The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

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CONFERENCE REPORT

Independent Scholars in the '80's: Making Connections

On September 25 the Institute for Historical Study convened a conference in San Francisco, funded in part by the California Council for the Humanities, whose purposes were to bring independent scholars together with representatives of libraries, foundations, and business to discuss common concerns, and to establish a network of independent scholars in various disciplines with a view to future joint efforts.

"This conference could not have taken place five years ago, and my hope is that five years from now such a conference will not be necessary." So saying, keynote speaker Ronald Gross underscored the rapid growth of the independent scholarship movement in the United States. Since his unsuccessful attempt to hold such a conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts, five years ago — only six people showed up — Gross has worked through the Independent Scholarship Project, under a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, to establish independent scholars' groups and to make foundations, libraries, learned societies, and academic institutions aware that "independent scholars constitute a productive sector of the nation's intellectual life, making a valuable contribution to the advancement of knowledge."

Gross noted several promising developments so far. The Rockefeller Foundation has given grants to the American Philosophical Association, the Modern Language Association and the American Historical Association to award prizes for the best work of an independent scholar in each field. The Northwest Area Foundation has given a ground-breaking grant to the Minnesota Humanities Commission for five years of support for independent scholars including a prize, publication subsidies, grants-in-aid, and payment of half the salary of an independent scholar asked to teach at a college or university. The Library of Congress plans to offer study space and help in finding accomodations to independent scholars using the Library.

Looking to the future Gross suggested that a coalition of independent scholars' organizations in California might be an effective lobbying force. He also invited papers for a book of essays by independent scholars, for independent scholars — a project he is currently preparing. Concluding, he urged independent scholars and their organizations to "take the lead in forging their own future by making known their accomplishments and needs, by proposing constructive changes in present provisions, and by adding to one another's strengths."

Following the keynote address were talks on trends in library use, independent humanists and the foundation world, and obtaining leaves of absence from corporations in order to pursue research. Library access is one of the chief concerns of independent scholars. Suzanne Gallup, head of Cooperative Services at the UC Berkeley library, discussed such new developments as the machine-readable catalogue, which enables the user to know not only what is available currently but what is on order and in process, and the computerized catalogue (MELVYL) that is being developed for the collections on all nine UC campuses.

Since the early '70's, Gallup noted, the trend has been toward sharing of resources rather than duplication of library services. Still, costs at Berkeley have escalated to an estimated $2.00 for each book checked out and returned, resulting in higher costs to independent scholars (a general borrower's card now costs $50 a year) and the need to limit stack access. In any case, stack access is no longer very helpful, since so many books are in storage or in the temporary cataloguing pool. Gallup offered to help set up a library orientation so that independent scholars can use library resources more effectively.

Bruce Sievers, former executive director of the California Council for the Humanities and now executive director of the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, had some words of encouragement and some words of caution for independent scholars seeking foundation grants. On the encouraging side, since all state humanities councils make the broader dissemination of the humanities part of their charge, they are not focussed on the university. Some programs may be especially fruitful for independent scholars' organizations to explore.

Sievers cautioned that support for individuals is rare. Nevertheless, foundations are currently considering the support of individual artists, and there are other promising developments, such as the new program of the Northwest Area Foundation-Minnesota Humanities Commission mentioned above.

In approaching foundations, independent scholars should stress their ability to speak to a larger public and to speak out on questions of fundamental values, Sievers concluded, quoting Gross's statement that "a shift is occurring in the life of the mind toward more diverse, diffuse and democratic forms of inquiry for more humane ends."

Recognizing that many independent scholars have had to support themselves by taking full-time non-academic jobs that offer little time for scholarly research, Institute member Gail Sheridan, vice president for training strategies at the Bank of America, has surveyed the leave-of-absence policies of a number of Bay Area corporations. Her findings indicate that it is possible to obtain personal leaves-of-absence for thirty days to six months (longer leaves are rarely granted), generally unpaid, to pursue one's research.

Sheridan discussed the importance of considering the financial implications of extended leaves, such as maintaining employee benefits and pension rights, and outlined strategies for applying for leaves. She noted that much depends on your awareness of the work of your department and the demands on your time and your coworkers'. Above all, she emphasized, do not keep your scholarly life a secret. You may be able to enrich your job by bringing your scholarly skills to bear, and help to break down the dichotomy between scholarly pursuits and business.

Afternoon workshops explored further the questions of library access, grants, and independent scholars in the business world, as well as independent scholars' organizations. The workshop on libraries, with panelists Anne Lipow, library education librarian at UC Berkeley, Dale Canelas, associate director of public services at the Stanford University Library, and Janice Myers, assistant director of Clark Library at San Jose University, discussed in greater detail the financial constraints on library use by independent scholars and made suggestions such as greater use of shelf lists (rather than browsing in the stacks), and use of reference tools such as library directories and information networks to determine where one may find the most appropriate material for one's work. Many public libraries offer, free of charge, services for which independent scholars must pay a surcharge at university libraries. Despite the fact that the first responsibility of university libraries is to serve students and faculty, the panelists expressed concern for independent scholars and willingness to be of assistance.

The workshop on foundations, with panelists Bruce Sievers, executive director of the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, Jillian Steiner Sandrock, program officer for the L.J. and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation, and Caroline McGilvray, director of the Foundation Center, made numerous practical suggestions for independent scholars seeking grants. Foundations differ in their philosophies, in the kinds of projects they are interested in funding, and in their attitudes toward independent scholars. It is important for the grant-seeker to find the appropriate funding source, and there is no better place to begin one's research than the Foundation Center, located at 312 Sutter Street, San Francisco. Open Monday through Friday from 10-4:45, and Wednesday until 7 p.m., the Center offers a computer service listing grants from 500 foundations nationwide, which can be searched by subject, and maintains an extensive library of reference works. The panelists emphasized the importance of strengthening independent scholars' organizations.

In the workshop on business and the independent scholar, with panelists Gail Sheridan of Bank of America, Lois Fricke, manager of employee development (ret.) of the McKesson Corporation, and Nancy Meier, director of Business Volunteers for the Arts, the potential for interaction between corporations and independent scholars, particularly humanists, was explored. Some of the ideas suggested were teaching in a training program for retiring employees, developing closer ties between humanists and the business community on the model of Business Volunteers for the Arts, and offering research, analysis and writing services to businesses. Many of these ideas are quite new, and much work still needs to be done in developing them.

Nine different organizations were represented in the workshop on independent scholars' organizations. They ranged in type from quite new local groups to those with international memberships; from unincorporated associations to for-profit corporations; from groups which are open to all to those with membership by invitation; from groups focussing on the humanities (or on one discipline) to the interdisciplinary; and from groups who have members with academic affiliations to those who cherish their independence from academia. Common interests and concerns were discussed, as well as the advantages of forming a coalition and the form that such a coalition might take.

Altogether, over eighty people participated in the conference, which admirably accomplished

its goal of "making connections." Credit for the success is due to the speakers and panelists; to panel moderators and rapporteurs Agnes Peterson, Monica Clyde, Georgiana Davidson, Karen Offen, Paula Gillett, Richard Herr, Jim Silverman, and Deborah Frangquist; to arrangements chair Sandria Freitag; and above all, to coordinator Georgia Wright.

Note: a detailed report on the conference may be obtained for $3.00 from The Institute for Historical Study. Send c/o Georgia Wright.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This issue of the Newsletter reports in detail on the Institute's conference on independent scholarship and related activities. We are planning further efforts in support of independent scholars in the humanities in California and will be announcing specific details before long.

At its November retreat, the Board made a commitment to look for the means to support staff and an office for the Institute. It was the unanimous opinion of the Board that we have reached the point in our development where our past successes, all achieved through volunteer work of the Board and members, justify obtaining additional funds so that some of the work of coordination and of fund-raising can be assumed by paid workers. The development committee has begun the necessary work.

We are delighted that the L. J. and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation has awarded the Institute $5.000 for a two-year period. 1984-85. to expand publication of the Newsletter from four to six times a year. Under the excellent editorship of Joanne Lafler, with the support of the Editorial Board, the Newsletter is one of our most successful projects, and we are very pleased to have this grant which will enable us to increase its value to our members and readers.

There has been one change in the membership of the Board. Patricia Neils has moved back to Hawaii, after only a few months of her Board term. We will miss her. The remainder of her term, which expires in February, 1985, will be filled by William Bonds, chair of the history department at San Francisco State University. Bill's talents will be very helpful to us as we proceed with our plans for development.

Two important Institute committees are in need of members: program and publicity. Anyone interested in serving on either committee should let me know as soon as possible.

A reminder to members: we strongly encourage you to list your Institute affiliation when you give papers, publish articles, or make other public appearances. If you have another affiliation, we hope you will use both. This is important to us as we build our reputation for supporting historical study, among scholars and in the community at large.

— Ellen Huppert

PROFILE: **Ron Gross**

Q. What is an independent scholar?
A. Someone who knows Ron Gross.
From a profile in a recent
Christian Science Monitor

Ron Gross is uncomfortable with the notion, even in jest, that he "invented" independent scholarship. In speeches and writings he has pointed to a long, honorable tradition of self-motivated, and often self-taught, scholars. But without his work as advocate and catalyst over the last four years, it is safe to say that there would be no independent scholarship movement in the United States today.

Speaking to him in Berkeley recently, I learned that his involvement with independent scholarship has been the natural outgrowth of longtime interests — shared with his wife, Bea — in education and social change. In *The Lifelong Learner* in 1977, Ron wrote about the role of the "invisible university" of resources for independent inquiry. "That book is unique in one respect," he notes. "It carries 'blurbs' by *both* Ivan Illich *and* Clark Kerr!" Illich called his ideas "radical but practical; a rare combination."

Long before 1977, however, Ron had begun to pursue an independent course in his own "post-graduate" education. After finishing his undergraduate work at Syracuse University in the mid-'50's, and working as an editor for Simon and Schuster and program officer for the Ford Foundation, he considered returning for graduate work. "Somehow I was always too busy," he recalls, "moonlighting on my own books while working full-time. Eventually I wondered what I would be doing with a graduate degree that I was not already doing. In a sense my true advanced education began at the Ford Foundation, where I worked with people in many different fields and got an overview of disciplines and trends, rather than devoting myself to one discipline." In such a setting, he feels, it is possible to think in a disinterested and practical fashion about changes in intellectual life.

Even so, he discovered that he preferred working outside of an institutional setting altogether. In 1970, after five years as vice president of a new nonprofit consulting and research

firm, the Academy for Educational Development, he found that he needed time for his own work. A one-year leave-of-absence, during which he began work on *The Lifelong Learner,* grew to three or four years, interspersed with paying projects of various kinds. "By the time I finished the book," he says, "independent, self-employed life seemed not only viable, but preferable to institutional work." Since then, with Bea, he has published a dozen books and worked as a synthesizer of conference proceedings for a wide range of professional organizations, and as a popularizer, disseminating ideas about education and public policy.

While serving as a senior consultant for the College Board, exploring the implications of lifelong learning, he developed a proposal for a "reconnaisance" of the field of independent scholarship which was funded by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education and resulted in the establishment of the Independent Scholarship Project, and in the publication of *The Independent Scholar's Handbook* and (with Bea as co-author) *Independent Scholarship: Promise, Prospects, Problems,* with a foreward by John William Ward, president of the Amercian Council of Learned Societies.

A second grant has enabled Ron and Bea to develop an infrastructure for the independent scholarship movement, using a newsletter and numerous live appearances to launch "roundtables" around the country and generally give aid and comfort to a growing number of organizations like the Institute. The success they have had already can be measured in the greater visibility of independent scholars in the higher education community. It will not be long, Ron hopes, before the question: "What is an independent scholar?" will not have to be asked.

— Joanne Lafler

Note: readers who would like more information about the work of the Independent Scholarship Project may write to: Independent Scholarship Project, Dept. IHS, 17 Myrtle Drive, Great Neck, NY 11021.

PUBLICATIONS WORKSHOP REPORT

As a follow-up to the conference on independent scholarship, the Institute held a publications workshop designed primarily for independent scholars on October 29 in Oakland. The day-long workshop included panels on university presses, journals, and various kinds of commercial publishing: trade, textbook and self-publishing. Judging from the lively discussion, which continued through lunch and coffee breaks, there was considerable interest in all three areas.

Panelists Alain Hénon, managing editor of series and periodicals at the University of California Press, and Norris Pope, senior editor at Stanford University press, discussed the differences between their respective presses and general issues involved in publishing with academic presses. Their many practical suggestions included how to find the appropriate press, how to approach an editor — never the director of the press — in order to spark interest in your project, and how to present your project initially. Also discussed were the review process to which manuscripts are subjected upon submission to an academic press, the average length of time between acceptance of a manuscript and publication, payment of royalties, production costs, and the commitment of academic presses to long-term marketing.

Hénon showed examples of works by independent scholars published by UC Press, noting that an author's training or experience count more than academic affiliation. Pope pointed out that academically affiliated scholars do have the advantages of university subsidies and sabbaticals to support their research and writing. An independent scholar who has had foundation support in the past may, however, be able to obtain funds to complete a manuscript once an academic press has expressed interest in it.

Three journals connected with academic institutions, but with very different interests, were represented in the second panel. *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society,* published by the University of Chicago Press, has been edited at the Center for Research on Women at Stanford since 1980. *Signs* editor, Barbara Charlesworth Gelpi, explained that the journal is devoted to feminist interdisciplinary scholarship on women, with a focus on theory. About 700 submissions are received each year for the four issues, including articles, review essays and book reviews. Only about eight percent are accepted, after undergoing an intensive in-house review. Occasionally articles are solicited from eminent scholars. The journal has a considerable reputaton in academic circles, but authors need not have an academic affiliation.

The Pacific Historian, published by the Holt-Atherton Center for Western History at the University of the Pacific, has become a major journal of history of the "Pacific slope" — from

west of the Rockies to Hawaii. Assistant editor Diane Spencer-Hancock explained that although scholarly standards are maintained, the journal is intended for general readers, and important material has been contributed by non-professional historians. The editors are particularly interested in new pictorial material; about half of each issue is devoted to graphics.

Thomas Laqueur, of the editorial board of *Representations*, a new journal published by UC Press, emphasized that it is important for a prospective author to find the appropriate journal for his or her work. (Gelpi had noted earlier that an otherwise fine article might be rejected by *Signs* because it was not right for the journal.) You should know the journal you are writing for — tone, audience, degree of specialization, etc. *Representations,* which began publication in 1983, publishes articles in the fields of literature, history, art history, and the social sciences, that have theoretical bases but are not too narrow — works that "represent," or speak about the world.

Clayton E. Carlson, vice president of Harper and Row, San Francisco, led off the panel on commercial publishing by defining the difference between writing for a trade, as opposed to an academic press, which he sees as a difference not of scholarship but of presentation. Writing for a trade press, an independent scholar may be in a better position than an academic scholar, who cannot afford to ignore the complexities of scholarly controversy. Carlson offered practical suggestions about surveying the field, finding the appropriate publishing house, and gaining entree to an editor. "Sending a manuscript to a large publisher unsolicited," he concluded, "is like trying to find a wife through the newspaper."

If you have ever entertained a fantasy of winning fame and fortune by publishing a successful elementary or high school textbook, be warned: you may, instead, end up toiling on a minor project for a flat — and small — fee. This was the warning of Palmer W. Pinney, social sciences editor for Addison-Wesley. Independent scholars, especially, may find it difficult to publish textbooks, since academic affiliation usually carries weight with textbook purchasers. With these caveats, Pinney offered suggestions, and some hope, for independent scholars, especially in the area of writing supplemental or resource books. Among the points he stressed — skilled writing counts, and you should be prepared to demonstrate this skill with examples of your published work.

The benefits and pitfalls of self-publishing were addressed by Malcolm Margolin, who founded his own press, Heyday Books, in the course of publishing his own work, and Leigh Davidson, business manager of Volcano Press, a small San Francisco press that specializes in books of social interest, particularly for women. When Margolin had written a book that "fell between the cracks" of established presses, a common situation for writers, he opted for self-publishing. His first experience, with its attendant surprises — including the stunning realization that he, personally, would have to distribute all 7,000 copies of his book — proved so satisfying that now he would not have it any other way. Self-publishing, he feels, is ideal for books with a very specialized, geographically-concentrated audience—local history, for example. And, for better or worse, you exercise complete control over your work.

On the other hand, Leigh Davidson warned, self-publishing is not ideal for someone who wishes to sit back and endorse royalty checks rather than take responsibility for marketing and record-keeping. But if you like the idea of doing the work as well as getting the profit, she recommends two books by Dan Poynter: *Self-Publishing Manual: How to Write, Print and Sell Your Book,* and *Publishing Short-Run Books.* Like another best-selling resource, *Small-Time Operator: How to Start Your Own Small Business, Keep Your Books, Pay Your Taxes, and Stay Out of Trouble,* by Bernard Kamoroff, the Poynter books were self-published. "Know thy audience" would seem to be the motto of the self-publisher.

Comments from questionnaires indicate that the workshop was a worthwhile and successful undertaking for the Institue. One participant praised "the detailed information, the generous attitude of the speakers, the chance for informal interaction, the fund of ideas about *what* to do and *how* to do it," citing the panel on university presses — her special concern — as "the single most useful panel I have ever attended." Another person commented that the chief value of the workshop lay not in the tips provided, "valuable as they were," so much as in the opportunity it provided to learn "not only about the appropriate channel to use for publication, but also about one's self and one's purposes." We are indeed grateful to the panelists for the quality and quantity of their contributions. Thanks are also due to the hard-working coordinating committee: Joanne Lafler, Norris Pope and Joan Torykian.

Note: A detailed report on the workshop may be obtained for $3.00 from The Institute for Historical Study. Send c/o Joanne Lafler.

PERSONAL HISTORY:
Vaughn Davis Bornet

Note: the author of this reminiscence researched his first book during three years of full-time field work in the San Francisco Bay Area. *California Social Welfare* (1956), financed by the Commonwealth Club of California, was the first such study for an entire state. Bornet's new book, *The Presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson*, vol.11 in the University Press of Kansas series on the American Presidency, appeared this fall.

Working outside the embrace of academic institutions may in some cases bring gratification, but it can also be the source of problems and concern. Perhaps a few recollections from one who pioneered as an independent scholar, and spent eighteen years in that status, will be of interest.

In August, 1941, with a master's degree in history from Emory and a doctoral year at the University of Georgia, I began my first non-academic employment that rested on the techniques and attitudes I had absorbed in graduate work. The Naval Intelligence branch of the Naval Reserve wanted very fast and accurate typists with college degrees and staggeringly impeccable lives to work in peacetime with the Office of Censorship as a skeleton organization suitable for wartime expansion. I was a yeoman first class on good salary, working in civilian clothes and living in the community on allowances, technically called a "librarian." With the declaration of war I was soon farmed out, in uniform, as the sole Navy representative in my region in the Army. (The Navy handled cable and radio, the Army searched the mail.) So it was that for many months this erstwhile Ph.D. candidate in history studied other people's mail and got paid for it. Later, when I was commissioned, the war years of 1943 to 1945 saw me in the role of administrator, in full charge of naval barracks at NAS Alameda.

When the war ended, this specialist on the colonial and civil war South landed a well-paying job as an interviewing psychologist for Mercer University, indirectly serving the Veterans' Administration across the hall. Devoted to studying two men a day with the help of some fourteen psychological tests, I had the power to approve years of free college instruction for the disabled under Public Law 16.

Next, after two years of history teaching at the University of Miami, I resumed doctoral work, receiving my Ph.D. from Stanford University in history in 1951. It was a bad time for academic employment, however, so I put in two years on grants with Stanford's Institute of American History, with opportunities for archival investigation and the chance to give extensive research assistance to the authors of two major history books.

The years 1953 to 1956 would be spent researching and writing *California Social Welfare* on contract with the Commonwealth Club of California. What is interesting here is the fact that initially I knew practically nothing about the subject. The committee members who selected me had complete confidence that one who had started from scratch, and learned enough about unions and politics to write a dissertation, could certainly repeat the deed in another field.

In 1956 came a foundation grant for the book *Welfare in America*, and gradual realization that pure self-employment made for an up and down financial life for a family man. The Encyclopaedia Britannica thought it wanted people like me as editors, so I tried that somewhat stultifying life. (The employer envisioned even key editors as little more than employees hired to provide a product to be sold by the handsomely rewarded sales force.) Next I became a research associate for medical economics with the American Medical Association, an affiliation that proved most instructive, but soon threatened long detours into outright propaganda. Such a life appeared clearly unsuitable.

Three years with the RAND Corporation, initially as a book editor and precise writer for the research of others, but soon as historian and archivist, proved enormously stimulating. (The walls of conventional academic disciplines were missing.) Unfortunately, none of the creative work I did then, and again in 1969, would be allowed a reading outside that nonprofit corporation's corridors. While I know my work was important, nobody on the campuses has ever known it. Top secret clearances guarantee such anonymity.

Overall, more than a decade and a half had shown that someone with a history doctorate could follow many career opportunities involving complex factual information and specialized vocabulary. I had discovered that there were effective, rewarding and useful careers for a historian "out there." Nevertheless, as I attended innumerable historical conferences in those years, I seldom was encouraged by academic historians to think that my remote and, to them, mysterious non-teaching career was of much demonstrable value. There were the lifted eyebrows, the condescension and patronizing, and the implication: too bad you are not one of us. This was sometimes hard to take, for I was convinced of the

value of encyclopaedias, think-tanks, and book publications compared to teaching conventional students. My work, too, had influence over minds, emotions and future actions.

Back on the campuses there seemed to exist, among the humanities and social sciences portion of the faculty, the conviction that only conventional teaching really counted; only on-campus research bore the aspect of "true scholarship" in action. Though for years I had taught high-ranking Naval Reserve adults some rather erudite courses, this was not considered teaching in the usual mold. Fortunately, a few of my graduate mentors had put one foot into the greater community at some point. They made clear to me their insight that what I was doing had its own importance. Those who live as "public historians" will be comforted if they have even one former teacher who is supportive in such a way.

In my senior years there developed an unexpected bonus. Beginning in 1963 I had accepted employment as professor and administrator at a state college. As this career ended in the 1980's with retirement, I found the resulting instant return to full-time research and writing the resumption of a life that was completely familiar. There would be, for me, no difficult transition from "work" to "retirement."

My experience seems to demonstrate that the historian holding a Ph.D. can live many years "out of academic respectability" and survive without too many battle scars. It is hard, however, to be unsalaried in the months that separate various productive activities. Savings will be hard-hit. Higher social security payments by the self-employed are one penalty; lack of fringe benefits, another. Yet there will be so many compensations: publications completed; colleagues who really care; and freedom from the sort of student who asks if he missed very much by going skiing last week instead of attending class. There will be liberation from ideologically-rooted campus politics, departmental stuggles, and infighting — although other institutions can have such conflicts. Academic life offers many subtle rewards, but the independent scholar who uses a doctorate to earn an outside living, and for productive scholarly work for personal pleasure, gets rewards that can be measured.

The very concept of a *successful career*, in this era, must begin to take on new shadings and new meanings for those not on academic payrolls. It needs to be judged by different, even by new, standards. Without a wholesome attitude born of some inner musing, the historian-intellectual off campus may not enjoy full peace of mind. Freedom from disabling inner turmoil can only come from the firm conviction that a hard-won education is really being used to benefit one's own self and loved ones; and, equally important, that the independent scholar serves society.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

With this special issue devoted to independent scholarship we are inaugurating a new department, "Making Connections," to report on the activities of other independent scholars' organizations around the state and the country. To begin, we would like to introduce some of the organizations represented at the September conference, and several others that have come to our attention.

The Affirmist Roundtable — Marin County. Chief aims: to establish camaraderie and a forum for Bay Area writers, researchers and thinkers, promote the success of its members, and introduce members to a national network of authors, intellectuals and humanists. No dues. Chief activity is a monthly party at a member's home, highlighting a guest speaker; members are encouraged to bring their work; the mood is "casual and humorous." Offers creative interchange and support. Publishes quarterly newsletter. For further information, write to Andre Bacard, Affirmist Roundtable, Box 1851, Novato, CA 94948.

Bay Area Labor History Workshop — San Francisco Bay Area. Chief aims: to provide encouragement for people who are writing, teaching or disseminating labor history. Annual dues of $3.00 to cover mailing costs. A meeting is held in a member's home every six weeks in the fall, winter and spring, featuring a presentation by member or members followed by a discussion. Offers a place where labor historians can find out what fellow labor historians are doing, exchange information and ideas. In place of a newsletter, meeting minutes are sent to all members. The next meeting, to be held on Sunday, January 29 at 1:00 p.m. in the home of John Durham, 49 Caselli Street, San Francisco, will feature a presentation, "The San Francisco Industrial Association," led by Bob Cherny, professor of history, San Francisco State University. On March 11, Richard Boyden will speak on the Oakland General Strike of 1946, and on May 6 Archie Green will speak on labor folklore. For further information write to Don Watson, Bay Area Labor History Workshop, 1676 Dwight Way, apt. C, Berkeley, CA 94703, or phone (415) 540-0745.

Independent Scholars of Asia — National organization with regional chapters. Chief aims: to facilitate access to the knowledge and experience of specialists in Asian affairs; to determine the needs of independent scholars of Asia and assist them in their professional pursuits. National dues are $10.00 for active members, $5.00 for student or supportive members. Conducts lectures, workshops, speakers' bureau. Offers career counseling, recruitment for permanent or consultant positions, networking. Publishes quarterly newsletter. For further information, write to Ruth-Inge Heinze, Independent Scholars of Asia, 260 Stephens Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.

Independent Scholars of Sacramento — Sacramento-Davis. Chief aims: to promote independent scholarship outside the university, form a link between academe and independent thinkers, promote a new *style* of scholarly inquiry. No dues at this time; volunteers are needed for organizational work. Meetings held every other month, featuring speakers. Offers members information on grants, teaching opportunities and calls for papers, interaction with other scholars, information on access to research materials, and forum for self-expression and criticism. Newsletter published every other month. For further information, write to Independent Scholars of Sacramento, c/o Robert Inchausti, 5844 62nd Street, Sacramento, CA 95824.

Independent Scholars' Roundtable — Berkeley. Chief aims: mutual support (practical, psychological, critical) of work in progress. In place of dues, money is collected at each meeting to cover expenses, about $5.00 per person for the year. Monthly meetings of participants are held for the purpose of sharing work in progress, receiving feedback, discussing problems. Offers the benefit of mutual support, monthly mailing. Publishes a monthly informal Roundtable Letter; considering publishing a journal. For further information, write to Independent Scholars' Roundtable, c/o San Francisco Bay Institute, P.O. Box 254, Berkeley, CA 94701.

International Association of Independent Scholars — based in Los Angeles. Chief aims: promotion of research, publication and interchange of ideas among independent scholars, established scholars and the general public. Dues: $40; $10 if one is already a dues-paying member of an independent scholars' organization. Quarterly meetings with speakers, investigation of publishing possibilities, grants, cooperative projects for members. Offers members college mailboxes, grant administration, letters of introduction to libraries and professional associations. News and information sheet issued quarterly to members. For further information write to International Association of Independent Scholars, c/o Joan Leopold, International College, 1019 Gayley Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

Pacific Western Institute for Independent Scholarship — Los Angeles based. Chief aim: to develop independent scholarshop. No dues. Conducts peer review network, research pairing network, in 44 countries in nine languages. Offers assistance in peer review, publication of selected papers in a journal, database assistance. Newsletter published approximately three times a year. For further information write to Ray Chasse, Coordinator, Pacific Western Institute for Independent Scholarship, 16200 Ventura Blvd., Suite 301, Encino, CA 91436.

Sociologists for Women in Society — National organization with regional chapters. Chief aims: studying and communicating information on issues which affect women. National dues, based on income; regional dues are $9.00, or $5.00 for students or unemployed. National membership meeting once a year; regional SWS meetings monthly, featuring speakers. Active on behalf of women's academic status through the American Sociological Association, and in support of women facing sex discrimination. Offers information for members through meetings and newsletters; professional network for feminist sociologists; collegial support through writing and job support groups; support for members who run for office in ASA. National newsletter published quarterly; regional newsletter published monthly. For further information write to Marilyn Little, Sociologists for Women in Society, 20 Drake Lane, Oakland, CA 94611.

Unicorne Research Foundation — Los Angeles based. Chief aims: promotion of scientific research and encouragement of the diffusion of scientific knowledge on an interdisciplinary level. Dues range from student membership, $15, to Life Member, $10,000. Conducts original research, compiles and disseminates scientific information. Offers research assistance, journal subscripton, special reports. Quarterly newsletter, plus special news fliers. For further information write to Herman A. Regusters, Director, Uni-

corne Research Foundation, P.O. Box 246, South Pasadena, CA 91030, or phone (213) 791-0074.

INVITATION TO PROSPECTIVE TUTORS

The Graduate Program of Vermont College is an independent study, non-resident program leading to a Master of Arts degree. This program, founded at Goddard College in 1970 and long known as the Goddard Graduate Program, was transferred in 1981 to Vermont College of Norwich University, which is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. While the campus is located in Vermont, the San Francisco Regional Office serves students in the Bay Area and Northern California.

The program is based on the educational philosophy of John Dewey, who felt that students learn best from projects that evolve from their own intellectual interests rather than from an institutionally designed curriculum. Emphasis is upon the integration of theory and practice. No matter what the specific content of the student's project may be, our program emphasizes the mutually reciprocal relations between the theoretical foundations of knowledge and practical, hands-on experience.

Following the tutorial model of learning, a student designs a study plan which outlines what he or she wishes to accomplish in approximately one year's time, in consultation with the Core Faculty, the Field Faculty and other resources in the student's field.

The Core Faculty person, a permanent member of the University faculty who has been selected for interest in non-standardized education, functions both as professor and administrator, making decisions regarding admission and recommendation for graduation, and monitoring the student's progress in the program.

The Field Faculty advisor, the second active member of the student's committee, is an expert in the student's area of concentration. Field faculty may be professors at other institutions, independent writers and researchers, psychologists, artists, community organizers, and administrators who serve as guides and resources for students and who are fully credentialed in their own fields. They help the student design a study plan, meet on a regualr basis to review progress and discuss substantive issues, and provide feedback on the first and final draft of the student's thesis. Our students are required to give presentations at monthly seminars held in San Francisco and we request that the student's mentor attend at least one of these seminars. The honorarium paid to the field faculty is, at this time, $800 per student.

Our student population is as diverse as the range of projects. However, the commonality they share is that they fall within the boundaries of the social sciences, social services, liberal arts, and humanities. Our students are enthusiastic, self-directed, purposeful adults who, as a consequence of their decision to enter graduate school, represent a challenging and rewarding student population. Some current projects include: historical study of family law; appliction of the family therapy model of interaction to an unusual population, special problem school children; development of curriculum for temporarily incarcerated adolescents; dance and choreography; text and illustration of a pre-school children's book; extension of Paolo Fiere's theories of critical literacy to non-English speaking recent San Francisco arrivals.

As Core Faculty and Director of the San Francisco Program, I invite your interest and participation as potential field faculty. Also, if you can recommend mature and self-directed people to my program, I'd be very pleased to hear from you. For further information please write to me at: San Francisco Regional Program, Graduate Program of Vermont College, 1195 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94110, or phone (415) 550-0854.

— Barbara Rosenblum, Ph.D., Director

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Library Orientation for Independent Scholars

Anne Lipow, library education librarian and a panelist at the conference, "Independent Scholars in the '80's: Making Connections," has organized an orientation to the main library — Doe Library — at the University of California, Berkeley, for Wednesday, January 25, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in room 308J Doe, the Art History seminar room. Institute members Frank Brechka (Reference and Humanities Graduate Service) and Annegret Ogden (The Bancroft Library) will assist. This is an excellent opportunity for independent scholars to be introduced to tools such as MELVYL (the campus-wide computerized catalogue), microfiche records, and certain databases; to find out how complete these are and how the card catalogue is used now; and to ask questions about special collections, etc. The evening time was selected as convenient for most of those who evinced interest at the conference.

CONFERENCES

Stanford Conference

"Reconstructing Individualism," an interdisciplinary conference in memory of anthropologist Michelle Zimbalist Rosaldo, will be held at the Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University, on February 18-20. Morning and afternoon sessions are scheduled for each day. Speakers (partial list) include Ian Hacking (Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Toronto), Niklas Luhmann (University of Bielefeld), Carol Gilligan (Harvard), Nancy Chodorow (UC Santa Cruz), Natalie Zemon Davis (Princeton), and Stanley Cavell (Harvard). Panels and lectures are free and open to all. There is a charge for the three lunches and for Sunday night cocktails and dinner. To obtain a copy of the conference program and registration form write to: Stanford Humanities Center, Mariposa House, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305.

Call for Papers

The Coalition for Western Women's History and the Institute of the American West announce the second annual Women's West Conference, a national conference on the role of women in the history of the West, to be held at Park City, Utah, July 11-14. Conference sponsors invite proposals — especially from primary, secondary and post-secondary teachers of Western women's history — on any of the following topics:

1) New research on the theme of whether or not the Western experience was or is a liberating force in women's lives.

2) Presentations/workshops by and for teachers which show how to incorporate Western women's history into primary, secondary and post-secondary curriculum.

3) Media presentations of Western women's history useful in the classroom.

4) Media presentations related to item 1, above.

Scholars are also urged to submit proposals on aspects of Western women's history — work, politics, sexuality, literature, the arts, economics, religion, class order, the family, cultural heritage — related to the theme of whether or not the Western experience was or is a liberating force in women's lives.

Please submit by February 1, 1984: *four copies* of a *two page* summary of your presentation; *four copies* of a *one page* resume of presenter; stamped, self-addressed envelope. Send to: Institute of the American West, P.O. Box 656, Sun Valley, Idaho 83353.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Eve Ma has three articles coming out in the next few months: one on fellow-regional associations in Ch'ing dynasty China, in *Modern Asian Studies*; a translation of part of the travel journal of a Chinese statesman, Liang Ch'i-ch'ao for the Canadian journal, *BC Studies*; and an article on the big businesses of Chinese immigrants to North America, to appear in a volume put out by the Chinese Culture Center/Chinese Historical Society. On December 1 she begins a one-year consultant job for the Army Corps of Engineers, Japan District writing its history.

Eve also reports that her exhibition, "Chinese Popular Religion," reported on in the last issue of the Newsletter, is scheduled to appear at the C. E. Smith Anthropology Museum of California State University, Hayward, from January 17 to February 13. Organized by the Chinese/Chinese American History Project and co-sponsored by the Chinese Historical Society of America, the exhibit contains artifacts ranging from a five-foot lion head from the lion dances, to a one-inch paper horse used in burial ceremonies. Artifacts have been contributed by numerous public and private collections. The January showing in Hayward will be complemented by a small display of art works of Bay Area artists of Chinese ancestry.

A number of Institute members participated in the conference, "Discovery and Change: The California Gold Rush, 1848-1868," sponsored by the Golden Gate National Recreation Center and the Maritime Humanities Center at the Fort Mason Center in San Francisco, November 19 and 20. Bill Strobridge served on the conference committee and as a panel chair. Irena Narell gave a paper, "Jews in the California Gold Rush," Peter E. Palmquist gave a paper, "The Impact of the Gold Rush on Daguerrean Artist Richard Carr," Lyn Reese was a panelist in a workshop on "The Role of Women," and Jim Silverman gave a paper on "California Children's Books of the Gold Rush."

The Institute was also a "presence" at the reception, on December 1 at the Oakland Museum, hosted by the L. J. and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation for recipients of grants. Ellen Huppert and Joanne Lafler represented the Institute as recipient of the Newsletter grant. Norris

Pope was there to acknowledge the grant received by Stanford University Press to publish a classic work on historical places in California. Gretta Mitchell described her work, through the Regional Oral History Office of the Bancroft Library, on an oral history of Rudolph Schaeffer, the eminent California artist and designer.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the eight new members whose applications were approved by the Board in October and November.

Elena S. Danielson, who has a Ph.D. in German Studies from Stanford, is an assistant archivist at the Hoover Institution Archives. She is interested in the use of archival documents in support of historical research, Russian-German foreign relations, and two American figures — Karl H. von Wiegand and Milly Bennett — whose papers are in the Hoover Institution Archives. She plans to publish her work, and looks forward to participating in work-in-progress meetings.

Roger P. Davis is a Ph.D. candidate in history at the University of Arizona. Since 1975 he has been an associate research analyst for the Documentary Relations of the Southwest project at the Arizona State Museum. His current interests are nineteenth-century Latin America — statecraft, political and intellectual development, contemporary U.S. history, and public history. Through the Institute he seeks an affiliation with other historians, academic and non-academic.

George Lerksy, emeritus professor of history from the University of San Francisco, received his undergraduate education in Poland and his graduate law degree from Oxford. He has taught both political science and modern European history, and has served as a consultant in international affairs for governmental and private agencies. He is particularly interested in the history of Jewish-Polish relations and the history of Polish socialism. As an Institute member he would like to attend and offer lectures in his field.

Michael Meo has a B.S. in astronomy from Cal Tech and an M.A. in European history from UC Berkeley. He is interested in history of science and has published encyclopaedia articles in scientific biography and translations of Russian scientific articles. Currently he is interested in government use of science from 1500-1970 s with particular reference to Eastern European institutional borrowings and academic intercourse with Western Europe. He would like to discuss the history of ideas, and history of science, with a critical, appreciative audience.

Carolyn Moscarella has an M.A. from San Francisco State University in ancient history, with minor fields of classical archaeology and medieval history. An active docent at the San Francisco Fine Arts Museums, she created and presented slide presentations in conjunction with the "Search for Alexander" exhibit. Current interests include women in antiquity, social history, archaeology, and art history. She would like to meet other historians with similar interests, and learn more about resources for independent scholars.

Kathleen O'Connor also has an M.A. in history from San Francisco State University, in modern European history with minor areas of historiography, Eastern Europe, and the United States since 1877. Since 1980 she has been an archives aide at the National Archives in San Bruno. Her interests include Native American, German and Russian history. As an Institute member she would like to keep up on the latest trends in historical research so that, as an archivist, she can better serve the historical community.

Barbara Rosenblum, whose description of the Vermont College Graduate Program appears in this issue of the Newsletter, has a Ph.D. in sociology from Northwestern University. Since 1980 she has been associate professor and director of the regional office of the Graduate Program of Vermont College. Among her current interests is the history of bathing practices. Through the Institute she would like to develop closer ties with historians and exchange ideas.

Ruth Willard is beginning work for an M.A. in American social history at San Francisco State University. She is presently completing editorial work on *Sacred Places: San Francisco's Religious Heritage*, on behalf of the San Francisco Alumnae Panhellenic, to be published by Presidio Press, and she hopes to publish a handbook on archival visual materials concerning Mexican-American families. Through the Institute she would like to learn more about funding and publication opportunities for individual scholars.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Several regular features of the Newsletter were eliminated from this issue to make room for extra material on independent scholarship. The next issue will include reports on works-in-progress for the months of October, November and December.

We welcome material from members, not only announcements of conferences and news about your own work, but short pieces of general interest. Submissions should be sent to Joanne Lafler, Newsletter Editor, 43 Abbott Drive, Oakland, CA 94611. If you have any questions, phone (415) 547-1791.

Please note: as of the new year we will be changing to a bi-monthly publication schedule. Deadline for submitting material to the January-February issue is January 20.

Despite our care in getting out bulk mailings, some pieces seem to go astray. If you fail to receive one or more issues, be sure to let us know.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1983

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The Newsletter is sent to all members. Non-members who wish to receive it, and to get regular announcements of Institute meetings, are urged to make a tax deductible contribution to cover the cost of printing and mailing.

UPCOMING INSTITUTE EVENTS

On Sunday, January 15, Joanne Lafler will present, for comment and criticism, a draft of a paper she will be giving at a conference in April, in which she examines the actress Anne Oldfield's domestic relationships in relation to the marital and sexual arrangements of actresses generally in early eighteenth-century England. A postcard mailing in January will give the time and place.

On Saturday, February 25, the annual membership meeting will be held in San Francisco. Details will be announced in a separate mailing.

The Newsletter is the official publication of The Institute for Historical Study, a scholarly organization designed to promote the research, writing, and public discussion of history. Membership in the Institute is open to independent and academically affiliated scholars who are in agreement with its aims and who have a commitment to historical study. Membership inquiries should be sent to the Institute address.

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