The Institute for Historical Study

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THE INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL STUDY, INC. -- PROGRESS REPORT

We are pleased to announce that our application for incorporation as a non-profit, public benefit corporation and our California state tax exemption have been approved. IRS tax-exempt status will be somewhat longer in coming, but we cab begin applying for foundation grants for seed-money and for members' projects.

The process of incorporation and applying for tax-exempt status has been far more complex and time-consuming than we originally envisioned. For sharing with us the hard-won wisdom of the Institute for Research in History we are much indebted to Marjorie Lightman. For considerable assistance in interpreting the new state law and the intricacies of tax exemption we are beholden to the Management Center in San Francisco. And for uncounted hours of preparation, and the ultimate success of our endeavor, we owe a great debt to our incorporators -- Paula Gillett, Frances Keller, Francesca Miller, and Lorrie O'Dell -- and to Ellen Huppert.

A major step toward incorporation was the nomination and election of the first Board of Directors by the incorporators. (This is specified in state law. Beginning next year, Board members will be nominated and elected by the membership.) The Board then approved by-laws, which were submitted to the Secretary of State along with articles of incorporation and other documents. According to our by-laws, Board terms are to be staggered in order to ensure continuity. For the first Board, one and two-year terms were chosen by lot, with these results:

Two-Year Terms	One-Year Terms
Jules Becker	Ellen Huppert
Paula Gillett	Frances Keller
Joanne Lafler	Francesca Miller
Loretta O'Dell	Peter Mellini
Roberta Wollons	

There are eight more seats on the Board which can be filled as the Institute grows.

Also at the February 7th meeting at which the Board was elected and the by-laws presented, officers were elected, all by acclamation:

President:	Paula Gillett
Secretary:	Loretta O'Dell
Assistant Secretary:	Joanne Lafler
Treasurer:	Roberta Wollons
Assistant Treasurer:	Ellen Huppert

(At a subsequent Board Meeting, Ellen Huppert was also asked to serve as Vice-President.) Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, and Paula Gillett invites interested members to attend. The next meeting will be on April 17th at Ellen Huppert's house: 1490 Willard Street, San Francisco (near UC Medical Center) at 7:00 p.m. Further information on this and subsequent meetings can be had from Ellen at (415) 665 1529.

Finally, a number of committees have been formed and more are planned. All members are urged to participate in committee work, to contribute ideas and to share in the planning of this year's activities.

Liaison -- to facilitate membership in widely-separated geographical areas and to study ways to accomplish the necessary communication. Francesca Miller (chair), Frances Keller.

Development -- to seek foundation money and donations toward operating expenses. Ellen Huppert (chair), Jules Becker, Paula Gillett, Peter Mellini.

Publicity -- Lorrie O'Dell (chair), Chet Snow, Vincente Tang.

Program -- to plan public meetings, workshops, etc. Michael Metzger, Vincente Tang

Project Development -- to work with members in the development of group and individual projects. Joanne Lafler.

Study Groups -- to coordinate the activities of small groups and, especially, to assist in communication among members. Deborah Frangquist (chair).

Newsletter -- Joanne Lafter, Steve Sikora

Several of these committees are understaffed and need more members. Members are also needed for a membership committee, a committee to review grant proposals and a nominating committee. If you are able to participate in the work of one of these groups, please contact Paula Gillett at the Institute's new address: 145 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Or come to the next Board meeting.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The first membership meeting of 1980 was held at the Sutro Library in San Francisco on February 9th. Twenty-nine members and guests attended. In the portion of the meeting devoted to Institute business, Paula Gillett reported on organizational progress to date and introduced each Board Member. Copies of the by-laws were passed out and discussed by Ellen Huppert. There was some question about a formula for a quorum for calling and/or holding membership meetings. Paula Gillett spent some time discussing the role of the Institute as a "public-benefit" rather than a "mutual benefit" institution. The Institute has always advocated the public discussion of history and this may be accomplished in a number of ways. Several projects already underway were mentioned, including an oral history study recently developed by Gayle Escobar, Catherine Scholten and Sarah Sharp. (For a full description of this interesting project, see the article below.) Also planned are several conferences and exhibitions. Since sentiment was evenly divided between Saturday mornings and weekday evenings for general meetings, it was decided to alternate between the two in future. In the brief discussion of study groups, Lorrie O'Dell stressed the Institute goals of communication among historians and the production of fine historical scholarship, and emphasized the importance of member participation in a variety of ways.

Gary Kurutz, Director of the Sutro Library and a new Institute member, gave a most interesting account of the history and holdings of this unique branch of the State Library system. Gary has an M.A. in History and an M.L.S. and, before taking his present post at the Sutro Library last November, worked at the Huntington Library in the rare book department and served for five years as head librarian for the California Historical Society. He explained that the nucleus of the Sutro Library was Adolph Sutro's personal collection, once one of the largest private libraries in the world. A successful immigrant to California in the post-Gold Rush era, a mayor of San Francisco and a passionate bibliophile, Sutro traveled widely, acquiring ducal libraries in England and buying entire collections from antiquarian booksellers. As a result, his holdings comprised one of the greatest private

collections of incunabula -- some three thousand volumes. Unfortunately, Sutro heeded the advice of friends who were concerned that these and other rare books, stored in his home in the western part of the city, would be harmed by the salt air. Before the turn of the century, he moved them to safer quarters in downtown San Francisco. Over half the collection, including most of the incunabula, stored in one of these 'safer' buildings went up in flames in 1906. However, one-hundred thousand volumes and manuscripts in the fire-proof Montgomery Block survived.

While many important works from all periods remain in the collection, of special interest are the holdings in seventeenth and eighteenth century British books, pamphlets and manuscripts, and Latin American - especially Mexican - history. In the former category, the collection of Sir Joseph Banks, president of the Royal Society in the late eighteenth century and a friend and fellow-traveler of Captain Cook, alone contains several thousand manuscripts of great interest to British historians. In the latter category may be found 40,000 pamphlets relating chiefly to Mexican politics during the period of 1820 to 1860, including perhaps one of the finest collections in the world of the pamphleteer and patriot, Fernández de Lizardi.

The library also houses a large collection of genealogical and local history materials, which are not part of the original collection. Gary intends to add a much-needed collection of basic reference works and major secondary sources. He concluded his presentation by noting that the library, which has no permanent home, may have to vacate the facilities which it rents from the University of San Francisco, on Golden Gate Avenue, when the lease expires in five years. But if the future location of the library is uncertain, its importance as an historical resource cannot be doubted.

INTRODUCING THE NEW BOARD

Jules Becker is a journalist and historian. As a Ph.D candidate in American history at UC Berkeley, he has combined these interests in a doctoral study of media coverage of Orientals and Blacks in California in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. For ten years he was a reporter and editor with metropolitan newspapers in Chicago and San Francisco, and has owned and operated a public relations/advertising agency in San Francisco for more than twenty years. He has also found time during the last fourteen years to do part-time lecturing in journalism at UC Berkeley and the University of San Francisco.

Paula Gillett has a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in modern British and French social and intellectual history. Her dissertation was a study of the social world of English painting in the Victorian era, and at UC Santa Cruz she taught a seminar on authors, artists, actors, and musicians in the London of Samuel Johnson. She has a long-standing commitment to public history and the promotion of historical study outside the classroom. As director of a project on non-traditional uses of graduate training in history at UC Berkeley she brought together historians in traditional fields and modes with those working in areas such as documentary film, oral history and historical preservation, and she hopes to further this goal through the Institute.

Ellen Huppert has a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in modern European history and has taught full-time at San Francisco State and Holy Names College. Her current activities - besides those involved with her husband and two children - include prac-

ticing and teaching batik at Fort Mason Art Center in San Francisco, investigating questions of work and vocation, and serving as a volunteer for the San Francisco school district in the areas of finance and school policy. She states: "I think history is dangerously neglected in popular culture, including formal school curriculum, and I consider the Institute an important means of introducing history to the public consciousness, especially to young people for whom history as story, adventure or example is practically unknown."

Frances Keller has a PhD from the University of Chicago and has taught American history at San Jose State and, presently, at San Francisco State. Her research interests include black-white relations, women's history, Reconstruction, and the South. Her first book, An American Crusade, was published in 1978, and she has edited and contributed to the forth-coming Struggles of Eve: Studies in Women's History, and she recently translated and edited Slavery and the French Revolutionists, a study in French by the American historian Anna Julia Cooper. Frances has served as an NEH panelist and reviewer, 1979-1980, and was a speaker at the opening of the archives of the National Council of Negro Women in Washington last year. Currently she is president-elect of the Western Association of Women Historians. She believes that many other s besides teachers should be involved in historical work, and sees the Institute as one way of opening up our historical heritage to all of the people.

Joanne Lafler is a theater historian with a PhD in Dramatic Art from UC Berkeley. She has been a high school teacher in the Bay Area and a lecturer in drama at Lone Mountain College and UC Santa Cruz. Her research interests include English theater of the Restoration and eighteenth century, and women in theater, but she has also written about the all-male theatricals staged in the Bohemian Grove. She is currently writing a biography of the eighteenth-century actress, Anne Oldfield. Like many independent scholars working at home she values contact with other historians, and has found the varied backgrounds and interests of Institute members especially stimulating.

Peter Mellini has a PhD in history from Stanford and has taught at Stanford and at Sonoma State, where he is presently Professor of History. He is the author of The Overshadowed Proconsul (1977), a biographical study of a British administrator in Egypt in the late nineteenth century, and has recently co-authored, with Roy Matthews of Michigan State, a study of caricatures in Vanity Fair magazine from 1869-1914, In VANITY FAIR. He is particularly interested in historical preservation, and sees the Institute as a means of encouraging historians to become involved in public history projects and in historical works that reach a wide audience.

Francesca Miller has a PhD in Latrin American history from UC, Davis and has taught at Cal State Hayward, UC Davis and Solano Community College. She has done work in Brazilian history and is especially interested in Latin American feminist thought in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. A founder and incorporator of the Institute, Francesca lives in Davis.

Loretta O'Dell is a doctoral condidate in Modern European history at UC Davis. She is employed as an editor with Bank of America, and is a partner in an editorial service. She states: "I would like to see the Institute function as a community of scholars -- not in opposition to the academic world, but as an alternative association working in cooperation with the established historical community."

Roberta Wollons is a PhD candidate in History of Education at the University of Chicago. Her dissertation, "Educating Mothers: Sidonie Gruenberg and the Child Study Association of America," is a study of the child-study pioneer, and she has published several shorter pieces on Mrs. Gruenberg. She writes: "My home is originally in California and I went to Berkeley in the days of tear gas and unlimited possibilities for historians. Today, the Institute for Historical Study is becoming a genuinely innovative alternative to traditional academic institutions, both in its potential to support research historians with grants and to produce high-quality scholarship for popular as well as academic audiences. We're making a positive response to difficult times for historians, and in the process discovering a world of talent and enthusiasm outside the hallowed halls."

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Karen Reeds reports:

A computerized accurate mailing list of all medievalists in North America has recently been prepared by the Medieval Institute of Western Michigan University, under the auspices of the Medieval Academy of America and the Standing Committee for Centers and Regional Associations (CARA). A second phase of the project, the establishment of a permanent data bank for all future Medieval Academy and CARA projects, is underway, one product of which will be a Directory of Medievalists in North America. We received this news after the February deadline for questionnaire collection, but it may not be too late for local medievalists, working independently, to stand up and be counted. Address inquiries to: The Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

The Ford Foundation has a new program designed "to increase public understanding of major issues and trends in contemporary society, in the United States and abroad, through first-rate books by able young scholars and writers." The Foundation is looking for original work which emphasizes a humanistic and philosophical approach to current issues, cuts across traditional disciplines, and is directed primarily to concerned citizens and "only secondarily" to a specialist audience. Grants for full-time work on such projects range from $10,000 to $50,000. Prospective candidates should submit proposals to institutions, which will then forward nominations to the Foundation. Deadline for acceptance of proposals by the Foundation is July 31, 1980. For further information about the program, including descriptions of grants already made, write to: Richard S. Sharpe, Program Officer for the Committee on Public Policy and Social Organization, The Ford Foundation, 320 East 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Gayle Escobar, Catherine Scholten and Sarah Sharp are preparing a proposal for presentation to the Center for Women in Religion, a unit of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, for seed-money to begin an oral history project involving ten to fifteen women who completed their seminary training in the 1920's and 30's and became missionaries, chiefly in China. This will not be the first oral history of China missionaries - the Lutheran Church undertook a massive project several years ago - but it is the first to focus upon the feelings and experiences of an early generation of women seminary graduates who, barred from the ministry, turned to missionary work. It will also be the first oral history project on missionaries conducted outside a religious institution for general historic interest. With their initial proposal Gayle, Catherine, and Sarah plan