# The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The annual meeting was an exciting day of planning for the Institute's future. The discussion groups which met in the afternoon came up with many ideas—more than we can take up immediately, but the Board will look at the possibilities and establish priorities. It was a real pleasure to see the enthusiam of Institute members and the commitment to seeing ideas turned into reality. Some of the areas discussed were expanded publications, a consulting service, services for independent scholars, and ideas for fund-raising.

With the election of Board members, we welcome some new faces and say farewell to others —as members of the Board, but not as active members. Richard Herr of Berkeley, Patricia Neils of Sacramento, and David Rosen of San Francisco will be new to the Board this year. Deborah Frangquist, who was appointed last fall to fill the unexpired term of Roberta Wollons, was elected to a two-year term; Francesca Miller, Chet Snow and I were re-elected to two-year terms.

The three departing members of the Board—Paula Gillett, Frances Richardson Keller and Peter Mellini—were all founding directors. They have played an important role in helping to establish the organization. Paula especially has devoted a great deal of time and energy to the Institute. Her work began before the organization was formally constituted, and she served two years as first president. She decided to resign a year before the completion of her second term in order to have time for scholarly work and other interests, especially a research project which has suffered from months of neglect. To each of the three Board members—now emeriti—we give great thanks.

At the first meeting of the new Board I was elected president; Jules Becker, vice-president; Georgia Wright, treasurer; Georgiana Davidson, recording secretary; and Lorrie O'Dell, corresponding secretary. The officers serve as an executive committee to the Board.

We look forward to another productive year.

—Ellen Huppert

## REPORT ON THE ANNUAL MEETING

Ellen Huppert opened the annual membership meeting with an overview of the Institute's history. Institute membership virtually doubled in the last eighteen-month period, due chiefly to the work funded by a grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Ellen stressed the importance of the diverse interests and backgrounds of our members, and reaffirmed the commitment of the Institute to the needs of independent scholars. She noted that as an all-volunteer organization we need to find ways to use members' time more effectively, and also funds for new ideas and programs.

Georgia Wright reported on the solvency of the Institute and summarized the 1983 budget, which is divided into three general categories: publications, program, and general operating expenses. This year the Board has allocated roughly one-third of the budget for publications (the newsletter), one-sixth for programs, one-third for general operating expenses, and one-sixth for membership development and miscellaneous. The projected total of $6,260 includes a fund-raising goal of $2,000.

Reporting for the program committee, Lorrie O'Dell reviewed Institute activities for the past year, which included nine work-in-progress sessions, two major public events—"An Evening of Polish Food and History," and "Clio and the Law"—a meeting devoted to word processors, a discussion of the film *Reds*, a potluck dinner for all members in September, and regional potlucks for members in the Davis-Sacramento area and on the Peninsula. The Institute also sponsored a panel at the Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA in August.

Activities planned for 1983 have included, so far, a continuation of work-in-progress sessions, a tour and discussion of the exhibition, "The American Woman at War," and co-sponsorship of the conference, "Teaching Women's History in the Core Curriculum," at San Francisco State University. Future plans include a discussion of the film *Gandhi*, more work-in-progress meetings, and a publications workshop.

Joanne Lafler explained the intricacies of newsletter production and mailing. At present all

of the services except printing are donated, but she hopes to find funding to pay for commercial typesetting and layout, which will speed up the present cumbersome process. As our newsletter now goes out to about 400 readers (including some 250 non-members who are invited to contribute to the cost of postage and printing), we have applied for a bulk mailing permit which will cut the cost of postage by about ¾. The suggestion was made that we send the newsletter to academic libraries in northern California.

Deborah Frangquist reported that fifty-six new applications have been accepted since last February's general meeting. Partly in order to assimilate the influx of new members, her committee has proposed that orientation meetings be held, by region, several times a year. In order to facilitate better communication among members, the roster will be updated throughout the year. The committee has also reviewed the single-structure dues policy, but no change has been approved by the Board. It was suggested that Institute activities be publicized in the calendar of events sections of local newspapers in order to reach potential members and interested members of the public, and that we establish liaisons with professional and historical societies.

The question of possible goals for expanding membership—perhaps doubling our current membership in the next year—was raised. The consensus seemed to be that although there need be no upper limit on our growth, we must balance service to our present members and the public with growth.

The business meeting concluded with elections for seven seats on the Board (see President's Message) and the election of a new nominating committee. The proposed slate of candidates for the 1983 nominating committee was elected by acclamation. They are: Martha Conneely, Mary Agnes Dougherty, Ellen Huppert, Patricia Neils, and Norris Pope.

After lunch members gathered in small groups to develop proposals for Institute action in the areas of publication, program, fund-raising, study groups, needs of independent scholars, and income-producing projects. A few of the many excellent suggestions were: producing a guide to libraries and archives in northern California, keyed to the needs of independent scholars; planning an event or events around the 50th anniversary of the New Deal; conducting "mini" courses in which a limited time—six to eight weeks—would be devoted to the study of a particular subject under the direction of one or more members; holding a fund-raising Institute "day" at the Vatican exhibit this fall; fostering closer ties between independent scholars and the academic community. Discussion of income-producing projects produced a number of suggestions for services that historians might provide to businesses, including seminars, research consultancies, and a newsletter featuring short historical background pieces.

Georgiana Davidson and her committee members are to be commended for planning and carrying out a well-attended meeting that was notable for the high level of member involvement.

## CLIO AND THE LAW

Under the steady gaze of Judge Ogden Hoffman, sole presiding judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California from 1851-1891, whose portrait hangs in the Ceremonial Courtroom of the Federal Building in San Francisco, historians and members of the legal community met last December to learn about research opportunities, practices and problems in the use of federal court records. The meeting, co-sponsored by the Institute and the Northern District of California Historical Society, was also an affirmation of the interests that unite Clio and the law.

Principal speakers were Glen Burchett, Chief of the Regional Archives Branch of the Federal Archives and Records Center in San Bruno from 1980 to 1982; Christian Fritz, a doctoral candidate in American legal history at U.C. Berkeley, now serving as historical law clerk to Chief United States District Judge Robert F. Peckham; and Sarah Lee Sharp, interviewer-editor for the Regional Oral History Office of the Bancroft Library at U.C. Berkeley. Ellen Huppert chaired the meeting, which was hosted by Judge Peckham.

In his introductory remarks Judge Peckham briefly recounted the history of the Northern District Historical Society, which, like the Institute, was founded in the spring of 1980, and described its unique approach to the writing of the history of the Northern District Court. Rather than commissioning a single, massive institutional history, the Society has encouraged the participation of many scholars in the development of a "mosaic" history, consisting of scholarly articles on many different aspects of the Court's history, an oral history project undertaken in cooperation with the Regional Oral History Office, the work of Specialty Bars such as the Admiralty Bar and the Patent Bar, and longer studies such as Christian Fritz's dissertation on the first forty years of the Court under Judge Ogden Hoffman.

Federal court records contain a wealth of material for historical study, both related and unrelated to the history of the Court itself, but it has

remained largely untapped. This is due in part to ignorance, on the part of researchers, of the variety of material contained therein. But Glenn Burchett believes that major obstacles are the sheer bulk of information and an unfamiliar methodology. He illustrated this point with examples from the United States District Court for the Territory of Arizona and the Northern District Court.

In order to extract information from a case file—which contains all the loose papers in a case, starting with the summons and ending with the final decree—one must first find it, a procedure rendered more difficult by the lack of an indexing system. Burchett cited some essential research tools, such as organizational histories of the courts and inventories of their holdings (not, unfortunately, available for all courts), which help to define the limit of one's search. After these, docket books and docket sheets, many of which *are* name-indexed, are absolutely essential, for they provide not only the identifying number necessary for locating a case file, but a detailed summary of its contents.

The search process is, at present, cumbersome and time-consuming. Some of the docket books for the Northern District Court are housed in the Federal Building in downtown San Francisco, while the remainder of the docket books, and the case files themselves, are stored at the National Archives Branch in San Bruno. In the future, Burchett predicted, computer technology will provide detailed indexes of the case files, but he warned that money will not be spent for such improvements if historians do not demonstrate, now, their intent to use the materials.

Why bother? Well, let us say that you are interested in Chinese exclusion and the early history of Chinese in California. Perhaps you don't realize that the Admiralty case files of the Northern District contain *habeas corpus* petitions of Chinese detained on ships entering San Francisco during the nineteenth century, as well as testimony by Chinese truck farmers and fisherman which offers a unique glimpse into rural life in nineteenth-century America from a Chinese perspective.

These are only a few of the examples cited by Burchett. Christian Fritz commented extensively on the documentation for social and economic, as well as legal, history that can be found in federal court records. In conducting a painstaking, systematic archival study of the Northern District Court between 1851, when it was established, and 1891, he uncovered material for many more dissertations and shorter scholarly studies: on patterns of commerce in San Francisco during the Gold Rush; on bankruptcy as an index of economic change; on the relationship of the courts to business, a subject of much speculation for which there has been little documentation; on crime and punishment, the cost of justice, and the history of the legal profession itself. Even the way in which cases come before the court is revealing in terms of the relationship between court and society.

The activities of the Northern District Historical Society have encouraged exploration of federal court records by historians. In addition to the scholarly articles published in the Society newsletter, *The Historical Bulletin* (formerly *The Historical Reporter*), interest has been stimulated by the establishment of an annual prize of $750 for the most significant essay on any person, incident, or aspect of the history of the Northern District.

The Society has also initiated a unique oral history project: an in-depth, thematic study of recent federal court history involving interviews with senior judges and with a noted San Francisco attorney, Herman Phleger, whose career spanned the period from 1900 to 1940. Sarah Lee Sharp, who conducted the interview of Albert C. Wollenberg, Sr., a judge for the Northern District Court from 1958 to 1980, and is presently conducting an interview of Judge Alphonso J. Zirpoli, who came to the federal bench in 1960, commented that no other district court in the United States is studying its history in this way.

Personal reminiscences have provided previously unknown material about personalities and issues, as well as insight into significant cases, the relationship of the federal court to other courts and government agencies, the non-trial work of federal court judges, and the judges' conception of their role and responsibility. The interviewees also reminisced about their childhood and education, providing rich glimpses of San Francisco's earlier history. In commissioning these oral histories the Northern District Historical Society is not only recording the history of the Court but providing valuable source material for further investigation.

The meeting, "Clio and the Law," served to whet the appetites of researchers and to address practical questions about the procedures for using court records. Both the Institute and the Northern District Historical Society view it as an important first cooperative effort. A proposal made at the meeting, soon to be acted upon, was to develop a pamphlet of guidelines for the use of federal court records, explaining basic terminology and the use of docket books and docket sheets. Money has been allocated to rebind and preserve damaged or fragile docket books, which will be housed in the Federal Building in a secure, temperature-humidity controlled area where there will be space for researchers to work.

Scholars who wish to use the facilities at the Federal Building and have questions about meth-

ods and procedures may contact archivist Michael Griffiths, (415) 556-2790, from 9:00-5:00 Monday through Friday. At the National Archives Branch in San Bruno, Kathleen O'Connor will be happy to assist you. The Institute also has a complete audiotape of the meeting, for use by members who would like to hear a more detailed account of the proceedings.

### "THE AMERICAN WOMAN AT WAR"

On February 5 members and friends of the Institute attended a tour and discussion of "The American Woman at War," a new exhibition at the Army Museum in the San Francisco Presidio. In the absence of the curator Eric Saul, the newly-hired archivist, Sandra McCoy Larson, graciously consented to lead the tour.

The exhibition is arranged chronologically, with greatest emphasis—in terms of space and number of artifacts—given to the role of women in the two world wars. The opportunities that wartime service offered women, both for personal growth and greater social and economic status, is an underlying theme of the exhibition. First as nurses, and later in a variety of capacities, women received training and acquired skills that often carried over into civilian life. For many women, from the Revolutionary War to the present, military duty provided a channel for deeply patriotic feelings and the opportunity to see something of the world.

At the same time, the exhibition makes it clear that the formal participation of women in the American military, which began with the founding of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901, has remained securely within woman's "separate sphere." By far the greatest number of women served in the Army and Navy nursing corps, providing a traditionally female service. Perhaps because of this, they did not receive military rank, equal pay or benefits until after World War II. One photograph of a black nurses' unit during World War II reminds us that "separate spheres" applied also to race, for both men and women in the military, until 1948.

In addition to the Army Nurse Corps, which grew from 403 in April 1917 to more than 21,000 by the end of World War I, women served overseas in the Signal Corps as telephone operators, under a civilian contract. This work seems to have attracted college-educated young women who had studied French. Also under civilian contract, women pilots served in the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) from 1943-4, ferrying combat planes from factories to airfields and towing the drones used for marksmanship practice by fighter pilots. An attempt to militarize the WASPs met opposition from male pilots, and the group was disbanded in December, 1944.

The exhibition also depicts the development of women's auxiliary services—WAACs, WAVEs, etc.—during World War II, as well as the work of women in defense plants. Much less space is devoted to the Korean and Vietnam wars, during which women in the military finally achieved greater equality with men. Several members wondered whether this was due to the unpopularity of those wars, or whether it was simply because we now take women's participation in the military for granted.

Response to the exhibition was generally quite favorable. Knowlegeable members and guests contributed new information to the discussion, and a few critical comments. It was felt that more attention should be paid to the split in the suffragist movement over support of United States involvement in World War I, and that sources for the numerous photographs should be indicated.

The exhibition, the first of its kind anywhere, will run until November; those who were unable to attend the tour should make an effort to see it. The museum building itself, which dates from 1856 and was formerly the base hospital, is worth seeing, as is the permanent collection on the lower floor. Located at Lincoln and Funston streets in the Presidio, the museum is open from 10:00-4:00, Tuesday through Sunday. Sandra Larson noted that the curator is still looking for donations of memorabilia—books, papers, uniforms and other artifacts—for the exhibition. If you have something to contribute, contact Eric Saul, (415) 561-4115.

### CONTROVERSY AT FORT POINT

If you have visited the Fort Point National Historical Monument, situated beneath the San Francisco end of the Golden Gate bridge, you may have seen park employees wearing Union Army uniforms and demonstrating a Civil War cannon drill. That is, if you visited Fort Point before last summer. Since then, the employees have worn only their Park Service uniforms. The reason? Director of the National Park Service, Russell E. Dickenson, decided that it was inappropriate for women—especially an Asian woman—to wear Civil War uniforms.

On December 3, 1983, the San Francisco Civil War Round Table, of which Institute member Bill Strobridge is a member, wrote to Dickenson, pointing out that his decision was historically unjustified. Some 400 women were in uniform during the Civil War, as were several dozen Chinese Americans. (One of the women, Pauline Cushman, is buried at the San Francisco Presidio.) A reply was received from Dickenson on January 17, 1983, stating that the Park Service would review its policy on the use of Civil War uniforms, and that

"when a draft of the new policy is ready, we will be sure to send you a copy for comments and suggestions prior to its adoption."

It is heartening to think that a clear statement of historical facts may influence public policy. We will report further on this issue when we hear from the Civil War Round Table. In the meantime, you are invited to visit Fort Point, learn more about San Francisco's Civil War history, and see the exhibition in the museum.

## WORK-IN-PROGRESS MEETING

**January, 1983**

It often happens that a minor historical figure illuminates a major historical movement. Such is the case, Bill Bonds believes, with Julius Firmicus Maternus, Junior, a lawyer and member of the Senate who lived in southern Italy during the mid-fourth century, a crucial period for Christian conversion in Rome. Our sense of the early life and thought of the most famous convert of the fourth century, St. Augustine, is necessarily colored by the retrospective nature of the *Confessions*. But the writings of Firmicus bracket his conversion, in about 340; as such they provide valuable insight ito the intellectual and spiritual climate in which his conversion occurred.

Experiencing what we would now call a "mid-life crisis," Firmicus abandoned his law practice in the 320's and devoted his time to study and writing. His first treatise, the *Mathesis*, was undertaken at the suggestion of his patron, the governor of Campania. The most complete study of astrology in antiquity, it provides a good overview of the thought of the time. Drawing upon Egyptian and Babylonian astrology, which he edited and updated, he pictured the universe as hierarchically organized, deeply determined by astrological influences, and moral. From internal evidence it appears that Firmicus was still a pagan when he completed the *Mathesis* in about 337, but there are hints of his eventual conversion. Bill finds in the treatise some expression of theological and moral doubt—evidence, perhaps, of spiritual malaise.

No such doubt can be found in *De errora* (*On the Error of Pagan Religions*), written between 343 and 350 in order to persuade the emperor to eradicate paganism. Obviously, Firmicus had become a convert between the writing of the two treatises, but it is interesting that although he employed no little satirical energy in attacking the pagan gods, and disavowed the pagan philosopher Porphyry, who had figured prominently in the *Mathesis*, he never directly disavowed his earlier work, in which he had invested so much time and thought. Rather, he confuted basic astrological notions such as determinism, to which he opposed the freedom from necessity available to all Christians.

From his paganism he retained a belief in the notion of hierarchy and his interest in the stars and heavens. His morality was little affected by his conversion, for *De errora* offers no new ethic. Asked why Firmicus might have been converted —perhaps by Arian missionaries who were influential at the time—Bill suggested that Christianity may have afforded him relief from intellectual doubt. In his further investigation Bill would like to place Firmicus in relation to other converts of the time. But the evidence of his writings adds significantly to our understanding of the spiritual evolution of a Roman citizen of the fourth century.

## BOOK REVIEW

**Two Valuable Books on Jewish History**

Institute member Irena Narell's *Our Town: The Jews of San Francisco* (San Diego: Howell North, 1982), is a scholarly but thoroughly entertaining, often hilarious, lavishly illustrated work. The Jews of San Francisco are a unique breed, she says, and traces this uniqueness back to two factors. One is time—they came when this outpost of the far West was still in turbulent formation, and mingled easily with their fellow pioneers. Background is another factor—in contrast with the impoverished masses who settled in and around New York, the majority of Jews who chose San Francisco were highly educated (in the secular as well as religious sense), well-to-do individuals lured by adventure and the ambition to help shape a new, free, egalitarian society. From the very beginning they had their share of eccentrics, and Irena describes them with relish.

Alex Bein's *The Jewish Question: Biography of a World Problem* (Stuttgart: Deutsche Verlagsanstalt GmbH, 2 volumes), is a work of a different kind. Published early in 1981, it has already become a classic and is a "must" for anyone interested in the symbiotic relationship between Jews and non-Jews. A definitive work by the "Dean of Israeli historians," it is crammed with facts and written in an economical, highly readable style. One of the most provocative sections is an analysis of the use and misuse of semantics to dehumanize selected religious or ethnic groups, so that their oppression and/or destruction becomes an acceptable or even desirable goal. *The Jewish Question* is at present available only in German and Hebrew (German title: *Die Judenfrage: Biographie eines Weltproblems*). An English edition will appear shortly. It does not make for quick reading, but it is indispensable as a historical compendium.

—Ilse Sternberger

## PROFILE OF NEW MEMBERS

New members are always introduced in the newsletter each three months, but the membership campaign committee thought it might be interesting to look at this year's new members in aggregate and to assess the effectiveness of the membership campaign.

Between March of 1982 and February of 1983 fifty-six applications were accepted. Telephone interviews with non-members on the mailing-list resulted in a sudden increase of members in March of 1982. Six of the eight admitted that month had been on the list for some time. Of the ten accepted in July, on the other hand, five appear to have been contacted during visits by committee members to college campuses, and the others to have been attracted by mailings or events. The resumption of campus visits in the fall of 1982, as well as publicity in the newsletters of learned societies, may account for the six and eight applications in October and November.

Because so much of the membership campaign was concentrated on campuses, forty-one of the new members have some campus affiliation: twenty-four are teaching, seven are staff, and ten are students, although not necessarily full-time.

Of the fifty-six new members, twenty-six are male, thirty-four have Ph.D.'s, sixteen have M.A.'s, one has a J.D., and five have B.A.'s. They have wide-ranging interests, but almost all will find another member within hailing distance of his or her fields. Eighteen have described an interest in post-Medieval Europe, nine in U.S. history, six in California history, seven in social, urban or labor history, nine in women's and five in family history, five in cultural history (art, architecture, theater), five in technological or economic history, and two or three each in military, church, late classical, Soviet, and ethnic history.

Geographically the word seems to have spread rather far. We have two new members in Oregon, one in Oklahoma, and one in Honolulu. Eight live in San Francisco, five in Marin, thirteen on the Peninsula, twenty-one in the East Bay, and five in the Sacramento area.

## LIBRARY DIRECTORIES

The Institute plans to produce a guide to scholarly libraries and archives in northern California, with an emphasis on accessibility to independent scholars. In preparation for this project I consulted Virginia Pratt, Head Librarian of the Library School at U.C. Berkeley. She was extremely helpful, not only in leading me to the sources listed below, but in giving me names of people we might contact. As an immediate aid to our readers, I thought it might be useful to describe some of the directories available in the reference room at the U.C. Berkeley library, and at many college and public libraries.

1. *Directory of Special Libraries and Information Centers* (7th ed., 1982), Gale Research Company. Two volumes; large, inexpensive hardcovers. Volume I contains descriptive listings organized alphabetically by collection and principal subject (e.g. Columbia University—Physics Library) and includes all the standard information such as address, phone, number of staff, statistics on collections, special services, catalogues, indexes, and strengths of the collections. Volume II is organized geographically by state and city. Both volumes include Canadian libraries.

2. *Subject Directory of Special Libraries and Information Centers* (1979), Gale Research Company. (Format same as above.) Volume IV: *Social Sciences and Humanities Libraries.* Organized under such categories as: Area/Ethnic, Art, Geography/Map, History, Humanities, Music, Religion, Social Sciences, Theater, Urban/Regional Planning. After that, alphabetically by organization and collection.

3. BALIS (Bay Area Library and Information System), *Reference Directory* (April, 1980). A looseleaf guide to public libraries in the East Bay: Richmond, Alameda, Berkeley, Livermore, Oakland, Contra Costa. The subject index is helpful because specialized—e.g., "U.S.-history-Civil War. 200 volumes on subject, many contemporary to CW period (Oakland Public-Main)." Under California history there is a thorough description of holdings of the Oakland Public Library History Room and a note to the Contra Costa collection.

4. BALIS, *Directory of Libraries in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties* (1983), should be widely available. Includes colleges and universities, corporate, county, and public libraries. Along with standard information, it indicates who may use, photocopy policies, databases, strengths, and a subject index.

5. CIN (Cooperative Information Network) (4th ed., 1981). *Directory to 300 libraries on the Peninsula* (excluding San Francisco County). Covers the same types of libraries as the preceding directory.

If the Gale Research directories are not available in your local library, you may find the little looseleaf *Directory of Bay Area Libraries* by Georgia Mulligan, published by Bay Area Business Librarians in 1973. While out of date, it does include San Francisco.

The Berkeley Public Library, Main Branch, has compiled a notebook of Bay Area Special Library Collections from material sent them. Included is a

page on each of the non-general libraries of U.C. Berkeley with a statement of its service policy (who may use, etc.). Policies vary from library to library.

—Georgia Wright

## MEETINGS, CONFERENCES

### Western Association of Women Historians Annual Meeting

Celebrating its fifteenth anniversary, the Western Association of Women Historians will hold its annual meeting at the Asilomar conference grounds in Pacific Grove on May 13-15. Nancy McDermid, Dean of Humanities at San Francisco State University, is the featured speaker at the Presidents' Dinner, honoring past and present presidents, scheduled for Saturday, May 14 at the Del Monte Hyatt.

On Friday night Institute member Mary Agnes Dougherty will discuss "Narrowcasting History —Making and Marketing History for the Viewing Public," and show her slide-based videotaped program drawn from her dissertation on the Methodist deaconess movement. On Saturday, from 12:00-2:00, there will be a walk-talk on Julia Morgan's architectural work at Asilomar conducted by Sara Boutelle, whose biography of Julia Morgan will be published shortly by Peregrine Press.

Among the panels this year will be sessions devoted to single women, cross-cultural history, women and the enlightenment, women on the outposts of the British Empire, American women at the turn of the century, and independent scholars.

For information on registration write to Betsy Perry, 296 Redwood Drive, Pasadena, CA 91005.

### Statewide Historical Preservation Meeting

The theme of the 1983 statewide historical preservation meeting, to be held at Chapman College in Orange County on May 5-8, is "Preservation is Working for America." Events include workshops, tours, and panels devoted to all fields of preservation including finance, historical architecture, politics and planning, old house restoration, and museums. A gala dinner and "three minute success stories" (a popular feature of the annual meeting) will take place at Mission San Juan Capistrano.

The meeting is sponsored by the California Preservation Foundation in cooperation with the State Office of Historic Preservation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Californians for Preservation Action. For information about registration write to the Orange County Historical Commission Environmental Management Agency, County of Orange, P.O. Box 4048, Santa Ana, CA 92702-4048.

### Gold Rush Conference—Call for Papers

A call for papers has been issued by the Maritime Humanities Center and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, co-sponsors of a two-day conference, "Discovery and Change: The California Gold Rush, 1848-1858," to be held at the Fort Mason Center in San Francisco this November 19-20. The multi-disciplinary conference, exploring the impact of the Gold Rush on western society, will be concerned with such topics as: archaeology, changing technology and ramifications, routes to California and the gold fields, immigration and urban impacts, political and economic ramifications for the Port of San Francisco and California, military ramifications, music and folklore, literature and journalism, and comparative analysis of the Gold Rush of '49 and others.

Conference papers, no more than twenty minutes reading time, or inquiries, should be sent to the following address no later than June 1: Gold Rush Conference, Fort Mason, Building 201, San Francisco, CA 94123. Phone: (415) 771-3488/89.

### Food, Wine and History in May

On May 6-7 the California Academy of Science in Golden Gate Park will host a conference, "San Francisco Gastronomic Traditions," sponsored by the Rietz Foundation. Gastronomic critic Harvey Steiman will give the Friday evening keynote address on the history of California cuisine. Other events include food demonstrations and the showing of the film, *Garlic is as Good as Ten Mothers*. On Saturday Institute member Bert Gordon will speak on "Gastronome Abroad: A Retrospective on the Collection of Carl Rietz at the California Academy of Science." For further information, call Joan Bacharach at the Academy of Science, (415) 221-5100.

A three-day festival for the benefit of the American Institute for Food and Wine, emphasizing contemporary gastronomy more than history, will take place in several San Francisco locations on May 3-5. Events include a discussion of "Stylistic Trends of American Wines," a "Conversation with Julia Child and Friends: American Cooking Comes of Age," a food and wine pairing session, and a black-tie dinner celebrating American regional cuisine by ten chefs of the "new generation." Donations for these events range from $35 to $250. For further information call Alice Rogers at the American Institute for Food and Wine, (415) 474-0407.

## Directory of American Scholars

Independent scholars, especially, should heed the following announcement, which was first published in the newsletter in 1981 at the suggestion of Karen Reeds, an editor at UC Press.

> *The Directory of American Scholars* welcomes nominations for its next edition. Persons interested in being considered should send their names, addresses and disciplines to Carol J. Borland 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 1983.

As an editor, Karen frequently consulted the *Directory* to check on the qualification of authors, find expert readers, etc.; she noted that it is worthwhile for independent as well as academic scholars to be listed. Listing in the *Directory* can also enable independent scholars to breach some of the less accessible research institutions. Joanne Lafler would have languished on the doorstep of the Folger Shakespeare Library in 1978, Ph.D. and letters of introduction in hand, but for the discovery that she had been listed in the *Directory* several years before.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Biographer Sought

Joseph Strauss, chief engineer of the Golden Gate Bridge, will be honored during the 50th anniversary of the construction of the bridge (1983-87). In connection with the celebration, the Western Jewish History Center of the Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum in Berkeley is looking for a local historian interested in writing Strauss's biography. No money is available to pay for the writing, but the Center could help in having the manuscript published. The work might be undertaken as a project for a thesis or dissertation. If you are interested, or know anyone who might be interested, contact Norman Coliver, Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Western Jewish History Center, by calling 777-4700 (offices of Dinkelspiel & Dinkelspiel, attorneys).

### Alice J. Clark Essay Contest

The California Historical Society has established the Alice J. Clark Essay Contest, commemorating a woman whose lifelong interests were in the history of San Francisco and the education and cultural enrichment of the young. An award of $200 will be made annually for the best original essay on the history of the San Francisco Bay Area and its people in the twentieth century. Authors must be between the ages of seventeen and thirty-five. The contest is open to amateur and professional historians, students and teachers. Entries—between 4500 and 6000 words in length, typewritten, with full documentation—should be submitted between September and December of each year, for the awarding of prizes in the following March.

### National Council on Public History

The National Council on Public History solicits the membership of historians working outside the classroom in such areas as governmental agencies, businesses, research organizations, consulting firms, private foundations, historical societies, and museums. Incorporated as a tax-exempt educational organization in 1980, the Council works to bring together people and programs connected with public history in all parts of the country and to stimulate national interest in public history. In conjunction with the University of California Press, the Council publishes a quarterly journal, *The Public Historian*. Other publications include a quarterly newsletter that provides information about organizational activities and items of interest to public historians; a computer-based directory of public historians, cross-indexed by skills, specialty, and geographic location; an annually updated directory of academic and training programs; and *The Craft of Public History: An Annotated Bibliography* (in preparation). For a copy of the brochure and membership application, write to: National Council on Public History, 3914 Harrison Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20015.

### Asian Scholars Organization

The Independent Scholars of Asia is a professional organization founded in 1981 "to facilitate access to the knowledge and experience of specialists in Asian affairs." Its services include recruitment for permanent or consultant positions, briefings for American corporate executives posted to Asia and Asian executives in the United States, field surveys, travel consultations, and lectures, seminars and workshops on Asia. There are three regional offices and a national office located on the Berkeley campus. Inquiries may be directed to: Independent Scholars of Asia, 260 Stephens Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Karen Offen has been appointed to a three-year term on the Committee on Women Historians of the AHA. She also reports that her book, co-edited with Susan Groag Bell, *Women, the Family, and Freedom: The Debate in Documents* (2 volumes), will be published by Stanford University Press this summer. A collection of 264 primary source documents chronicling the public debate over the role of women in Western society from the Enlightenment to 1950, the book examines the central issues of motherhood, women's legal position in the family, equality of sexes, and the effect on social stability of women's education and labor, within the context of the struggle by men for personal and political liberty.

Harvey Schwartz has been engaged in a three-year project, "From the Bottom Up," a grass-roots oriented history of ILWU locals, focussing on the union's origins, its role in the community and on the job, the history of various ethnic groups within the union, and the development of local leadership. The project is co-sponsored by the ILWU and the Institute for the Study of Social Change at U.C. Berkeley, and funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Pat Neils, who is teaching Asian Civilization at American River College this semester, will be leading a nineteen-day tour of China from June 19 to July 7. She will also be conducting an "arm chair" tour of China with slides and films, featuring the highlights of China's contemporary history as well as the scenic wonders of the dramatic landscape of Guilin (Kweilin), with its majestic pinnacles, grottoes, caves, and exotic-shaped stalagmites and stalactites. For more information, call her at (916) 726-2245, or write: Pat Neils, 8201 Olivine Ave., Citrus Heights, CA 95610.

Irena Narell, whose book *Our City: The Jews of San Francisco* is reviewed in this issue, has just received a preliminary working grant from the California Commission on the Humanities for an oral-visual project, "Community and Diversity—the Stories of Ten Bay Area Jewish Families." The project will be based on in-depth interviews of ten families representing a range of Jewish immigrants in this region. Photographs and text will work together to bring the customs and cultures of these families to life for the viewer. As it circulates, the exhibition will be accompanied by programs that will involve community members in exploring the issues facing immigrant cultures transplanted to California. The history of Jewish immigration to California will be emphasized. Irena will be working with well-known local photographer Erik Weber.

We have received a delightful communication from Carroll Brentano, who left Berkeley last summer for a two-year stay in Venice. She reports that she enjoys keeping abreast of Institute activities through the newsletter, although the editorial on word processing "and other infernal machines" disturbed her, since she "would hate to see the stately, and at the same time, cosy, world of the Venetian Archivio di Stato and its dust covered documents and scholars vanish forever into some computer's maw."

She has been occupied with many scholarly and not-so-scholarly projects. The latter included a talk about Venice to thirty prize-winners from the Slimming Magazine Clubs (U.K.) after an elegant calory-counted dinner at a fancy hotel, and translating for a group of Minnesotans—patrons of the International Fund for Monuments—while touring the palace where Princess Margaret had recently danced. The former included leading the annual U.C. Extension program in Italy, which concentrated on St. Francis; giving a paper on the Church of S. Giusseppe di Castello at a Warwick University symposium in December; and giving a paper on "Iconography of the Nativity" for the local Circolo Italo-Britannico. She is now working on a guide book to a Venetian church which was recently restored with American benefactions, and in late spring will be doing the U.C. Extension course—for the eleventh year—in Venice. She welcomes calls from Institute members who turn up in Venice, particularly those in need of scholarly information or advice.

At the annual membership meeting Frances Keller announced that two Institute members have been nominated for positions on AHA committees: Paula Gillett for a seat on the Professional Committee, and Penny Kanner for a seat on the Research Committee. They would appreciate your support in the upcoming AHA elections. Frances feels that her election to a three-year term on the nominating committee was due in large part to the support she received from colleagues on the West Coast, including, of course, members of the Institute.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The applications of eight new members were approved by the Board in January, February and March. We would like to welcome them and introduce them to you.

—**Max Dashu** describes herself as a self-educated historian. Following her study of linguistics and anthropology at Harvard she has done extensive reading and research on women in history, using a multi-disciplinary approach emphasizing social history. Over a period of thirteen years she has developed the Suppressed Histories Archives: a collection of slides, a large multi-cultural graphics file, research notes, maps, and texts, and has produced a series of slide presentations for general audiences around the West Coast. Through the Institute she would like to meet other historians interested in cross-cultural history, especially in topics relating to women's experience, and discuss writing and publishing.

—**Paul Groth** is completing a dissertation on "Forbidden Housing: The Evolution and Exclusion of Hotels, Boarding Houses and Rooming Houses in America's Urban Residential Culture, 1880-1930," for a Ph.D. in geography at U.C. Berkeley. An American environmental historian with particular interest in San Francisco and California history, he would like to establish contact with Institute members who have similar interests. At present, in addition to his dissertation, he is working on a guidebook for Oakland; he has also been involved in architectural preservation both in San Francisco and in the Middle West.

—**Renee Kogel** has a Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan and has been affiliated with Chico State University since 1978. At present she is on leave of absence from the University in order to devote full time to her study of Annie Bidwell, wife of the founder of Chico. Her interests are primarily in women's history—in particular, strong nineteenth-century women. Through the Institute she hopes to have the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with other historians and to hear about the research of others in ways that stimulate her imagination as a historian.

—**Linda Larson** has been involved, since she graduated in English from the University of Santa Clara, in a number of historical projects at the University of Santa Clara and with the San Jose Historical Museum Association, of which she is a Board member. Her current work includes an article on early legal education in northern California, a group biography of successful graduates of Santa Clara College (later University), and a biography of Father Bernard R. Hubbard, the "Glacier Priest," who explored Alaska in the 1920's and '30's. She learned about the Institute through Carroll Brentano's display at the statewide historical preservation convention last year, and looks forward to meeting others "who, though their specific fields of research may differ from my own, share a common interest in understanding history."

—**Joseph W. Smith** has an A.B. in history from Miami University, Ohio, and has done graduate work in middle-eastern history at Stanford. His interests are primarily in American regional history. He and his mother—who, at ninety-two, is still actively engaged in historical research—support the W.E. and O.D. Smith Library in Oxford, Ohio, an institution that was established to further the study of local history, not only by historians with traditional academic training but by "lay" historians who need assistance in research methodology. The goals of the Institute, he feels, are similar to those of the Smith Library. At present he is also doing research in California history, 1845-55.

—**June Stephenson**, who has a Ph.D. in psychology from the Wright Institute, Chicago, has been an English and history teacher and a high school administrator. When she became interested in the teaching of women's history in high school she discovered that there were no textbooks available for that level, so she took time off from her other work to research and write *Women's Roots, Status and Achievements in Western Civilization*, now in wide use throughout the country. She learned about the Institute at the WAWH annual meeting in 1982; as a member she would like to confer with other women who are researching and writing women's history.

—**Hyshka Stross** describes herself as "an inveterate researcher throughout several careers," including advertising, journalism and art history. She has taught art history at Wayne State University and The Detroit Institute of the Arts. With her husband, Allen, she has created slide shows of art and architectural history, and has published articles on the Bay Area's visual environment. Her current research interest is in

the "overlooked and undervalued career of Seth Babson," designer-builder of the Crocker Art Gallery in Sacramento. Through the Institute she would like to find sponsors and funding for research and publication projects.

—**Vernon Stumpf** has a Ph.D. in American history from Duke University and has published articles in the *North Carolina Historical Review*, *Cinema and History*, and the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*. He is also a contributor to *The Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*. He is currently working on an article, "Nifty Nancy Flake and the Invasion of Privacy Case," about a landmark invasion of privacy case in 1937 involving a North Carolina teenage girl singer for a big band, and would like to present this piece for criticism and comment. Now living in San Francisco, he has become interested in California history.

### THE SOPHISTICATED USER, A POSTSCRIPT

Joyce Duncan Falk, known to many of you as the editor, for the past seven years, of the current bibliographies *Historical Abstracts* and *America: History and Life*, and now a data systems specialist at the U.C. Irvine library, responded helpfully to the editorial on historians and the computer revolution in the last issue of the newsletter, calling my attention to three articles she published recently.

"In Search of History: The Bibliographic Databases" (*The History Teacher*, August 1982, pp. 524-44) is an excellent introduction to bibliographic database use by historians. In it she surveys several widely-used databases, explains basic terminology, and provides examples of the data-search process. The appendix of databases is most useful.

"The Historian Enters the Electronic Age: Bibliographic and Database Publishing" (*The Public Historian*, Spring 1982, pp. 35-42) is directed to historians interested in careers in the field of bibliographical and database publishing. Her section on the kind of training that is needed and available is especially helpful. It is essential, she feels, for more historians to enter this field, so as to influence the design of databases for the needs of colleagues now and in the future.

Of interest particularly to theater historians is her review article, "Theatre *Ex Machina*: Using the Computer for Theatre Research" (*Theatre Journal*, May 1981, pp. 265-74), which evaluates both general and specific (for theater) bibliographic databases and gives examples of the search process.

—Joanne Lafler

## GUIDE TO NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ARCHIVES: I

Western Jewish History Center
Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum
2911 Russell Street
Berkeley, CA 94705

Hours: Monday through Friday, 10:00-4:00
Staff: Moses Rischin, Director
Ruth Kelson Rafael, Archivist
Lyn Fonfa, Assistant Archivist

The Western Jewish History Center is primarily a manuscript and archival research library concentrating on the contributions of Jews and their institutions to the American West. Located on the top floor of the Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum, it includes the Jesse C. Colman Library.

The heart of the archives is the manuscript collection which includes congregational and rabbinical archives, papers from community institutions such as the Emanu-El Residence Club (a San Francisco home for working girls), fraternal organizations such as B'nai B'rith, and collections from notable individuals such as Raphael Weil, owner of the White House department store, and Adolph Sutro. Many of the largest have extensive inventories. There is also material for genealogical research and a large photograph collection.

Among the newspapers and periodicals are bound copies of the San Francisco newspaper *The Hebrew* from 1864-1876, *Emanu-El*, a San Francisco weekly paper dating from 1895, and more recent Jewish newspapers and periodicals from the western United States.

Special collections include documents on the life of Judah L. Magnes, the archives of the Commission for the Preservation of Jewish Cemeteries and Landmarks, and materials on Gold Rush settlers collected by Dr. Robert Levinson of San Jose State University.

The Center has maintained an extensive oral history program since 1967, covering such varied subjects as "San Francisco Jews of Eastern European Origin, 1880-1940" and the Harbin Jews of the San Francisco Bay Area. More recently, a series of discussions on "Persecution, Migration, and Integration: From Germany to the Bay Area, 1933-1947," has been videotaped.

The book collection contains examples of privately printed "fine press" books as well as reference works covering a wide range of topics. The Center has also published works on Western Jewish Americans, a catalogue of its manuscript collection, a catalogue of Western Jewish periodicals, and a *Family History Guide*.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING INSTITUTE EVENTS

On Friday, April 29, there will be a discussion of the movie *Gandhi* in San Francisco. Announcements will be mailed along with suggested readings before the meeting.

On Saturday, May 7, a work-in-progress meeting will be held in the Sacramento area. Full details will be forthcoming as to time, place, and speaker.

On Sunday, May 22, a work-in-progress meeting will be held in the east bay on "Methodological Issues in Womens History." Karen Offen, a European Historian, and Nancy McCauley, an Art Historian, will make presentations.

On Sunday, June 5, Eve Armentrout Ma will lead a tour of her exhibit on Chinese Popular Religion at the San Mateo County Historical Museum.

On July 6, Jack Boas will discuss his forthcoming book, *Boulevard des Misères: The Story of Transit Camp Westerbork*, at a work-in-progress meeting in San Francisco.

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS, 1983

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Submissions to the newsletter are due as follows: by February 28 for the Spring issue; by May 31 for the Summer issue; by August 31 for the Fall issue; by November 30 for the Winter issue.

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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