The Institute for Historical Study

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INSTITUTE PLANS

By now you should have received an announcement of the gallery lecture, "In Vanity Fair: The Origins of an Exhibition," given by Peter Mellini at the Stanford University Museum of Art on Saturday, October 11, 1980, at 3:00 p.m. We hope that the opportunity to view the exhibition and to hear first-hand how it was developed and organized will attract many new and old Institute members and friends for this, our first event of the fall season.

Plans for an evening at the "Chinese of America, 1785-1980" exhibition in San Francisco are announced by Vincente Tang. The exhibition will open at the Chinese Culture Center, 750 Kearny Street, on October 3rd, and will run through December 13th. Partially funded by the NEH, this is the first major pictorial exhibition about the history of an ethnic minority in the United States. A special Institute evening is scheduled for Friday, November 21st, and it will begin with a catered Chinese dinner at 5:30 and conclude with a guided tour of the exhibition. The highlight of the evening will be a lecture given either by Him Mark Lai, past president of the Chinese HIstorical Society and a noted historian of Chinese American Life, or Jack Chen, co-ordinator of the exhibition and author of a recent book, The Chinese in America. You will receive a more detailed announcement and reservation form next month. In the meantime, if you can help on the day of the event, please contact Vincente Tang at 885-0530 (after 9:30 p.m.) or 986-1823 (leave a message if she is not there).

INSTITUTE MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Frances Keller reports that at the annual conference of the AHA/PCB in Los Angeles, Penny Kanner, President of the Western Association of Women Historians, and an Institute member, chaired a large and very interesting luncheon meeting of the WAWH, at which Judith Stiehm of the University of Southern California spoke on "Women and the Military in the U.S. Today." Preceded by a stimulating session on "Slave Societies, Black Historians, and Black Activism," in which Christie Farnham Pope and Frances Richardson Keller presented papers, the luncheon drew a general attendence of conference members. President Kanner spoke of the growth of community historical investigations and the need to broaden the base of the profession.

Barbara (Penny) Kanner announces the publication of The Women of England from Anglo-Saxon Times to the Present: Interpretive Bibliographical Essays (Hamden, CT: Archon Books, 1979), a collection of essays which she edited and for which she wrote an introductory essay. Each of the essays is followed by an extensive bibliography on a specific time period of English history. Contributors include: Sheila C. Dietrich, Marc A. Mayer, Kathleen Casey, Ruth Kittel, Rosemary Masek, Barbara B. Schorrenberg, Karl von den Steinen, Sheila Ryan Johansson, Patricia Otto Klaus, Neal A. Ferguson, and Jeffrey Weeks. Her latest book, The Victorian Woman in English Social History: An Essay and Critical Bibliography, will be published by Garland Publishing.

Joanne Lafler has returned from a seven-week combination family visit and research stint in England for her biography of the eighteenth-century actress, Anne Oldfield. Armed with a letter of introduction from Institute President, Paula Gillett, she stopped first

at the Institute of Historical Research in the Senate House of the University of London. There she was welcomed as a temporary member (no charge at all for one month or less), and she found the library organized for easy and comfortable access and the library staff extremely helpful. Through the librarian for modern English history, she was put in touch with Dr. Frances Harris, a member of the team working at the British Library Department of Manuscripts, organizing and indexing the Blenheim manuscripts. The opportunity to talk to Dr. Harris, who is working on Sarah Churchill's papers, and to read the papers of Arthur Maynwaring, the Whig politician and journalist who was Mrs. Oldfield's lover from 1703-1712, was a high point of Joanne's work in London. She has ordered microfilms of some of the Maynwaring papers, and will be glad to share them with interested Institute members.

Francesca Miller has recently been working as a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Latin American Studies at Stanford University.

Roberta Wollons has been appointed as an evaluator for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION -- UP-COMING CONFERENCES

In connection with the exhibition, "The Chinese of America, 1785-1980", the 1980 National Conference on Chinese American Studies will be held at the Chinese Culture Center, 750 Kearny Street, San Francisco, October 9 to 11. The conference theme is "The Chinese American Experience from the Earliest Coming Until Today", and there will be sessions on such topics as history and historiography, immigration, women's issues, community health, art and literature, media treatment, education, Chinatowns, and current issues. Registration for the entire conference (for the general public) is $15, or $7.50 for one day. For a complete schedule of lectures and sessions, or general information, write to the Chinese Culture Center or telephone: (415) 986-1823.

The Western Association of Women Historians will hold its annual meeting in Northern California in May, 1981. Linda Popofsky, Program Committee Chair, urges women historians in all fields of history to submit proposals for papers and panels this fall and winter. The Committee solicits panels and presentations on the theme of "Women Historians as Educators", to treat broadly such topics as the condition of women's history, the perpetuation of stereotypes in education, the roles of feminist scholars, and developing theories of higher education. Please direct proposals related to this theme, as well as papers (individual or in panels) concerned with any field of history whatsoever, or any questions regarding the program, to Linda Popofsky, Department of Social Sciences, Mills College, Oakland, CA 94613. Queries about WAWH membership and other activities should be sent to: 476 Comstock Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024. Telephone: (213) 474-4550.

PROFILES

This month we profile two members whose different backgrounds and interests share some common themes.

Since August, 1978, Chet B. Snow has been Historian for Headquarters Military Airlift, Travis, host unit at Travis Air Force Base, located 45 miles north-east of San Francisco. This unit flies, maintains, and supports approximately 70 C-5 Galaxy and C-141 Starlifter long-range transport aircraft, which airlift people and cargo world-wide on "routine" resupply missions and on disaster relief flights for the United States government. In 1979/80 it has flown relief supplies to typhoon victims in the Marshall Islands, and burn victims in Japan; sent scientists to Antarctica and

journalists to the Winter Olympics; and ferried fighter aircraft to Korea, Jordan and Egypt. As historian, Chet's job is to keep a quarterly journal not only of the unit's missions but also of all aircraft maintenance, personnel changes, and important events at Travis. This position, a civil service job, is part of an Air Force network of historians who record and preserve Air Force history at all levels of command.

Prior to coming to Travis, Chet earned both an M.A. and Ph.M. (Ph.D. without a dissertation) at Columbia University and taught Contemporary Civilization there for two years. He has undergraduate degrees from Johns Hopkins University and from the Sorbonne (DES in history). At various times he has also worked as a short-order chef, a New York taxi driver, a French-English translator, and a door-to-door salesman. His favorite hobby is traveling, with visits to parts of six continents so far. He is especially interested in seeing more "public historians" involved with their teaching colleagues in groups like the Institute.

R.C. Raack, Professor of History at California State University, Hayward, directs the Seminar in Media and History, and teaches courses in historiography and in film-making for historians as well as traditional courses in East Central European history. He went to UCLA, has a Ph.D. from Harvard, and has been teaching at Hayward since 1965. He has done the usual writing and editing, has supervised student teachers, worked for Teachers Corps, and served on the state panel which developed the state-wide cirriculum, K-12, for history teachers. His main interest is in developing cinematographic representations of history for classroom and public education. He is currently working on a methodology for historians working as compilation film-makers. He has made a number of historical and other documentaries both in filmic and video media using the technique of juxtaposing authentic film and sound sources. His latest completed 16 mm. film is STORM OF FIRE: WORLD WAR II AND THE DESTRUCTION OF DRESDON (distr: Churchill Films). He is currently at work on a compilation of newsreels from several countries from the early Cold War era. This fall and winter (1980/81) he will visit Poland and East Germany to study their film-making on historical subjects, and their historical film and sound archives.

Cal State, Hayward, offers a program for undergraduates, and the only such M.A. program for graduate students in history, who wish to make historical audio-visual materials for classrooms, museums, and public education. Professor Raack would appreciate receiving information on historical film and sound sources, including historically important 'home' movies which might be available to his students. Please call him at 881-3240, weekdays, or write to him % Department of History, California State University, Hayward.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES INFORMATION EXCHANGE

This month, Penny Kanner reports on several projects which should be of interest to anyone working in women's history and women's studies.

English Women in Print, 1475-1700: An Annotated Bibliography and Subject Index. This is an on-going project whose purpose is to provide an exhaustive, annotated, full title-page, subject-indexed list of works by women either written in English or published in Great Britain or America, or written by English women living and publishing abroad during the years 1475-1700. When finished, the bibliography will provide information regarding a minimum of 500 published women writers and will summarize the contents of at least 720 titles which were published in some 1220 editions. It will include locations of copies and, where available, biographical information.

Co-directed by Alison Heisch and David Latt, the project has been organized at the Huntington Library as an interdisciplinary, collaborative venture involving literary, social, political, and intellectual historians. As the project proceeds, the particiation of additional scholar-contributors will be sought. (Penny Kanner is presently a contributing editor.) The directors are especially interested in hearing from individuals who have located items pertinent to the bibliography which do not appear in the standard sources (i.e., STC, Wing, Evans, or Smith). Queries should be addressed to: Alison Heisch, Project Director, English Women in Print, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California 91108.

Of interest also is the continuing bibliography on women, "BiblioFem", published by the Fawcett Library of the City of London Polytechnic, which now contains over 13,000 books covering four centuries of information on women in the arts, education, fiction, history, literature, medicine, religion, sports, and women's movements. A cummulative subject index is now available. The subscription cost of £45.00 -- especially at current exchange rates -- may be prohibitive for individuals, but most large academic libraries are subscribers. Individuals wishing more information may write to: BiblioFem, (1), Fawcett Library, Old Castle Street, London, E1 7NT, England.

Scholars planning to work in London can become members of the Fawcett Library, which Penny terms a 'gold mine' for women's studies from 1800 to the present, for £5 per year (1979 rates).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

The Institute is looking for two members to serve on the nominating committee, which is charged with the duty of establishing a slate of nominees for the Board of Directors of the Institute and for the nominating committee for next year. This slate of nominees will be presented to the membership of the Institute at its annual meeting, to be held in February 1981. The by-laws of the Institute state that this year the committee is to be made up of three members of the Board of Directors, and two members from the membership at large. If you are willing to serve in this capacity, please contact Paula Gillett at the Institute address.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Since our April, 1980, newsletter came out, our membership has increased by eleven members, to a total of forty-four. Space does not permit detailed information about our newest members, but we hope to publish profiles of them soon. A warm welcome to Robert Breuer, Victoria Brown, Nupur Chaudhuri, Mark Ciabattari, Galen R. Fisher, Sondra Herman, Alison Klairmont Lingo, Margaretta Mitchell, Judith Robinson, Harvey Schwartz, and Maria Schwartz.

We would like to keep our membership growing. Francesca Miller, newly appointed chair of the membership committee, is interested in developing a list of prospective members. Recommentations can be sent to her at the Institute address.

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Steve Sikora