The Institute for Historical Study

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Institute for Historical Study will soon be celebrating the beginning of its second year of corporate existence. We have much to be proud of -- a growing membership; well-attended, lively meetings and events; individual and group projects; an on-going series of "work in progress" sessions held in different parts of the Bay Area, and the newsletter which you are now reading.

All this has been accomplished by the energy and dedication of your board of directors and a small number of hard-working members. I hope that our second year will see a widening of membership participation in building our organization and in exploring new ways for us to share historical interests with each other and with the general public.

It has been a privilege to serve as the Institute's first president. I look forward to seeing you all on February 28th.

-- Paula Gillett

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The annual membership meeting of the Institute will be held on Saturday, February 28th at the Sutro Library, Golden Gate Avenue at Temescal Terrace (on the north side of the USF campus) in San Francisco, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The morning session will comprise the business meeting, with reports by the president, the treasurer and the committee chairs, and the election of board members and a nominating committee. Following lunch, which will be provided at a nominal charge, there will be time for new and old members to get acquainted before we hear our speaker, Jane Ciabattari, Managing Editor of California Living, who will talk about "Buying History".

Non-members are cordially invited to attend the meeting, and may reserve lunch by calling Ellen Huppert at (415) 655-1529. All members should have received a list of nominees and other meeting information in the mail. If you have not received this material it may be our mistake -- or yours, if you have not completed the application process for membership. Call (415) 655-1529, or (415) 451-8682 if you have any questions.

IMPORTANT UP-COMING EVENT

HISTORIANS, HISTORY, AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES IN THE STATE CAPITAL OF CALIFORNIA: A Sacramento Meeting

A meeting designed to acquaint our members and friends with the vast, but little-known, "lode" of historical material in our state capital is scheduled for Saturday, March 14th at 1:30 p.m. in the Big 4 Building in Old Sacramento, where Leland Stanford, Mark Hopkins, C.P. Huntington, and Charles Crocker planned the Central Pacific Railroad. The committee for the Sacramento meeting announces that the program is set, and very exciting it is. Response from the greater Sacramento community has been enthusiastic, and our speakers represent the following departments and offices: The California Department of Parks and Recreation, which houses over two million artifacts in its West Sacramento facility and oversees the

historic reconstruction of Old Sacramento; the State Archives; the Sacramento Museum and History Commission; the Office of Historical Preservation; the Bureau of Land Management; the State Lands Commission; and the Special Collections of the University of California at Davis. Each participant is preparing a brief outline of archival holdings, which will be available as a brochure at the meeting. A reception is planned immediately following the program.

Old Sacramento is a charming river-front area filled with historic buildings and exhibits. It also includes a number of good places to eat, and you may want to consider having lunch in the area before the meeting, or supper afterwards. In the evening, you could see a performance at the Eagle Theatre (make reservations beforehand), which is a reconstruction of the first theatre building on the West Coast, in operation from October 1849 to January 1950, when it was flooded out. (According to tradition, as the waters came into the pit the rowdy audience simply kept crowding into higher seats, finally fleeing only when the stage went under.)

Plan now to attend the meeting on March 14th, and alert friends living in the Sacramento area who might be interested in this and other Institute activities. A special meeting is planned, but for now you may wish to note that the Big 4 Building is at 111 I Street, Old Sacramento. Directions from the freeway are clearly marked. For further information, call (916) 756-1250; (916) 485-3172; or (415) 451-8682.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

WAWH MEETING AT ASILOMAR

The annual meeting of the Western Association of Women Historians will be held from May 22 to 24 at Asilomar in Pacific Grove, California. Chaired by Linda Popofsky of Mills College, the program will include some of the following sessions:

-- a plenary panel on "Integrating Material on Women into History Survey Courses", with speakers D'Ann Campbell of the University of Indiana, Carolyn Lougee of Stanford University, Elizabeth Fox-Genovese of SUNY-Binghampton, and Fane Downs of McMurray College.
-- a workshop on women historians in publishing, with representatives from Stanford University Press and SIGNS.
-- such panels as "Brazil -- Historical Perspectives on Policy Formation", and "Sex and Socialization: Education in America".

Registration information is available from Carole Hicke, 57 Coronado Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070. For information on car pools from the Bay Area, call Frances Richardson Keller, (415) 334-5772

UC PRESS BOOK SALE

UC Press will hold a special HURT BOOK SALE, with great bargains on hundreds of slightly damaged UC Press books: art, history, Californiana, literature, natural history, etc., etc. The sale includes many brand-new, out-of-print, and collectors' items. Time and place: Friday, March 6th from noon to 5:00 p.m. in the West Madrone Room on the fourth floor of the ASUC building on the UC Berkeley Campus. If there are any books left, the sale will continue on Saturday, March 7th, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Proceeds go to a scholarship fund for UC Press employees.

IN MEMORY OF CATHERINE SCHOLTEN

Friends of Catherine Scholten were stunned by her death on January 21st, after she had been struck by a car while crossing Shattuck Avenue near her home in Berkeley. Catherine was a founding member of the Institute, whose members knew her as a graduate student in American History at UC Berkeley, and as a staff member of the Regional Oral History Office in the Bancroft Library. Her scholarly interest and her accomplishments were extensive.

After receiving her B.A. with honors at UC Berkeley in 1971, Catherine went on to graduate work in American History, earning her M.A. in 1972 amd embarking upon her doctoral studies, in the course of which she taught classes in American social history -- including an oral history class on women workers in World War II -- in her department at Berkeley. The subject of her doctoral dissertation, which she expected to complete in the spring of 1981, was "Childbearing in American Society, 1650-1930", a study of changes in the social value of maternity. She published an article on the subject, "On the Importance of the Obstetrick Art: Changing Customs of Childbirth in America, 1760 to 1825", in The William and Mary Quarterly, July 1977.

In 1978, Catherine came to the Regional History Office to gather material on Sara Bard Field for an article which appeared in the 1980 edition of Notable American Women. She stayed to become a transcriber and editorial assistant. At the time of her death, she was engaged in completion of a series on Congresswoman Helen Gahagan Douglas, a series on August Vollmer, and individual memoirs with Earl Warren, Thomas Crowley, and Warren Olney III. Upon completion of her dissertation she was to have taken a position in the Government History Documentation Project.

Catherine was one of three Institute members who planned a study of American women missionaries in Asia from 1920 to 1940, under the auspices of the Center for Women and Religion at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, and in November 1980 she co-directed a workshop on oral history for the Center.

Hers was a life of accomplishment and great promise. We mourn its untimely end.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE DIRECTORY OF AMERICAN SCHOLARS

> The Directory of American Scholars welcomes nominations for its next edition. Persons interested in being considered should send their names, addresses and disciplines to Renee Lauterbach of the Jaques Cattell Press, a division of the R.R. Bowker Company, 2216 South Industrial Park, P.O. Box 25001, Tempe, Arizona 85282. Questionnaires will be sent in late 1981.

Karen Reeds forwarded this announcement with the observation that, as an editor at UC Press, she consults the Directory frequently to check on the qualification of authors, find potential expert readers, and the like. She feels that it is worthwhile for non-academic as well as academic historians to list themselves.

ATTENTION JOB SEEKERS

As a service to our members, we are instituting a file of persons who are seeking full or part-time employment in teaching, research, and consultancy. This way, as soon as there is news of a position, eligible members can be contacted. If you are interested, please send us the following information: 1) Types of positions you are seeking, and whether full or part-time; 2) Fields of expertise, both scholarly and technical (e.g., public relations, photo research, genealogy, editing); 3) Period of time for which you are seeking employment. Mail this information to the Chair of the Membership Committee at the Institute address.

MEMBER PROFILE: GEORGIA WRIGHT

The Institute's active and enthusiastic program committee chair has this to say about her background, work, and interests:

> I received my PhD in the History of Art from Columbia in 1966 and since then have taught at the Universities of Minnesota and California (Berkeley and Davis campuses) and at Mills College. I have published articles on French Gothic sculpture, particularly tombs, with an excursion into the work of Caravaggio (his Entombment), but most recently indulged in a non-funereal study of Maybeck's campus plans, inspired by some materials I came upon at Mills.
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> Last June I completed the MBA at Berkeley, and took a part-time job doing research for a consulting firm specializing in coal. The complete lack of connection between my former career and my present one is delightful. The focus of concern, the team activity, and the expectations are all so different that I feel I am starting a new life with the advantage of remembering a former incarnation. Evenings or week-ends, released from the mines, I can plunge into my tombs. My husband teaches Art History at Berkeley, so that I am not without support in my "avocation".

OFF TO A SUCCESSFUL START

The newest Institute undertaking -- a monthly series of informal meetings at which members discuss their works in progress -- was off to a successful start in January, with a meeting at the home of Georgia Wright in Berkeley. The first of two featured speakers, Sylvia Myers, a scholar and teacher of English literature, has been interested in the eighteenth-century English blue-stocking movement as a prototype of the friendship networks established by women who have adopted an independent stance. Similarly, she sees the life and work of Elizabeth Carter as in some ways foreshadowing the life of the female scholar of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Carter chose the life of an unmarried, independent scholar, deriving much support from blue-stocking friends such as Catherine Talbot, without whose encouragement Carter might never have undertaken her most important work, the first complete English translation of Epictetus. It was Carter's example, Sylvia feels, which helped to make intellectual activity respectable for women in an age in which choices were severely limited.

The second participant, Ruth Friedlander, has turned from her doctoral work on the history of medicine to Biblical history -- and the task of translating that history into drama: a trilogy of the life of King Saul. She shared with us material from an exegesis of the book of Samuel which contains fascinating glimpses into personalities -- especially the nature of Saul himself -- and personal relationships. She enjoys the freedom to speculate, to flesh out motivations that the imaginative form of drama affords, but as a conscientious historian worries that the scholar and dramatist can sometimes be at odds. To convey the complexity and richness of the historical background without pedantry is Ruth's greatest challenge.

Response to the first meeting was enthusiastic. For the speakers it offered an opportunity to try out ideas and generate a lively discussion. For all of those present it was an occasion to become better acquainted as scholars in an informal setting. The program committee is scheduling at least one such meeting each month in different Bay Area locations and at different times. Non-members as well as members are cordially invited to attend, but it is felt that the opportunity to make presentations should be limited to members. Georgia Wright welcomes suggestions on speakers and topics, which may also include discussions of important

new literature. Write to her at the Institute address or call her: (415) 549-1922. An announcement of the meetings planned for Tuesday evening, February 17th, and Sunday evening, March 22nd, has been mailed separately. If you did not receive the announcement, or of you have any questions, write to or call Georgia Wright.

REPORT ON HISTORY MEETING AT UC SANTA BAREARA

The California Committee For The Promotion Of History sponsored a conference, "Professionalizing History in California", at U.C. Santa Barbara on January 17th and 18th. Ann Hagerman Johnson, an Institute member, co-chaired the program with Al Hurtado of the Public History Services Association, Sacramento, and G. Wesley Johnson, of the UCSB Public Historical Studies Program. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the problems, practice and prospects of public history in California. Topics addressed included history in the business world, history as a community resource, history and government service, history and private consulting, and the establishment of public history programs within academic institutions at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

In addition to Ann Johnson's contributions, the following Institute members spoke: Diane Spencer-Hancock (California State Lands Commission), on "Problems for the Public Historian in the State Bureaucracy", emphasizing the dearth of understanding among hiring personnel of the special skills a trained historian brings to a project; Andy Anderson (Wells Fargo Bank History Department), on "Corporate and Community History: Projects for the Eighties", showing slides which gave an overview of some of the special collections available to researchers in the Wells Fargo archives; and Francesca Miller, who outlined the first year of the Institute's activities in her talk, "The Institute for Historical Study and the Community".

The second day of the conference was devoted to a workshop, in which the ideas presented in the papers were assessed, and a fifteen-member steering committee was appointed. A major task for the public historian is to improve professional standards and to insist that a professional historian be hired when the job description calls for an historian. Too often it is assumed that anyone can write a little history. The steering committee looks forward to working with the Institute in areas of common concern.

ATTENTION GRANT SEEKERS

Since receiving its tax-exempt status, the Institute has been empowered to administer grants, both for individual projects of members and for projects generated within the Institute. Several proposals have already been under consideration. Members who are or may be interested in applying for grants through their affiliation with the Institute should be aware of the procedure that has been established. All proposals are reviewed by the grants committee, which then makes recommendations to the Board. The grants committee is also able to advise members on grant preparation, limited only be the fact that at present such work is done by committee members on a volunteer basis. For further information, write to the grants committee at the Institute address. Please make note of your deadlines, and allow sufficient time for preparation and for the review process.

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