PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In November we welcomed two new members to the Board of Directors, Georgiana Davidson and Deborah Frangquist. They were appointed by the Board to fill the unexpired terms of Roberta Wollons and Bogna Lorence-Kot, who left the Bay Area for teaching positions at Case Western Reserve University and the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

Georgiana Davidson has worked to recruit new members under the Hewlett grant, and has been an active member of the program committee. Deborah Frangquist has been active in the Institute since its inception and has been chair of the membership committee.

We are fortunate that Georgia Wright was able to represent the Institute at the National Invitational Conference on Independent Scholarship at Wayzata, Minnesota. The Board will be considering the recommendations that came out of the conference and many suggestions for ways in which the Institute might meet the needs of independent scholars more effectively. Georgia's report on the conference appears below.

This will be the last newsletter before our annual meeting, scheduled for Saturday, February 26, 1983. I urge members to plan to attend this meeting, as it is the time when we elect members of the Board and of the nominating committee for the following year. This year as last, the business meeting in the morning will be followed by lunch and, in the afternoon, the opportunity for members to meet each other and explore common interests. Members will receive an informational packet in the mail. Please mark the date on your calendar.

—Ellen Huppert

INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS CONFERENCE

The National Invitational Conference on Independent Scholars was held November 3-5 in Wayzata, Minnesota. The forty-six participants included independent scholars, librarians, a university press editor, representatives of learned societies, Humanities Councils and foundations, and colleges and universities. Ronald Gross, author of the recently published Independent Scholar's Handbook (Addison-Wesley), created a conference that was intended to produce a set of recommendations for each of those constituents, and on the last day, by 1:30 pm, each of us had a six-page report in its revised version! This was the model of a tightly-run and productive conference.

The first afternoon and evening were spent meeting other participants, collecting the brochures of foundations and organizations like our Institute, and listening to a preliminary statement about the problems of the independent scholar and the task of the conference. The next morning the first panel discussed "The Independent Scholar and the Public Interest." My panel described the ways our six organizations tried to meet some of the needs of independent scholars. We also heard from several scholars who were not affiliated with any such organization, and they recounted some of their experiences with libraries, publishers and foundations, both their successes and failures.

That afternoon we were divided into four groups, each composed of representatives of all of the sectors and drew up a list of ideas. We then formed into groups representing each sector—foundations, libraries, colleges and universities, learned societies, independent scholars—to revise the preliminary ideas. We discovered that many of our recommendations were aimed at the independent scholars or would have to be implemented by them or their organizations. Many problems appeared to be attributable to lack of information or misguided expectations, and not a few might be solved with a little more self-confidence.

A scholar might have been denied access to a library because he or she addressed a clerk rather than a librarian. The scholar would be well-advised to come armed with a letter of recommendation from a learned society (this suggestion was also directed to learned societies), from a colleague in the same field, or from an organization like the Institute. Some conferencees encouraged
scholars to approach businesses with requests for equipment or the use of equipment (they can only say “no”) or to ask local chapters of the Junior League or AAUW for small grants, a request that is perhaps more easily made by a group.

The Association of University Presses was asked to draw up guidelines for the proper procedure in presenting manuscripts. This idea appears likely to be implemented, as the reporter from the Christian Science Monitor offered to publish them! The Independent Scholarship Project, of which this conference was only one part, was itself asked to work on disseminating information about organizations for independent scholars through its newsletter.

For me, the chance both to talk about what the Institute was doing and to discover what other organizations were doing was the most exciting opportunity the conference offered. As a panelist, a rapporteur for a group, and finally a synthesizer working on the preliminary set of recommendations, I put in many hours working with different people, but during the period of conviviality I had a chance to talk to Marjorie Lightman of the Institute for Research in History (New York City), a group of 190 members organized into study groups; to Jayne Blankenship of the Rocky Mountain Women’s Institute, which provides workspace and stipends to local women who are working on scholarly or creative projects; to Susan Spragg, who has started one of the Scholars’ Roundtables now springing up across the nation; and to John Ohlinger of Basic Choices (Wisconsin), a group of scholars from different disciplines who collaborate on work intended to clarify social issues.

We also heard from the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE), which has two interesting grants, one directed at individual women scholars and the other for groups; from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), looking for applicants for its travel grants (available rather quickly); and from the Rockefeller Foundation, which has just given money to three learned societies for the purpose of offering prizes for the work of independent scholars. The Humanities Council of Minnesota, a local branch of the NEH, described its work in assisting independent scholars to form a group, giving them a space for meetings and publishing a newsletter with a calendar of lectures and conferences.

I came back with several pounds of brochures from foundations, seminars and roundtables, institutions and associations. Please feel free to call me for information (415 549-1922). The Board will be acting upon some of the suggestions picked up from other groups. I hope we may use a few moments of each work-in-progress meeting not only to introduce ourselves and our work (that idea from Joanna Gillespie) but also to share problems encountered in our scholarly activities and to seek ideas for collaborative projects and find the colleagues to work on them.

—Georgia Wright

OF VDT’S, CRT’S AND HISTORIANS: AN EDITORIAL

A vision of historians seated before video display terminals and cathode ray tubes is perhaps alien to those who have been steeped in the humanistic tradition; it may even be threatening to those who harbor a suspicion of things mechanical and numerical—or, more precisely, electronic and binary. We routinely use many products of the so-called “new technology.” In most large research libraries, VDT’s are as prominent as card catalogues. But it is a different matter to see ourselves as manipulators rather than passive recipients of this technology; to understand how it may affect the conduct of our own work and historical study in general.

The humanities have tended to lag behind other disciplines in the use of electronic data processing. This is due in part to the fact that the need for current information is not as pressing for the historian as for the researcher in business, medicine and the physical sciences, as Richard M. Kesner writes in “Historians in the Information Age: Putting the New Technology to Work,” in the Summer, 1982 issue of The Public Historian. Yet, for reasons of greater efficiency and economy, libraries and publishers are eschewing card catalogues and printed bibliographies in favor of “online” systems, and Kesner points out that “the user may find that the tools for a manual search of the literature are not even available.” Like it or not, we have entered the age of “information science.”

Many of the benefits are obvious. Computerized bibliographies and indexes have been, or are being developed for use by scholars in the humanities. The creation of a national information network for manuscripts and archives has recently been undertaken jointly by the Society of American Archivists, the NEH, and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Many archives are already using computerized systems. These developments are significant, especially for independent scholars who live far,
away from large research facilities. The day may not be far off when the owner of a microcomputer can plug in to data banks around the country.

The use of electronic databases for qualitative historical scholarship is not a recent phenomenon, but newer developments have made this available to personal computer owners. Unfortunately, the proliferation of software for personal computers, each with its claim of perfection, presents the unsophisticated user with a bewildering array of choices.

More and more scholars are using word processors, not only for their "secretarial" benefits but also as aids in the manipulation and analysis of texts. As Kesner notes in his discussion of bibliographic databases, increasing "user sophistication" will result in increasingly sophisticated and varied applications of this technology. One enterprising company, Bible Research Systems in Austin, Texas, has marketed THE WORD processor, which includes a disk copy of the complete King James version of the Bible, ready for various kinds of textual analysis. Can THE BARD be far behind?

Computer technology has already begun to affect the publication of books, articles and journals, allowing writers to typeset their own work or communicate directly from their word processors to a publisher's typesetting system. But some printed material may disappear altogether, to be replaced by the "electronic journal" which, as Kesner describes it, would exist in machine readable form available to subscribers through a CRT terminal. The publisher would print hard copies only of those portions specifically requested by subscribers.

We have seen the future, and it does not look like a book, a typewriter, or a card catalogue. The challenge will be to make the most informed use of the benefits it offers. In an address to the annual meeting of the American Society for Theatre Research, reprinted in the November, 1981 issue of Theatre Survey, ASTR president Joseph Donchue expressed concern that humanists were not training themselves to use the new technology more effectively, that a naive faith in the efficacy of computers was often felt to be sufficient. In the winter of 1981 he knew of no graduate program in the humanities which required basic computer literacy of its students.

The situation for graduate students may have changed in the last year, but there still remains the need for scholars to attain some degree of "user sophistication." Out of the recent meeting on word processors has come the suggestion that further meetings be held on various aspects of computer technology in relation to historical study. One topic suggested so far is the use of computers for genealogical research. Other sessions might be devoted to developments in publishing and the use of computers in quantitative history. These meetings should be geared to the needs and interests of our members. Let us hear from you.

—Joanne Lafier

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AHA Nominations

We are proud to announce that Frances Richardson Keller has been elected to a three-year term on the Nominating Committee of the American Historical Association. Positions on the Board, as committee heads, and as officers are open. Frances is committed to having greater representation for western American scholars in general, and for women, ethnic minorities and independent scholars. She is compiling a list of prospective nominees to take to the meeting in Washington, D.C. in late December.

Chinese Popular Religion Exhibition

An exhibition on Chinese Popular Religion will be held at the San Mateo County Historical Museum, 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo (on the campus of the College of San Mateo), from March 16 to June 30, 1983. Organized by the Chinese/Chinese American History Project and co-sponsored by the Chinese Historical Society of America, the exhibition is funded by a grant from the California Council for the Humanities. Institute member L. Eve Armentrout Ma is the principal organizer. There will be a lecture and reception at the time of the opening. For further information, write to the Chinese/Chinese American History Project, 4453 Fran Way, Richmond, CA 94803.

PCCBS at The Huntington

The tenth annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies is scheduled for March 25-26, 1983 at The Huntington Library. Papers and proposals for sessions are now being solicited. Write to: Professor Anthony Bruncage (Program Chairman), Department of History, Cal Poly Pomona, Pomona, CA 91768, or Professor Diane Johnson (President), English Department, University of California/Davis, Davis, CA 95616.
Western Association of Women Historians

The Western Association of Women Historians has issued a call for papers for its Conference XV to be held on May 13, 14, and 15, 1983, at Asilomar, California. Please send your proposals for papers and panels to Leslie Hume, Research Libraries Group, Inc., Stanford, CA 94305. The proposals should reach her by January 15th, and both a vita and a stamped, self-addressed envelope should be included.

Feminist Institute, Berkeley

The Feminist Institute, founded in 1981 for the purpose of bridging the gap between disciplines and breaking down traditional separations between political, personal and practical life, holds monthly meetings on a wide range of topics. Meetings in the fall of 1982 have been devoted to discussions of “Female Superiority or Sexual Equality?” and the work of feminist poet Louise Bogan. Feminist spirituality was the subject of the December meeting. All women are cordially invited to join. For further information, call Lucia C. Birnbaum, (415) 841-8782.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRIZES

1983 Sierra Award

Submissions are now being accepted for the 1983 Sierra Prize, awarded for outstanding historical writing by the Western Association of Women Historians. Regulations are as follows:

1. Books published between January, 1982 and March, 1983 will be considered.

2. Authors must be members of the Western Association of Women Historians. Applications and annual dues of $10 can be sent to WAWH Treasurer:

   Betsy Perry
   296 Redwood Drive
   Pasadena, California 91105

3. Deadline for receipt of books is April 1, 1983.

4. Authors or their publishers should submit three copies of the book. These will not be returned. Please mail them directly to the committee members.

Joanne Lafler
43' Abbott Drive
Oakland, CA 94611

Shirlene Soto
Office of the Provost
California State University
Northridge, CA 91330

Louise C. Wade
5719 South Kenwood Ave., Apt. 6 South
Chicago, Illinois 60637

5. Inquiries should be directed to Louise Wade, chairperson of the Sierra Award Committee. (312-667-1379)

WORK-IN-PROGRESS MEETINGS

October

During much of this year, and especially after the death of Mikhail Suslov, amateur and professional Kremlinologists were busily speculating about Leonid Brezhnev’s successor. For Anthony D’Agostino the subject of Soviet succession has been a major research interest for some time. Important material continues to come to light. Among the Trotsky papers at Harvard are documents which were closed to researchers until 1980. From these and other sources Tony has concluded that the history of Soviet succession has been clouded by the issue of “legitimacy”—the notion that Lenin’s successors are, or should be, the inheritors of a monolithic Leninist policy.

Emphasis upon the inheritance and perpetuation of Leninist policy has tended to distract attention from the ways in which Soviet leaders have dealt with competing influences within the Party: the “Moscow program,” legacy of the more moderate Bukharin, and the more radical “Leningrad program,” first associated with Zinoviev. Tony proposes the notion of “alternance”—suggesting that, far from perpetuating a monolithic policy, Lenin’s successors have alternated between the Moscow and Leningrad programs as a means of consolidating power. Brezhnev’s successor, according to this view, would be the man best able to continue this practice.

There was discussion about the role of the military in the Soviet Union today, the death of Suslov, and the emergence of Andropov as a leading figure in the Politburo. The presentation served as an excellent preview of the events of early November, when, after Brezhnev’s death, Andropov was quickly named as Party head.
Clearly, there is much more to Kremlinology than observing where the Party leaders are standing during the May Day parade.

November

Few artists have been more successful than Rodin in creating works which captured the popular imagination. One of the most famous, The Thinker, broods over the western San Francisco landscape from its situation in the courtyard of the Palace of the Legion of Honour. Another, The Kiss, exists in more than 300 copies in different sizes and media—all authorized by the sculptor, who understood the importance of marketing his work.

The study of Rodin's correspondence and the history of his career has revealed to Patricia Sanders an artist who had no intention of starving in a garret. His letters, devoted almost exclusively to business matters, offer no insight into his artistry. His modus operandi in some ways suggests the efficiency of the modern factory. Since marble carving was time-consuming, Rodin made models and farmed out the carving to craftsmen. The bronze foundries which produced his work issued catalogues which listed the prices for each sculpture.

Rodin cannibalized his own work, sometimes reusing figures in new combinations. The Thinker was first created as a twenty-four inch figure atop an ornamented bronze doorway, "The Gates of Hell," and was originally intended to represent Dante. In its massive final form the statue came to represent something both more timeless and more modern: muscular, physicalized intellect.

In continuing her study Pat would like to discover more about the interaction of art and business, especially how, and to what extent, Rodin's artistic vision was affected by the need to find a broad popular market.

December

Jean Sherrell believes that good history can reach a wide audience in the form of good journalism. To test that proposition, she and her husband Michael have embarked upon a new publishing venture—The Californians—a bi-monthly journal of California history which will begin publication in January, 1983. The Sherrells discussed the history of their enterprise, their aims and their policies, with members and friends of the Institute.

Starting a new business in these economically uncertain times is not something to be undertaken lightly, but her work on the newsletter of the California Historical Society convinced Jean that the readers would be there. The combined membership of historical societies throughout the state is over 100,000, and the Sherrells have looked to such societies for a solid base of subscribers. The job of satisfying the interests of a wide-ranging readership presents a challenge.

A unique and important feature of their editorial policy is the creation of a context for subjects which, however interesting in themselves, may have important ramifications. Jean cited the example of a well-written piece about train robbers which needed to be placed within the larger context of the conflict between the Southern Pacific Railway and small landowners. She will take the time to develop this necessary background for feature articles.

A further commitment will be to good, clear, exciting writing. Articles will be reviewed by an editorial board representing specialists in many different fields; they will also be edited—"as little as possible, but as much as necessary"—for style.

Jean has been pleased to find that good contributions have not been difficult to find; there are many scholars who would like their work to reach a wider audience. Judging from the excellent turnout at the meeting, and the kind of questions raised, a number of contributors to The Californians will be Institute members.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Just as the last newsletter went to press we learned that Joan Leopold had been appointed Dean of Arts and Sciences at the International College in Los Angeles, an alternative institution of higher education which offers a tutorial study program for graduate and undergraduate degrees. We wish her luck in her new position and hope that she will stay in touch with the Institute.

Joanna Bowen Gillespie was awarded a Visiting Fellowship to work in the National Archives of the Episcopal Church, located at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. There she spent two weeks in November happily poring over letters, memoirs and records. Last August, while on vacation in Vermont, she uncovered an impressive cache of Sunday school library books, "mouse chewed and covered with a century's worth of dirt," in the bell tower of the local Episcopal church—a welcome addition to the material that she found several years earlier in a library basement. Hers is obviously not a desirable research field for scholars allergic to dust and mold.

Penny Kanner writes from Los Angeles that her appointment as Visiting Scholar in the history
department at UCLA has been renewed through 1983. She will also be quite busy at the AHA meeting in Washington, D.C.—participating in one session and introducing a workshop sponsored by the Conference Group on Women’s History.

Board members Chet Snow and Frances Keller will be attending the AHA meeting, laden with newsletters and brochures. We look forward to their report in the next issue of the newsletter.

The paper that Gayle Gullett gave at the Berkshire Conference at Vassar in June, 1981—"City Mothers, City Daughters, and the Dance Hall Girls: The Limits of Female Political Power in San Francisco, 1913"—has been chosen for inclusion in the anthology Women and the Structures of Social Order: Selected Readings from the Fifth Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, to be published by Duke University.

Historical study has led to historical drama and a career in acting in the case of Ruth Friedlander. First there was her involvement with the Playwrights’ Center in San Francisco, where a scene from her historical drama, Saul, was performed last year. Then there was her performance of the title character in the recent radio broadcast of her play Xanthippe, much enjoyed by Institute members who tuned in. Most recently, in October, she appeared as Mrs. Shtroitzmeier, proprietress of a San Francisco flop house, in The Hiding Place at the Black Repertory Group in Berkeley.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following members, whose applications were approved in October, November, and December.

—David Alvarez, our first member from east Contra Costa County, has a Ph.D. in history from the University of Connecticut and is a member of the history faculty of St. Mary’s College. He has written about United States-Turkish relations at the time of World War II and about Vatican history, the latter being his particular research interest.

—Catherine Zetta Chrissanthos is working for her M.A. in history at California State University, Hayward. She is especially interested in Europe and Soviet Russia between the world wars, and would like to share ideas with other Institute members who have similar scholarly interests.

—Lizabeth Cohen, a new member from the Peninsula, has an M.A. in history from UC Berkeley, where she is currently working on a Ph.D. dis-sertation concerned with the social, cultural, and political lives of American workers during the 1920’s and 30’s. She has also worked extensively in museum studies and programs and was instrumental in developing a public education program in community history and nineteenth-century social and cultural life for Oakland’s historic Camron-Stanford House. She was attracted to the Institute as a community of scholars, and has offered to be a resource person for other members interested in public history activities.

—Margaret DeLacy, a new member from Portland, Oregon, has a Ph.D. in British history from Princeton. She is presently preparing her dissertation for publication, and considering a project on eighteenth-century medicine. She joined the Institute because “Since I only teach occasionally, institutional affiliation and assistance, and contact with others in my field would both be welcome.”

—Bonnie L. Ford, from the Davis-Sacramento area, has an M.A. in history from Stanford and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in history at UC Davis and an instructor at Sacramento City College. She is interested in the history of women in the United States and in California history, especially legal history. Her dissertation is on women in California, with emphasis on the nature of the family and domestic relations. She would like to exchange ideas with professional historians.

—Joel Franks has an M.A. in history from San Jose State University and is a Ph.D. candidate at UC Irvine in the Program in Comparative Culture. He is polishing his dissertation on boot and shoe makers in nineteenth-century San Francisco. Through the Institute he hopes to stay in touch with prevailing and emerging trends in historical study and get constructive criticism and encouragement for his own work.

—Elizabeth Gleason has a Ph.D. in history from UC Berkeley and is a member of the history faculty at the University of San Francisco. She recently published Reform Thought in Sixteenth Century Italy and is interested generally in the Reformation and sixteenth-century Italian intellectual and social history. She looks forward to participating in discussions on historical methodology and early modern European history—in short, “old fashioned shop-talk.”

—Elizabeth Griego is a Ph.D. candidate in administration of higher education at UC Berkeley. At Mills College she is a special assistant to the
President and Director of Planning and Institutional Research. Her historical interest is in turn-of-the-century professional women in California, especially female faculty in higher education.

—Carolyn Lougee, a member of the history faculty at Stanford, has a Ph.D in history from the University of Michigan. Her research interest is eighteenth-century French education.

—Nancy McCauley is an art historian with an M.A. from UC Berkeley. At Stanford she is the slide curator for the departments of Art and Art History. Since returning to California she has become very interested in California and Bay Area history and art. She and her husband, the new executive director of the Montalvo Center for the Arts in Saratoga, will be living in the historic country home of Senator James D. Phelan. She would like to further her research interests with members of the Bay Area community interested in California history and culture and hopes to establish ties with other Institute members living on the Peninsula.

—Millard R. Morgen has an M.A. in history from UC Berkeley. He teaches United States history at the College of Marin and is interested in developing techniques for encouraging critical thinking by students through the use of seminars at the undergraduate level. He would like to share professional interests with other instructors of undergraduates.

—Howard Seltel has an M.A. in American history from UC Berkeley and has begun work on his doctoral dissertation there—studying responses of American political economists to industrialization in the post Civil War period. He especially likes the idea of expanding the study and discussion of history "beyond the iron cage of academe."

—Jean Sherrell, like several other Institute members, came to history by way of journalism. At the University of Missouri, where she received her B.A. in journalism, she worked in the history of journalism program. As editor of the California Historical Society newsletter, The Courier, she has written a number of historical pieces. Most recently she and her husband Michael have founded a new historical journal, The Californians. Through the Institute she would like to learn more about the historical work being done outside the academic community and meet people who share her interest in encouraging greater public interest in history.

—Steven K. Steinberg has moved from history to journalism. His master's degree in history is from San Francisco State University, and he has recently been working as a reporter and advertising manager for the Noe Valley Voice, a community newspaper. He is also interested in free-lance writing and is working for a credential in publishing through UC Extension. He seeks membership in the Institute as a way to meet professional scholars, to develop associates and possible projects.

—William Toll, another member from Oregon (Eugene), has a Ph.D. in United States history from the University of California at Berkeley, and is presently working on an intellectual biography of Horace M. Kallen, the American Jewish social philosopher and student of William James. He joined the Institute because he felt the need for some sense of professional community that is unavailable in Oregon and for information about the activities of other unaffiliated scholars.

—Joan Torgkian is preparing to enter an interdisciplinary program at UC Berkeley as an advanced graduate student. Her thesis draft is based in part on historical study in Norway and in part on work done with Hans Rosenberg at Berkeley. Current research interests include Scandinavian history, depth psychology, and sociology. She would like to become involved in discussion or writing groups on psycho-historical research and on the use of folklore in history.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS, 1982

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The quarterly newsletter is sent to all members. Non-members who wish to receive it, and to get regular announcements of institute meetings, are invited to make a contribution to cover the cost of printing and mailing. All contributions are tax deductible.
On March 18 and 19, the Institute and the History Department of San Francisco State University will be co-sponsoring a conference on "Teaching Women's History in the Core Curriculum" at San Francisco State University. This will be unique among eleven similar regional conferences, held at the request of the Organization of American Historians in 1982-83, in that it will involve teachers from kindergarten through college and university levels on the panels, and in the workshops and the demonstrations.

Research Assistance Needed

Institute member Judith Robinson is in need of research assistance for her biography on Phoebe Apperson and George Hearst. The bulk of the material is in the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley. It may be possible to receive academic credit for this work. If you are interested, or know someone who would be interested, call Judith at (415) 982-8533 or (415) 985-0200.

There are a few extra copies of John Laller's checklist for prospective purchasers of word processors. You may obtain one by writing to him at 43 Abbott Drive, Oakland, CA 94611 or telephoning (415) 547-1791.