

# THE INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL STUDY

VOLUME 25, NO.1, SUMMER 2004

# 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 hope that you were one of the attendee at our Annual Membership Potluck Dinner in April. The day warmed up, and we were fortunate to have the Hupperts' doors open to the spring breeze and the beautiful view of San Francisco from their back deck. The food and fellowship were, as usual, exceptional. Don't forget to put our next just-for-fun event, our summer picnic with our annual "History Bee" on your calendar – July 11. It will be in a new location chosen by a board committee. We'll send you the information soon.

By now, I hope that you have all received the financial report and the new membership roster. Our finances have improved, and the board decided at its April meeting to offer three grants of \$500 each. Jules Becker, Monica Clyde, Judith Albert, and Edee Piness have agreed to serve on the grants committee. Many thanks to all of you who contribute monies in addition to your annual dues to help with the budget.

If you haven't lately, take a fresh look at our web site – [www.tihs.org](http://www.tihs.org). John Rusk, our Webmaster, does such a great job, I always find something new.

A veterinarian's advertising sign by a local road near me reads, "We treat cat's and dog's." I always wince when I drive by and have often fantasized about going into the vet's office and complaining. A friend recommended the book *Eats, Shoots and Leaves* to me recently. I enjoyed it thoroughly. I think that anyone who writes or has been a teacher or editor of any kind would love this humorous best-seller about punctuation. I recommend it as light reading for a hot summer afternoon.

Anne M. Homan

# WORK-IN-PROGRESS – SALLY WAGES

## *Highlights of the History of English Garden Styles*

Who has not been inspired and delighted by the diversity of gardens of continental Europe and Britain that were built by wealthy patrons from medieval times to today? **Sally Wages** presented her current work, illustrated with slides, on the history and design of the English landscape garden to Institute members at the home of **Georgia Wright** on March 21st.

The main question that Sally posed was “What is a garden?” Obviously, there is no single definition: we can think of pleasure gardens, vegetable gardens, herb gardens, orchards, and places for animals, all of which share some aspect of what is considered a garden. Sally addressed her question by showing her audience pictures of historical designs, drawings, and photographs of European gardens with an emphasis on the English landscape garden.

Beginning with the medieval garden *Il Trebbio*, near Florence, built in 1451 for Cosimo de’ Medici, Sally showed the picture of a medieval garden walled in and separate from the house, simply fitted in where there was space. During the Renaissance a garden became a symbol of wealth and power, establishing its owner as a person of importance. Its classical, severely geometric and numerical pattern was emulated throughout Europe wherever a ruler wanted to enhance his prestige. The main characteristics of the Renaissance garden style were the alignment of the residence and garden on a single axis and a geometrical lay-out of the part of the garden within a walled enclosure. It was during the Baroque era that the strict geometric pattern first broke out of closed borders. Gardens opened up to distance, symbolizing infinity. The spectacular gardens of Versailles built for Louis XIV in the second half of the seventeenth century are an example of this, as is the equally spectacular remodeled garden of Hampton Court built for William and Mary later in the century

From here, Sally turned to the emerging landscape garden style that is so distinctive of what is considered an English garden: a style that celebrates

the “natural,” yet is carefully planned to achieve this natural look. William Kent (1685-1748) was the innovator who was instrumental in opening the garden to harmoniously blend in with the surrounding countryside, renouncing the artificiality of geometric garden design. The appreciation of unstructured, harmonious nature as defining garden design reflects the contemporary English view of nature as it was expressed in poetry and philosophy. Other models were also drawn on. One of them was the Chinese garden, which showed greater diversity by including serpentine lines.

Sally closed her presentation with a brief view of a garden reflecting the nineteenth-century change of focus to a dominating interest in the collection of rare species and exotic gardens at Biddulph Grange, outside of Stoke-on-Trent (1840-68).

It may be of interest to note that a recent article in *The Economist* informs its readers just how much it costs nowadays to build a grand garden, and that the first big landscape garden to be built in Britain since the nineteenth century is now under construction near Newcastle, financed by public and private funds (p. 57, June 14/25, 2004).

Submitted by **Monica Clyde**



Rousham, Oxfordshire  
*The Venus Vale*  
Drawing by William Kent (c.1738)

## WORK-IN-PROGRESS – MARIA SAKOVICH

### *From Thesis to Article: Angel Island Immigration Station Reconsidered*

On May 16, members of the Institute enjoyed the hospitality of **Masha Zackheim** while listening to **Maria Sakovich** present a draft of an article based on a chapter of her master's thesis, dealing with the period around World War I. Maria asked the group for advice on a condensed version of the chapter, intended to be an article for *California History*.

While Angel Island is best known as a point of entry and detention for Chinese immigrants, only one third of the immigrants coming through Angel Island between 1915 and 1920 were Chinese, with another third Japanese, and the final third non-Asians. It is the experiences of this last group that Maria wrote about.

Maria showed slides taken by and for Katherine Maurer, a Methodist Deaconess who worked with the many immigrants spending time on Angel Island. These images put faces to the numbers and variety of people held on the island: a crowd of young Japanese women, probably "picture brides"; a group of men from the Indian subcontinent in turbans; a Peruvian woman and her four children including twin infants probably born in the camp; the Prince of Siam; groups of Russian men.

Maria used the phrase "guarding the gate and cleaning house" to describe the two major activities at Angel Island. "Guarding the gate" meant preventing "undesirables" from entering the country. Most newcomers were subject only to routine examination to determine that they were physically, mentally, morally, politically, and economically fit. First class passengers were examined on board ship but all others were transferred to Angel Island.

Those who did not pass initial inspection were detained for periods of a few days to many months. It was common for people to arrive with little or no money and no immediate proof of employment; these people were threatened with return to their home countries.

By 1914 there was a strong anti-immigrant feeling in the country, and that was exacerbated with the entry of the U.S. into World War I in April, 1917. At that time, additional legal restrictions were imposed, especially on "alien enemies." Among the new groups arriving were Russian Jews to the number of 2500 who made the trek overland to cross the Pacific, fleeing both the international war and the subsequent civil war. The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society helped those who lacked connections in the U.S. The crews of German and Austrian ships who found themselves unable to return home also had to be dealt with. Officers were kept under mild restraints in good conditions, but the crews were given less comfortable treatment.

The Bolshevik victory in Russia encouraged a strong anti-Communist wave in the U.S., and that roused additional efforts to exclude "radicals" of all kinds. This was combined with serious efforts to "clean the house": purge the country of non-citizens suspected of radical sympathies. Anyone associated with the International Workers of the World was assumed to be a danger to the country. Such suspects could be subject to long periods of detention. Even with review processes, most were deported. Maria found that decisions made by the immigration officials were often arbitrary. The standard "likely to become a public charge" left too wide a range for officials to exercise their prejudices. Women traveling without a male could be excluded if they did not have substantial resources, while men in similar circumstances could be admitted.

Maria's audience was enthusiastic about the material she presented and the vast amount of archival research it involved. As the journal, *California History*, did not make any stipulation, she was encouraged to submit her article without concern for the length. Some suggestions were made about strengthening the organization of the piece, highlighting the ideas of "guarding the gate and cleaning house."

Submitted by **Ellen Huppert**

# GROUP REPORTS

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## BIOGRAPHY WRITERS

The Biography Writing Group met April 30 at Ellen Huppert's house. From the on-line index of the New York Times, **Autumn Stanley** gained new insight into what happened to the husband of Charlotte Smith, a magazine editor, reformer, and advocate for women inventors. **Ellen Huppert** talked over aspects of the lives of her paternal grandparents and her dilemma that his letters from Missoula, Montana provide much more information about her grandfather than about her grandmother. **Ethel Herr** said that at this year's writers' conference, she found publishers and her agent interested in the book she is working on with a co-author, a dialogue on religion between a Christian and a Jew.

**Bonda Lewis** went to the Sacramento train museum, will contact the Children's Aid Society, and go to the Nebraska Historical Society to research her historical novel about orphans shipped from New York to homes on Nebraska farms. Pamela Herr led **Joanne Lafler** to a postcard from Harry Lafler to Mary Austin that revealed for the first time that he had spent a month on an Indian reservation in Idaho where his cousin was a missionary. **Ann Harlow** found an article written about four women artists three months before her subject, Anne Bremer, died in 1923. Comments that Bremer was too sensible for the ultra modern show how people talked about art at the time.

**Georgia Wright** brought several pages she had written based on material connecting her subject with the economic chicanery of 1795 in France when he joined a government office assigned to deal with "liquidation and accounts in arrears." I spoke of 1844 and the second half of Juana Briones' life, when, in what is now Santa Clara County, she purchased her ranch from Indians during a period of drastic changes in the region.

We meet next at chez Bonda Lewis, June 19.

Submitted by **Jeanne McDonnell**

## HISTORY PLAY READERS

The play-reading group has finished reading *Wallenstein's Death*, the last play in Friedrich Schiller's *The Wallenstein Trilogy*. The plays, written at the end of the eighteenth century, were about Albrecht von Wallenstein, a general during the Thirty Years War, who, although in the service of the Emperor, negotiated with the enemy in the interest of his own ambition and was ultimately assassinated.

The group then moved on to William Shakespeare's *Richard II*. Richard, the son of Edward, "The Black Prince," ruled from 1377-1399. The action in the play, written in verse, takes place in 1398 and 1399. The play opens with a dispute between Bolingbroke and Mowbray, the Duke of Norfolk. Richard banishes the two, the former for ten years, the latter for life. Shortly thereafter, Bolingbroke's father, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, dies and Richard seizes his estates to finance his war with Ireland. While the King is in Ireland, Bolingbroke returns to reclaim his lands and successfully disperses Richard's army. The now powerless King confesses his crimes against the State and surrenders his crown to Bolingbroke who becomes King Henry IV. Richard was murdered in 1400. Having been brought up believe in his right to rule by divine decree, Richard overtaxed his people and abused the Irish. He is one of Shakespeare's most enigmatic kings, an irresponsible, cruel monarch who rose in stature as power slipped from him. Bolingbroke, a pragmatic activist, whose political ambition is attributed to his banishment and the subsequent confiscation of his father's estates, determines to launch a crusade to ease his conscience.

At our last meeting we began Maxwell Anderson's *Anne of a Thousand Days*, covering the decade from 1526 to 1536, which deals with Anne Boleyn's courtship and marriage to Henry VIII and finally, her execution.

Submitted by **Edee Piness**

### MEDIEVAL STUDY GROUP

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, at **Lyn Reese's** home, **John Rusk** discussed Peter Spufford's recent work, *Power and Profit: The Merchant in Medieval Europe* (New York, 2002). The focus of the presentation was the commercial revolution of the thirteenth century, brought about by an increased demand both for ordinary goods and services as well as new and exotic products. This demand was spurred by the growth of the population, the wealth of the rulers, military needs, and the expansion of towns and cities. Feeding the growing cities and towns led to increased trade not only in ordinary food products but in luxury food and drink. Trade in luxury products such as clothing, plate and jewels soon followed. Italians became the suppliers of these luxuries, organizing trading companies which reduced the need for merchants to travel and also leading to the development of new commercial techniques: correspondence by couriers; bookkeeping; commercial arithmetic; insurance; international and local banking; exchanges and brokers, and usury and interest rates. Careers in business now became possible for the growing merchant class.

**Perri Hale** hosted the meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup> and did a presentation on the reign of the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick Barbarossa (1155-1190). Frederick spend most of his reign attempting to extend his power both in Germany and in Italy, and to transform the German institution of kingship into a feudal state. He is described as active, clever, astute, worldly wise, with a smiling countenance. After ending the civil-wars so common in Germany, he attempted to re-establish the Roman Empire to its former glory. For the rest of his life he fought the various Italian city-states and the papacy. His supporters, the Ghibellines, mainly wanted help against their traditional enemies. The Guelphs opposed him in the name of liberty and the autonomy of their communes. Although Frederick died in 1190 on the Third Crusade, a German legend has him buried in the *Kyuffhäuser*, waiting to return and rebuild his empire.

Submitted by **Lorrie O'Dell**

### IRENA NARELL

Members of the Institute were sad to learn that **Irena Narell**, a long-time member of our organization, passed away in March of this year. Born in Poland, she worked for the Polish Delegation to the United Nations after coming to the United States. Her first book, *Ashes to the Taste*, a study of Polish communism, was published in 1961. Her writing career continued with a host of essays and short stories published in a variety of publications. She moved to California in 1970, and became fascinated with the role that pioneer Jews played in the early history of the state. This led to the publication of *Our City: The Jews of San Francisco* in 1981. Her novel for young adults, *Joshua: Fighter for Bar Kochba*, was published in 1978.

Irena was active in the founding of the California Round Table and opened her art-filled home for a variety of Institute meetings. Those of us who knew her are thankful that she shared so much of her knowledge and beauty with us.

### CATHERINE ANN CURRY

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, **Catherine Ann Curry**, a Sister of the Presentation for 56 years, died in San Francisco. After years of teaching in elementary and high schools, she earned a Ph.D from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley in 1983, followed by the publication of her dissertation: *Shaping Young San Franciscans: Public and Catholic Schools in San Francisco, 1851-1906*. She wrote extensively on the history of California, religious life, and the Irish in America. She also served as an historian for the Sisters of the Presentation and as an Assistant Archivist in the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

Catherine Ann served on the Board of Directors of the Institute and was a founding member of the California History Round Table.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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**Hildi Kang** will be presenting a paper on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the summer seminar for teachers: "Finding the Korean Voice in Your Teaching: Introducing Korean Culture and Arts for K-12 Educators," sponsored by the Center for Korea Studies, UCB. *Strong Voices in Severe Times: Koreans under Japanese Rule*, focuses on the Korean Independence movement of 1910, and the increasing difficulties for Koreans during the Second World War. She will also be presenting *The Legacy Lingers On: Confucian Law and the Erosion of Women's Rights* at the Summer Institute for California Teachers: Teaching about Asia, under the California K-12 Educational Framework: Legal Systems and Human Rights. (July 26-29, 2004) sponsored by ORIAS (Office of Resources for International and Area Studies), UCB.

**Dave Rosen** gave three short lectures on the history of the Coast Guard at Columbia College in Alameda. They were power point presentations on: "The Revenue Cutters"; "The Coast Guard in the 1906 Earthquake"; "The Coast Guard in WWII.

**Bob Oaks** reports that last November his book *Hawai'i: A History of the Big Island* was published by Arcadia Publishing as part of their Making of America series. Also, the next issue of *California History* will publish his article entitled *Golden Gate Castaway: Joseph Heco and San Francisco, 1851-1859*. He has had a couple of articles published in *The Argonaut*, the journal of the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society. In addition, Bob was the luncheon speaker last February at the George Washington Birthday lunch of the Society of Colonial Dames at the Octagon House in San Francisco. The topic was "The Signers of the Declaration of Independence." That talk led to another invitation to speak next February to the Century Club of California. Bob reported: "I actually get honoria for these things. How professional can one get? It pays to have your name on the IHS membership list!"

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, **Karen Offen** was awarded an honorary doctorate in humane letters at the University of Idaho commencement ceremonies.

The U. of I. was her undergraduate institution. Karen also had the following articles published: "Challenging Male Hegemony: Feminist Criticism and the Context for Women's Movements in the Age of European Revolutions and Counter-Revolution," in *Women's Emancipation Movements in the Nineteenth Century*, edited by Sylvia Paletschek & Bianka Pietrow-Ennker (Stanford University Press, 2004); "Intre istorie si feminism. Interviu cu Karen Offen," *Observatorcultural* (Romania); "Des modèles nationaux (1900-1945)?" in *Le Siècle des féminismes*, ed. Éliane Gubin et al (Paris: Les Éditions de l'atelier, 2004); and "Pionnière de l'histoire des mères et de la maternité: La contribution de Yvonne Knibiehler," in *Femmes, Familles, Filiations: Société et Histoire. Études réunies par Marcel Bernos et Michèle Bitton en hommage à Yvonne Knibiehler*, (Aix-en-Provence: Publications de l'Université de Provence, 2004).

**Elizabeth Thacker-Estrada's** chapter "Rooms of Their Own: First Ladies and Their Impact on Historic White House Rooms." has been published in *Life in the White House: A Social History of the First Family and the President's House* (State University of New York Press, 2004).

**Autumn Stanley** appeared on the History Channel TV special, *Mothers of Invention* on March 27. She also served as a source and consultant to the producer, and her book, *Mothers and Daughter of Invention* (Rutgers University Press, 1993) was highlighted.

**Joanne Lafler's** essay, "Theatre and the Female Presence," appears in volume two of the recently-published *Cambridge History of British Theatre*, ed. Joseph Donohue (Cambridge University Press, 2004). She comments: "Since I finished the original draft in August of 1999, it's a great relief to see it through to publication." Also, A biographical sketch about Henry Anderson Lafler, titled "The King of Telegraph Hill," will appear in the summer issue of *The Argonaut*, the journal of the San Francisco Historical Museum and Society.

## PLAY REVIEW

From April 30 through May 16, at the Glenview Center for the Performing Arts in Oakland, Anniversary Productions staged *Casino!*, a new musical comedy with book, lyrics and direction by the Institute's **Judith Offer**. The theater was set up with decorated tables and chairs in cabaret style, with a small stage and a corner where the composer, Joyce Whitelaw, accompanied the performance on the piano with the help of a percussionist. The play concerns the incubated but unhatched plan, in a fantasied Oakland City Hall, to convert the old Fox Theater into an "Indian gaming hall." The collapse of the move, to the relief of most involved in it, is celebrated in a final tutti, "Another Big Nothing!"

In the May 9 performance, the singers' voice qualities mated steel with velvet: they belted out the songs. Good farceurs, too, they acted with their whole bodies, resembling a stage full of Dodge-'em Cars as they breasted such public policy issues as the profitability of confining the gambling in the casino to slot machines; the need for a real Indian front man; and the imperative of saying "gaming," not "gambling" at all times. Memorable characters, besides the winning young lovers Lupe and Sam, were led by the mayor, audaciously named "JB." This potentate is not silver-templed and balding; he is young and sports a shock of bright blonde hair. But he has a way of breaking into spurts of Scholastic Latin (which he then translates) that bespeaks a Thomist seed-time. His friend and familiar, Jack Az, a workplace predator whose advances to the newly-employed Lupe sound like an oleaginous Song of Solomon, provides some of the brains for the casino retrofit. Its development is undertaken by a big palooka from the Southwest named Ace Trumps. Ace's miscalculation to the effect that he can both commodify and swindle the young Ohlone Indian, Sam, proves his and the casino's undoing. It was good to see these rascals' plans vaporize, but nothing seemed likely to improve the lot of the most pathetic character in the piece, the Black woman city manager Bari Berry. Before the play begins—it would seem, aboriginally—Bari has countenanced misdoing to

appease her male colleagues, but she experiences all of the dreariness of corruption and none of the fun. JB puts her in her place by declaring at one point, "You're not an elected official."

Although the keynotes of this musical are high spirits and zaniness, serious themes are touched on: the dubious benefit to Indian communities of Indian gaming, pelf in the name of civic welfare, and race and ethnicity. *Casino!* could fit an indulgent definition of a history play as a matter of once and future facts. The broad flirtation with very specific personalities and current historical trends perhaps inspired the disclaimer in the program, itself a burlesque, "Note: *Casino!* is satire. Satire is exaggeration. Nothing in this play has really happened. Yet."

Submitted by **Anne Richardson**

## HETCH-HETCHY WEEKEND

The Institute has again made arrangements for the use of a large cabin near the Hetch-Hetchy Dam from September 24<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. The Hetch-Hetchy Valley is north of Yosemite National Park, and according to last year's attendees "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."

Sleeping spaces are available for 18 people, with bedding provided. Kitchen facilities allow for the preparation of the one necessity that visitors must provide – food. If last year's experience is any guide, the quality of the edible constructions prepared by the attendees definitely comes up to Institute standards.

Places will be allotted on a 'first come, first served' basis. Guests need not stay for the entire weekend. Spouses and significant others are welcome. If you would like take advantage of this opportunity, please contact Nancy Zinn at (415) 753-8483 or [zinn@itsa.ucsf.edu](mailto:zinn@itsa.ucsf.edu).

# CALENDAR

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July 11	Membership Picnic with Annual "History Bee"
August 8	Work-in-Progress – Mike Griffith
September 19	Work-in Progress – Alice Tobriner
September 24-27	Hetch-Hetchy Weekend
October 23	Annual IHS Dinner Program
November 21	Work-in-Progress – Anne Homan

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\\_dave@compuserve.com](mailto:autumn_dave@compuserve.com). The deadline for the next NEWSLETTER is **AUGUST 31<sup>st</sup>**.

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