspended during World War II. Some were even interned, although this is not the subject of Issel's book.

Obscured by the better-known scandal of McCarthyism during the 1950s, and of the large-scale internment of the Japanese in the 1940s, the story of the ordeal of the Italian-Americans in San Francisco has never been told. It has now found its skillful historian in Issel, who tells it through the life of Sylvester Andriano.

It is a sad and tragic tale. A combination of Communists and anti-Catholic Italians—Masons,

anti-clericals, and anti-religious—accused him of being a fascist and not only supporting Mussolini, but being one of his agents. These accusations were false, but since a state legislative committee, J. Edgar Hoover, and General John DeWitt believed them, Andriano was stripped of his post on the San Francisco Draft Board, and ordered out of both coastal areas of the United States for much of World War II. He spent this "exile" in Chicago and in Colorado. Issel does not reveal how he supported himself.

I was born into the world of Sylvester Andriano—Italian, Catholic San Francisco—and was amazed upon reading the kaleidoscope of individuals Issel writes about, how many of them I knew as a boy and as a young man: slightly acquainted with Andriano and with Renzo Turco, another Italian-American attorney who shared Andriano's sad fate. I remember looking upon Andriano almost as a 'god.' I was confirmed by Archbishop John J. Mitty, took a class from Father Raymond Feely, S.J., at the University of San Francisco, and served as an altar boy at masses said by Father Angelo Bandini.

This is a world that has now disappeared and is largely forgotten. Issel does an excellent job of recreating it. It may also be a very important job, for it seems to me that a similar clash between church and state, and analogous questions about the separation or other relationship between them, confronts us today, in the early twenty-first century. Issel also does an extraordinary job of illustrating a local manifestation of such confrontations, and does it in a specific time-frame within one ethnic group. His account of Sylvester Andriano illustrates the wisdom of the Greek tragedian Aeschylus, who said, "In war the first casualty is truth."

Charles Fracchia

CALENDAR

March 21	Work-in Progress—Cathy Robbins
April 10	California Round Table
April 18	Work-in-Progress—Elizabeth Thacker-Estrada
May 16	Tour of FDR's Yacht
June 20	Program at the California Historical Society
July 18	Work-in-Progress—Georgia Wright

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_stanley@sbcglobal.net. The deadline for the next NEWSLETTER is **May 31, 2010**.

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 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.

The Institute for Historical Study
P. O. Box 5743
Berkeley, CA 94705
www.tihs.org