The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

Volume III, Number 1 March 15, 1982

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we move toward the convening of the new Board of Directors elected at our annual meeting at the Sutro Library, I would like to thank the members of the Institute for giving me the opportunity to serve as founding president of our organization, and to review some of the accomplishments of the first two years of our existence as a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. In this short period we have held five well-attended public programs in San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, Palo Alto, and Sacramento, and have established a stimulating monthly works-in-progress series for members and guests. We have administered a planning grant from the California Council for the Humanities and received a generous membership-development grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Our activities at the December meeting of the American Historical Association in Los Angeles, including participation in the panel on scholarly entrepreneurs sponsored by the New York Institute for Research in History, were well received and brought us several new members. Carroll Brentano and the Institute members working with her — Georgiana Davidson, Mary Agnes Dougherty, Mark Rudo, and Ilse Sternberger — have done an outstanding job in implementing the first stage of the Hewlett grant, bringing us valuable information concerning present and potential members and their ideas about the future of the Institute. Most recently we have been invited to present a panel on Modern European History at the meeting of the Pacific Coast branch of the AHA at the University of San Francisco in August.

I look forward to working with the new Board and president, and to even greater accomplishments for the Institute.

— Paula Gillett

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL MEETING

The second annual membership meeting of the Institute for Historical Study was held on Saturday, February 27, 1982, at the Sutro Library on the campus of the University of San Francisco. Nearly half of our seventy-six members attended the morning and afternoon sessions, evincing an enthusiasm and commitment which bode well for the future of our organization. The first part of the business meeting was devoted to reports by the Treasurer, Roberta Wollons, who provided a summary and analysis of income and expenses for the last fiscal year; program committee chair, Georgia Wright, who reviewed Institute activities since the last annual meeting; membership committee chair, Deborah Frangquist, who discussed the activities of her committee and the current status of our membership; Joanne Lafler, publications committee chair, who reported on the Institute newsletter; and Carroll Brentano and Ellen Huppert, whose reports on the implementation of the Hewlett grant and the work of the planning committee are discussed in detail below.

There was a great deal of interest in, and discussion of, Carroll Brentano's report on the first stage of the membership campaign: the recent telephone polls of members and of persons who have been receiving the newsletter and meeting announcements but have not yet joined the Institute. Not only did these polls yield names of potential members and suggestions about ways in which the Institute might develop, but they also helped to evaluate the success and effectiveness of current programs. The majority of respondents cited the need for a community of scholars and intellectual stimulation as reasons for joining and renewing their memberships. Geographical distance, cited by some present and potential members as a bar to active participation, poses problems which need to be resolved. There were widely differing reactions to specific aspects of our program, but these tend to reflect the heterogeneous backgrounds and interests of our members, and Carroll remarked that as long as criticisms remain evenly balanced, we are probably doing a good job of serving our varied constituency. On the whole, she reported, the response was positive. In the discussion that followed there were a number of comments and suggestions from the floor, many of which were directed toward implementing the next phase of the campaign: an outreach to university campuses and the community.

Ellen Huppert, chair of the planning committee, handed out and discussed copies of the guidelines for future development of the Institute approved by the Board in February: a statement of goals and steps for implementation over the next five years. General in nature, these guidelines will be influenced by the information obtained from the membership polls and by the success of the membership campaign. They include obtaining a permanent office and the services of a part-time, paid executive director to serve the needs

of a growing membership, and developing income-producing products and services.

Following the report of the nominating committee by Deborah Frangquist, elections were held to fill six seats on the eleven-member Board of Directors: five two-year terms and a one-year term created by the resignation, earlier this year, of Gayle Gullett. The results of the election were: Jules Becker, Paula Gillett, Bogna Lorence-Kot, Lorrie O'Dell, and Georgia Wright, two-year terms; Roberta Wollons, one-year term. In addition, Oscar Berland, Martha Conneely, Paula Gillett, Irena Narell, and Lorrie O'Dell were elected to the nominating committee for 1982. It was announced that Joanne Lafler had stepped down from the Board after serving for two years in order to devote more time to other Institute work.

The morning session concluded with the presentation of a framed testimonial to Paula Gillett in recognition of her outstanding service to the Institute, as a founder and the first president.

During the afternoon session members met in small groups according to common interests, to exchange ideas and make plans for future activities. As a result of one such meeting, a new study group has been created, devoted to "Europe since 1945." Members who would like to know more about the work of these groups may get in touch with their conveners:

Jules Becker, California history (415) 453-5587
Carroll Brentano, art history (415) 849-1571
Mary Agnes Dougherty, women's history (415) 526-6135
Dave Rosen, European history (415) 552-0118
Oscar Berland, Jewish history (415) 658-6621
Chet Snow, military history (707) 252-2984
Francesca Miller, Latin American history (916) 756-1250
Joanne Lafler, biography (415) 547-1791

Members who were unable to attend the meeting will receive copies of the 1982 roster, the financial report, and the report of the planning committee.

INSTITUTE MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN 1981 AHA MEETING

by Chet Snow

The annual meeting of the American Historical Association is always an interesting event, with myriad official and unofficial panels and papers covering nearly every conceivable area of historical study. Additionally, there are sure to be reunions with former colleagues and friends from graduate school or an earliler job in another part of the country. Even the business sessions and job placement interviews play an important part in the lives of many historians.

The 1981 AHA meeting, held December 28-30 in Los Angeles, was particularly interesting for us as two Institute members gave excellent presentations. At a workshop on *Oral History and Videotaping*, Institute member Rosemary Levenson presented her half-hour videotape, "Lester Rowntree: Hardy Californian." Paula Gillett gave a paper on "Self Help, Public Service and Entrepreneurship: An Emerging Synthesis" in a panel devoted to *Independent Research Institutes: Scholarly Entrepreneurs*.

Also, in recent years there has been a growing trend within the AHA to include more presentations in non-traditional areas of historical study and employment. This was very evident at the Los Angeles meeting which included a special showing of the movie *Reds*, a session on *The Socialization and Training of Historians*, which focussed on the use of history in non-academic environments, and several sessions on audio-visual presentations of historical subject.

Although the 1982 AHA meeting will be held in Washington, D.C., a long distance for most of us, we should note that the 1983 meeting is scheduled for San Francisco. It is not too early to be considering possible paper topics for the 1983 meeting, and the Institute may very well sponsor one or more panels. Further information concerning the submission of topics can be obtained from the American Historical Association, 400 'A' Street SE, Washington, DC, 20003.

ELECTION OF NEW INSTITUTE OFFICERS

On March 11, the newly elected Board of Directors met and elected the officers of the Institute for 1982: President, Ellen Huppert; Vice-President, Francesca Miller; Corresponding Secretary, Lorrie O'Dell; Recording Secretary, Chet Snow; Treasurer, Georgia Wright. These officers serve for one year.

The monthly meetings of the Board are open to all interested members. For information on the time and place of the meetings, call Lorrie O'Dell (415) 622-9496 or 451-8682.

WORK-IN-PROGRESS MEETINGS

October

Frances Keller's interest in Black American historiography began with her discovery, in the library stacks of the University of Chicago, of an unpublished doctoral thesis (Sorbonne, 1926) on the attitude of French revolutionaries toward slavery — the work of Anna Julia Cooper, a southern American known for her work as an educator, not as a historian. After translating Cooper's thesis, Frances undertook a comparative study of Cooper and four other Black American historians: George Washington Williams, who, writing in the late nineteenth century, was one of the first to stress the importance of African heritage; W.E.B. DuBois, whose importance as a historian has been neglected; the West Indian-born Marxist, C.L.R. James, author of *Black Jacobins*; and John Hope Franklin. Frances believes that the work of these five

historians prepared the way for Black activism in the 1960's; despite differences in underlying philosophy, all five writers emphasize the centrality of the slavery/human rights issue to an understanding of American history. At the moment, Frances is trying to decide whether to expand her study into a monograph or distill it into a journal article.

December

Everybody has "heard" of Gertrude Atherton, but few people today know her work or anything but the barest outlines of her life. She herself did not make the biographer's task easy, as Emily Leider has discovered, for even in her autobiography, *The Adventures of a Novelist*, the writer's inner feelings tend to be obscured by her self-created persona: Gertrude Atherton, celebrity and *grande dame*. Emily is interested in exploring the sometimes conflicting themes in Atherton's life and work, and in establishing her place in the cultural milieu of the early and middle twentieth century. She has been fortunate in having access to valuable unpublished papers and family reminiscences, and perhaps not so fortunate in having to digest the entire corpus of a prolific writer, a task that will take some time to complete. But the mass of material, far from burying her subject, has enabled Emily to see Gertrude Atherton fully and clearly — warts and all.

January

In her doctoral dissertation on the status of the medical practitioner in sixteenth-century France, Alison Klairmont Lingo also examined the activities of non-licensed practitioners — charlatans — ranging from street-corner 'medicine shows' that we commonly associate with the word charlatan, to valuable services performed in hospitals. At our January meeting, Alison discussed her past work in this field as well as her on-going interest in female medical practitioners who, barred from university education, became charlatans by default. Especially interesting was the contrast she has documented between the liberal climate of the mercantile center, Lyon, where the work of charlatans in hospitals was tolerated and even encouraged, and the "closed shop" atmosphere on Montpellier, a university town whose academic establishment rigorously excluded unlicensed practitioners. Alison noted that little scholarly work as been done so far in this field, and that she would like to be able to document more fully the history of female medical practitioners in sixteenth-century France.

February

Seeing *Reds* became the focus of a relatively impromptu "discussion-in-progress" session held on a rainy February evening, and devoted to sharing reactions to and comments on the recent Hollywood movie based on the lives of John Reed and Louise Bryant. Part of the discussion focused on how accurately the lives of the two main characters had been portrayed, but other issues were raised during the course of the evening: the technique of using "witnesses" interspersed throughout the drama; the accuracy of the political climate; the interpretation of Reed's politics. After a general discussion led by Georgia Wright, smaller groups formed and argued about the movie with greater intensity. On the whole, a good time was had by all, and those members and guests who attended agreed that more such "topical" evenings should be held.

CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

A reminder:

— The British are coming . . . Institute members and friends are cordially invited to attend the ninth Annual Meeting of the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies at Sonoma State University, March 27-28. Topics include the new Social Democratic Party; British Studies and "On Historians"; and rebellion in early modern England. There will be a session on getting published, led by Michael Larson and Elizabeth Pomoda, San Franciaco literary agents. Student rates are available. For information and/or registration, contact Institute member Peter Mellini, c/o the History Department, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA 94298.

— The seventh annual California Historic Preservation Conference, *Reinvesting in America*, takes place April 29-May 2 at the Oakland Museum/ Oakland Municipal Auditorium. Activities include panels on current issues, site visits and tours illustrating the conference theme, a reception at the Camron-Stanford House, and a celebration of the opening of the Oakland Museum's "Storefront Museum" on Victorian Row. Registration fees are $40 general, $25 student (after April 15 add $10). For further information write to: 1982 California Historic Preservation Conference, c/o Oakland Heritage Alliance, P.O. Box 12082, Oakland, California 94604. The Institute will need volunteers to staff an informational table. Let us know if you can help.

— Women Historians of the Midwest will hold its annual conference on April 30-May 2 at College of Saint Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota 55105. For information write to Gretchen Kreuter, program committee chair.

Just announced:

— The Western Association of Women Historians has completed plans for Conference XIV, *Directions in Historical Research 1982*, which will be held at The Huntington, San Marino, California, May 21-23. The WAWH spring meeting is the first conference to be held at The Huntington, whose beautiful facilities include the internationally-known research collection, library, museum, and extensive botanical gardens.

Institute member Francesca Miller, conference program chair, announces that the rich program offers eighteen sessions, including panels on *Women in War and Peace, Patronage and the Arts*, and *The Resources of The Huntington*. There will be workshops on *Women Historians in the Business Community*, and *Researching Popular American Culture: A Demonstration of the New Technology*, the latter featuring research techniques and online computer searches on requested topics. For further information and conference registration materials, contact Dr. Mary Elizabeth Perry, Secretary-Treasurer, 296 Redwood Drive, Pasadena, CA 91105.

— The Fort Point and Army Museum Association will sponsor annual, day-long historical conferences starting in September 1982. The topic for the first conference is military medicine and the Pacific Coast, 1847-1892 — including organization, the state of scientific knowledge, philosophy, and civil-military relations. In September 1983, the conference topic will be the nineteenth-century Army family. The Association plans to grant small honorariums to speakers and to publish the papers. Institute members interested in presenting papers should write to Col. W.F. Strobridge, USA (Ret), Conference Coordinator, Ft. Point and Army Museum Association, P.O. Box 29163, Presidio of San Francisco, CA 94129.

PUBLICATIONS, PRIZES, FELLOWSHIPS

A reminder:

The Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association is soliciting manuscripts on architecture, or biographies of architects, in the Berkeley area. For further information please contact B.A.H.A., P.O. Box 1137, Main Post Office, Berkeley, CA 94704. Or telephone: (415) 845-6591.

Just announced:

The newsletter of the Conference Group on Women's History (CGWH) has called for short articles on primary sources and archives for research in all fields of women's history that are located in North America. Publication will constitute a journal article. Papers of 1200-1500 words should be submitted to Scholar's Exchange, CWGH Newsletter, 476 Comstock Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Ilse Sternberger reports that her biography of the children of Theodor Herzl, *The Homeless Princes*, is "still making the publishers' rounds," amd that she looks forward to spending two months as an artist-in-residence at the Briarcombe Foundation in Bolinas, working on a historical novel. She has just finished reading *Reenactment of the World* (Cornell University Press, 1981) by Morris Berman, which she highly recommends — "a brilliantly original survey of the history of science, well-researched, well-written and illustrated."

Bill Strobridge reports that he listed the Institute for Historical Study as his affiliation for an article, "California's Bloody Klamath," published in the October 1981 issue of *Journal of the West*.

New member Jack Boas anounces the publication "this or next year" of his book, co-authored with his brother, Max Boas, *Boulevard de Misères: The Story of Transit Camp Westerbork*, by the Shoe String Press in Hamden, Connecticut.

Frances Keller reports that when she was in Washington, D.C recently she had the unexpected pleasure of seeing Gretta Mitchell's exhibition, "Recollections: Ten Women in Photography," which opened at the Mills College Art Gallery in Oakland last September and has been touring the country. In Washington it received an excellent review in the *Post* and was showing to large, appreciative audiences at the Corcoran Gallery, even in January's "arctic weather."

Peter Mellini announces the publication this April of his book, co-authored with Roy T. Matthews of Michigan State University, *In VANITY FAIR*, by U.C. Press and the Scolar Press in London. Hard upon that, he is embarking upon a second book on British caricature and cartoon since 1841, also with Roy T. Matthews. He would like to hear from anyone who has information about sources, including pornographic collections, or suggestions.

We have some good news and some bad news about Roberta Wollons, a founding member and treasurer of the Institute since its beginning. The good news is that she has been hired as an Assistant Professor of American Studies at Case Western Reserve, where she will be teaching women's history and family history. The bad news is that Case Western Reserve, as most of you know, is in Cleveland, Ohio. She will be leaving the Bay Area in August, but will continue to serve on the Board of Directors and to work with her successor as treasurer, Georgia Wright, until then. It is too early to say goodbye, but not too early to wish her the best of luck.

Institute members who heard Sylvia Myers talk about her study of the bluestocking Elizabeth Carter at our first WIP meeting in January 1981 will be interested in the paper, "Breaking Away: Mrs. Thrale and the Bluestocking Circle," which she read at a session devoted to Mrs. Thrale at the December meeting of the Modern Language Association in New York. In it she develops the notion of the equation of gentility and 'technical' celibacy with female intellectual life in the eighteenth century, a principle which she believes Mrs. Thrale violated when she remarried for love.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following members who joined the Institute during the last three months:

— **Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum** has a PhD in history from the University of California, Berkeley, and is presently interested in women's history and in ethnic history. She hopes that the Institute can develop programs in cooperation with the American Italian Historical Association.

— **Frank T. Brechka**, History Librarian at the University of California, Berkeley Library, is interested in the history of libraries and in Dutch history of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. He would especially like to offer his services as librarian and bibliographer to other Institute members, including tours of the building, the catalogues and the bibliographic resources.

— **Georgiana Davidson** has a PhD in history from U.C. Berkeley, and is interested in various aspects of religious history — especially popular piety in Italy during the Counter Reformation, early Christianity, contemporary theology, and Jewish history. She looks forward to sharing scholarly interests with other Institute members.

— **Carol Feinstein** has an MA in history from the University of California, Davis, and has been working on a manuscript, *California: A Woman's Place*, drawn from the letters and reminiscences of family women in early California. She would like to meet with other members who share similar interests.

— **Joanna Bowen Gillespie** wrote her doctoral thesis in the sociology of education at New York University, has taught at Drew University and, more recently, has been affiliated with CROW and the Pacific School of Religion. She is interested in religious history, especially in relation to women's history and American culture in the nineteenth century.

— **Richard Herr** has a PhD in history from the University of Chicago and has published works on eighteenth-century Spanish and French history, which he cites as continuing interests, along with the agrarian history of Europe and the Americas, and centralism and regionalism in modern Western Europe. He sees the Institute as a way of getting to know local historians and their work, and of discussing history in an informal setting.

— **Grace Larsen** has a PhD in American history from Columbia University, and she teaches at Holy Names College. She is interested in agricultural history, and has joined the Institute to develop interests in history outside the traditional classroom.

— **Frank Lortie** is a doctoral candidate in American history at the University of California, Davis. He is employed as a historian for the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and would like to see the Institute "become active in setting standards for the presentation and interpretation of history in museums and in federal, state, and local historic parks."

— **Patricia Neils** is a new member from the Sacramento area, where she first learned of Institute activities. She has a PhD in American Studies from the University of Hawaii, with an emphasis in Sino-American relations. She has become interested in the problems of Asian immigrants to the United States and, generally, in the history of the American west. Her current project is a study of Henry Luce's influence upon American policy toward China, as the publisher of *Time* and *Life* magazines.

— **Robert P. Neuman** heard about the Institute at a recent conference on "The Humanist as Business Practitioner" in Berkeley. He has a PhD in modern European social and intellectual history from Northwestern University, where he wrote a dissertation in "Socialism, the Family and Sexuality: The Marxist Tradition and German Social Democracy before 1914." He cites current interests in the history of medicine and the history of sexuality.

— **Norris Pope**, presently an editor at Stanford University Press, has a D. Phil. in Modern European history from Oxford University, and is the author of *Dickens and Charity*, published in 1978. He offers to advise members about book publication and scholarly publishers, "in so far as I can be of help."

— **Sheldon Rothblatt** , who is on the history faculty of the University of California, Berkeley, has his PhD in history from that institution and is interested in British cultural and educational history from the 18th to the 20th centuries.

— **Robert Sandels**, who has a PhD in Latin American History from the University of Oregon, is interested in the American military in World War I, and in post-World War II culture. He would like to find some discussion groups in his areas of interest.

— **Gail Sheridan** has an MA in American Studies from the University of Southern California and is interested in American social and cultural history and the history of the performing arts. She is the founder of the PACE Institute, a non-profit corporation concerned with the development of historically sound educational programs which focus on the performing arts, and she would like to work with Institute members who have similar interests.

— **Jean Wilkinson** has an extensive background as an educator and as co-author of both a history textbook for secondary students and an anthology, *On My Way: Women Speak on Coming of Age*. Jean states that her goal is to continue her research and to "use the material being produced as content in curriculum form for the secondary history classes."

The University of California Press is offering, to members of the Institute, a 20% discount on the subscription price for the following journals:

Asian Survey, published monthly, rate $30.00, members $24.00.

Film Quarterly, published quarterly, rate $10.00, members $8.00.

Historical Studies in the Physical Sciences, published twice a year, rate $17.50, members $14.00.

Mobius: A Journal for Continuing Education Professionals in Health Sciences, published quarterly, rate $20.00, members $16.00.

Nineteenth-Century Fiction, published quarterly, rate $12.00, members $9.60.

19th-Century Music, published three times a year, rate $15.00, members $12.00.

Pacific Historical Review, published quarterly, rate $12.00, members $9.60.

The Public Historian, published quarterly, rate $15.00, members $12.00.

Romance Philology, published quarterly, rate $25.00, members $20.00.

Viator: Medieval and Renaissance Studies, published annually, clothbound, rate $35.00, members $28.00.

If you wish to take advantage of this offer, send your check — payable to the Regents of the University of California — to the Institute address along with the name of the journal you want . We will verify your Institute membership and forward this information along with your check to UC Press.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING INSTITUTE EVENTS

The following events have been planned for the months of March, April and May. You may wish to mark your calendar in advance. Further information will be sent to members and friends on our mailing list.

— On Wednesday, March 31, Carol Feinstein will read from her manuscript, *California: A Woman's Place*.

— On Friday, April 30, the Institute will host a Polish Banquet at Mills College. The evening will include dinner with authentic Polish cuisine and lectures on Polish history by Irena Narell and Bogna Lorence-Kot.

— On Saturday, May 15, Patricia Niels will discuss her work on Henry Luce at a work-in-progress to be held in Davis.

— On May 27, Richard Crockatt from the University of East Anglia and a visiting scholar at San Francisco State University will present a paper, "What is Still Living in the Historical Philosophy of Carl Becker."

The Institute Newsletter is published four times a year. Contributions of general interest, announcements, and requests for research materials are solicited from all members and should be addressed to the Newsletter Editor at the Institute address. Institute membership information can be obtained from the Secretary at the same address. Membership dues are $30.00 per year and may be paid annually or semi-annually. Dues assistance is available for members unable to pay the full amount.

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