

THE INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL STUDY

VOLUME 28, NO.4, SUMMER 2008

NEWSLETTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Griffith	PRESIDENT
Richard Herr	VICE PRESIDENT
Monica Clyde	SECRETARY
Joanne Lafler	TREASURER
Jules Becker	
Peter Mellini	
Francesca Miller	
John Rusk	
Patricia Swensen	

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

Historians are among the most numerous users of archives. There are at least two trends in archives work that have implications for our members and that I thought might be interesting to discuss.

One new development, sweeping the archives world, is "More Product, Less Process" or "MPLP" for short. The central ideas of this movement are that archivists will never be able to process the collections they receive using traditional methods and that they need to rethink how collections are made available to researchers. Under "MPLP" archivists are starting to describe new collections in less detail, to arrange them less thoroughly, to re-house them less often, and to make them available more quickly. For historians, there are pluses and minuses in this change, although I think the pluses outweigh the minuses. The main minus is that researchers will need to do more of their own digging and sometimes arranging to use a group of records. The main plus is that collections that might not have been available for years will be open for use much sooner.

A second new development is the use of "Web 2.0" technologies in collection descriptions, allowing users to add content or comments and to edit content. Wikipedia is probably the best known example. Archives are just beginning to post collection descriptions in a way that allows users to add comments or additional information to descriptions. In addition, some repositories are beginning to post items, particularly photographs, that they cannot identify or don't have the time to research. Viewers are invited to add identifications or make suggestions about the pictures. For example, the Library of Congress recently placed a large number of photographs on Flickr in a quest for fuller identification. This new method of using the larger research community to help write collection descriptions is just beginning and, I think, will have significant impact on research when it becomes better established.

Mike Griffith

WORK-IN-PROGRESS – Georgia Wright

On Sunday, April 20th, at her home in Berkeley, Georgia Wright presented *The Dean of Amiens Cathedral Interviews the Master Sculptor*, an imagined and amusing conversation taking place about 1223, demonstrating the negotiation and compromises necessary to determine what images would adorn the façade of Amiens Cathedral. One of the characters was the Dean of the Chapter, since the chapter of canons was in charge of the fabric of the cathedral. Georgia called the other character the "Master Sculptor," the main person who would have to recruit sculptors and direct and supervise their work. His experience would have made him familiar with the figures usually sculpted for cathedrals. Playing both parts in this dialogue, and using her art historian imagination, Georgia expressed her interpretation of how the design of the façade unfolded.

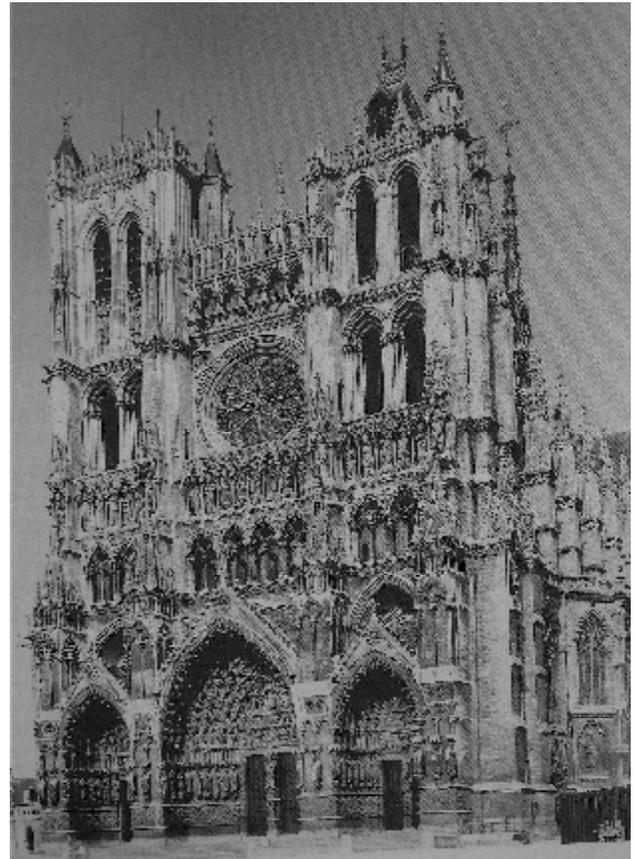
The usual idea is that a cleric, a theologian, would know what figures should go where, and what figure groupings were most appropriate. Georgia, however, felt that there must have been craftsmen who designed cathedral facades, much as Master Masons functioned as the architects for the buildings as a whole. (While Master Masons are identified in some documents, Master Sculptors are not.) As presented by Georgia, the Master Sculptor, although showing proper deference to the Prior, fully understands that he has the experience and knows more about what is appropriate.

Amiens Cathedral had three portals with archivolts which had to be filled with sculptures as well as the jambs to hold standing figures. The question was "what groupings of saints, apostles, prophets, kings, or other figures" were to be illustrated along the figures in the archivolts? Then, there was the question of the tympanum of each portal, and what story should be told on each. Also, what series were to be illustrated on the quatrefoils? The Master Sculptor knew that Christ was to be the center of the main trumneau, and that the Virgin Mary was to be honored at one side portal, but what works should complement these central figures? As the dialogue progressed, it became clear that the Sculptor's knowledge and experience were to trump the Dean's fumbling suggestions every time.

Georgia's audience had a lot of questions as well as suggestions, both regarding the cathedral itself and the presentation: some thought the Dean could be even a little more 'stuffy,' and that the Sculptor's bearing should show more awareness of his value to the project; some wondered why there was so little illustration of the life of Christ beyond the Infancy Cycle; many felt it would help if she would illustrate, in some way, the tremendous size of the building.

Although it was suggested that it would be better as a two person presentation, the more general agreement was that Georgia handled the changes in character just fine. All who came felt that not only had they learned something, but that they had been entertained as well.

Lorrie O'Dell



Amiens Cathedral façade

Monica Clyde -WORK-IN-PROGRESS

On May 18 in San Francisco, Bay-to-Breakers notwithstanding, heroic Institute members turned up at **Nancy Zinn's** to hear **Monica Clyde** present "German Pioneers in the Bay Area: Why they came and what they contributed." Confining her research to the years 1848 to 1860, her study will deal with all the German-speaking immigrants who arrived during those years—Swiss, Poles, and Germans, Jews or Christians, from the 35 monarchical states and the four free cities that comprised the German Confederation established after 1815. What encouraged them to come? The Gold Rush was, of course, a main impetus, so some went out to the mines. Others brought goods to sell and then started businesses. But many appear to have come to escape political persecution before and after the aborted Revolutions of 1848. (Although there is not much mention of this issue in letters these immigrants sent home, they may have omitted discussing this to protect their relatives from political reprisals.)

The newcomers came armed with letters of introduction or the names of fellow "countrymen," men from their home German states. They soon formed cultural associations similar to those at home which had sometimes served as cover for political talk about unifying the German states into a democracy. In California the German speakers could celebrate this unity in freedom. Although economic considerations lured them to California, gold was perhaps not so much of a lure as was the opportunity to live in freedom and to develop their considerable talents where they would be appreciated and rewarded.

As part of her research, Monica has been reading the diary as well as the family letters of Jacob Gundlach, founder of the Gundlach-Bundschu winery near Sonoma. She is looking into the annals of the Turnverein, a physical culture association that also served as a general social club for German speakers, the Schützenverein, a club for marksmen, and also the German benevolent societies that reached out to new arrivals. In order to determine who the leaders were in this thriving German community, she is studying lists of those who established the first German hospital. What did

these leading Germans contribute to the growing city and its surroundings? Attending the hospital dedication in 1858 were consuls from all the German states since a fully-united Germany did not come into existence until 1871. All those consuls so early? Amazing!

Between the Society of California Pioneers, the California Historical Association, the Bancroft Library, the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society, and the California sections of the Oakland and San Francisco libraries, there is a wealth of documentation, enough to keep one from ever sitting down to write! But what a joy it is to work with original materials where the very hand-writing speaks to the researcher! Lucky Monica!

Georgia Wright

EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue of the NEWSLETTER does not contain reports from History-Play Readers, the Readers of Medieval History, nor the Biography Group. These reports were omitted because there was limited activity to report, many of the usual reporters were traveling, and because space is limited in this quarters' edition.

Full coverage of the meetings and various activities of our membership, in their diverse forms, will appear in the upcoming Fall 2008 issue. Members are encouraged to join in the scholarly fellowship offered by these groups. For contact information, see the back of the cover of your recently received Roster of Members.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Jody Offer will be having a reading of her latest play, *Compared to What?*, sponsored by LABORFEST, on Monday, July 21 at 7:30 at Humanist Hall, 390 27th Street in Oakland. Set in 1926, her play concerns two sleeping car porters trying to make their way through the debilitating schedules and demeaning behaviors demanded of them by Pullman, as Asa Phillip Randolph and a nationwide coalition struggled to form the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Attendees will be asked for a \$5 donation to be given to the actors. Ample opportunity will be provided for members of the audience who wish to comment on the play, historically or otherwise. For further information, call Jody at (510) 465-8775.

Amy Essington presented "Including African Americans and Latinos in the Pacific Coast League: West Coast Baseball Integrates," at the Organization for American Historians Annual Meeting (March 2008). Also, she was elected as the lecturer representative to Curriculum and Education Policies Council at California State University, Long Beach for the 2008-2009 year.

Jeanne McDonnell's book, *Juana Briones of 19th Century California*, is due to be in print in late September in time for the Western History Association's annual meeting in October in Salt Lake City. Information about the book is available on the University of Arizona Press website.

Steven Levi sends thanks to the Institute for his mini-grant. The money was specifically used to extend his stay in Southern California for four days to search for documents on the elusive Alaskan, E. T. Barnette. Barnette, the founder of Fairbanks, established the Washington-Alaska Bank in 1904. Clearly unhappy with making money the old fashioned way, in January of 1911 he absconded with \$500,000, every dime in the bank, and fled to Mexico. He died mysteriously in Los Angeles in 1933. Steven's research, funded by the mini-grant, uncovered some interesting tidbits. In 1923, Barnette was made a Special Deputy Sheriff in Imperial County to chase a fugitive to Nicaragua. The United States State Department also arranged for him to legally carry a weapon in Nicaragua.

"I am still researching who he was chasing in Nicaragua and what was the disposition of the case."

NEW INSTITUTE MEMBER

The Institute is pleased to welcome **Margaret (Meg) Honey**. Meg teaches at St. Perpetua School in Lafayette, and is an adjunct professor at St. Mary's College. Her historical interests include world history, American history, and theater history.

IN MEMORIAM

Doris Linder, a long-time member of the Institute, died unexpectedly on April 25 while traveling in Tunisia. She studied history at Stanford University, where she received a BA in 1946 and an MA in 1949. She received her Ph.D. in History from the University of Minnesota in 1961. She was a Professor of History Emerita, College of San Mateo, where she taught world history courses for more than forty years. As the author of *Crusader for Sex Education: Elise Ottesen-Jensen (1886-1973)*, she continued her scholarly research and writing, particularly on Scandinavian history. She gave a work-in-progress session in 2007 on "Seamen's Rights Reformer (and San Franciscan) Andrew Furuseth (1854-1938)."

Doris served the Institute as a member of the Board of Directors, and over the years participated in many of its public programs. She organized the "Book Share" after the Oakland Hills fire, and was both organizer and panel member at a session celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations. Charitable gifts in Dr. Linder's name may be made to the Doris H. Linder Book Fund, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, CA, 94305. Memorial bookplates honoring Dr. Linder will be placed in books in the Cecil H. Green Library at Stanford.

Family After All: Alaska's Jesse Lee Home, Volume I—Unalaska, 1889-1925

By Raymond L. Hudson (Hardscratch Press, 2008)

This book is the first in a two-volume set published by Institute member, **Jackie Pels**. Her small company is known for its beautifully crafted books, and this one is no exception. Raymond Hudson is a respected historian of the Aleutians. Pels, a native of Seward, Alaska, is writing the second volume, which covers the Jesse Lee Home from its move to Seward in 1925 until its closure in 1965.

Unalaska is the main town on the island of Unalaska in the eastern Aleutian Islands. In 1889 the village had 300 residents with buildings spread out along a curved beach beside a fresh-water lake. The population was predominately Aleut. Russian fur traders had been there for over a hundred years, and Russian had become a second language for most Aleuts. Russian Orthodox Priest Ivan Veniaminoff started a school in 1824 and in 1826 built the Church of the Holy Ascension. By 1830 he had completed an Aleut alphabet and published the first books in the Aleut language.

Raymond Hudson describes the island's summer beauty: "Green treeless hills, like velour cascading to the sea, are bordered with swaths of lupine, monkshood and fireweed. Waist-high blueberry bushes and towering salmonberry thickets droop with ripe fruit." This was the scene when the first Methodist Missionaries, John and Abby Tuck, arrived in September 1889, sponsored by the Women's Home Missionary Society, to establish the Jesse Lee Home, named for an 18th century Methodist circuit riding preacher. Hudson says: "One of the most difficult parts of telling this story was trying to balance the good intentions of early missionaries with their uncharitable actions and words." Unlike the Russians, the Methodist missionaries insisted that their students converse only in English. They firmly believed that anyone who attended Russian Orthodox services was not a "Christian." Some looked down on the natives, seeing them as less intelligent than themselves.

The Tucks planned to have day students as well as to board students from outlying communities. They rented a house and converted its living room into a school room. When John Tuck petitioned for legal custody of seventeen girls, the petition said that the Home would provide room and board, clothing, instruction in English and "the principles of morality and religion that will fit them for good and virtuous citizenship." Eventually, the Home welcomed boys as well as girls. At first, the government had encouraged missionaries as teachers but later ordered the school and the mission to function independently.

The first Jesse Lee building was completed in 1895. Its history testifies to the other side of Unalaska weather. A month after the building was completed, a severe southeast gale blew the school off its foundation; two weeks later a northwest wind returned it to its original position. One teacher wrote that the lake had frozen over and the wind was howling, yet some schoolboys made themselves sails and were flying across the ice on skates.

The home was literally a life-saver for many children. Agnes and Albert Newhall were two administrators who arrived in 1898. Albert, a medical doctor, started a community hospital, allowing for the isolation of the seriously ill. About 20% of the children suffered from tuberculosis; influenza was also deadly. The staff worked hard to create a warm, caring environment. The girls were taught sewing, cooking, bread-making; the boys learned skills such as shoe repairing and did the outdoor work. Many were taught piano or violin. They learned to sing in parts. The Newhall's daughter, Edith, said, "The children knew how to take care of themselves and to run their own homes when they left the mission."

The book is generously illustrated with vintage photos of Unalaska, the children and the Home staff. I enjoyed learning about this setting and its little-known history. I look forward to Jackie's later volume, which will include personal interviews.

Anne M. Homan

CALENDAR

June 1	Tour of Mare Island
June 22	Work-in Progress -- Karen Offen
October 19	Work-in Progress -- Susan Cohn
October 24-26	National Coalition of Independent Scholars Conference in Berkeley
November 8	Annual Membership 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 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 **August 31, 2008**.

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.

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