The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

Volume V, No. 6 November - December, 1984

BANCROFT READERS' ROUNDTABLE

Report on First Meeting

Twelve people attended the organizational meeting of the Bancroft Readers' Roundtable in Berkeley on November 7. This Institute-sponsored project was given the enthusiastic support of Bancroft Library director James Hart and his library staff. It grew out of a discussion between Sylvia Myers and Annegret Ogden, a Bancroft librarian, at the Independent Scholars' Workshop in September. Both were concerned that readers in the Bancroft, whose areas of interest so frequently overlap, had no easy way to meet each other and discuss their work. Many are independent scholars or visiting faculty with no immediate collegial community. Some would probably like to share their problems and talk informally with library staff. The response to the first meeting seemed to bear this out.

Among the readers present at the November 7 meeting was a librarian from the Anchorage, Alaska, Public Library, here to study the Bancroft Library in preparation for the opening of an Alaskan history section in his library. There were four members of the Berkeley Historical Society including Bob Yamada, president, and Ken Pettitt, vice president and chair of the Research Committee; two members of the San Pablo Historical Society, who came armed with copies of their impressive publications; and several independent scholars, one of whom is doing an oral history of the Berkeley origins of the disabled persons movement. Russell Swanson, an independent scholar in Berkeley, agreed to talk about technical problems of interdisciplinary research at the December meeting.

Peter Hanff, technical services librarian at the Bancroft, assured the group that not only were staff eager to help readers but that an individual may make an appointment with a librarian for more extended help than is usually possible when the librarian is on reference desk duty. Schedules will be arranged so that a staff member can attend each of the roundtable meetings.

The group decided to meet regularly at noon on the first Wednesday of each month. Most meetings will be mini work-in-progress sessions of about one and a half hours. Newsletter readers who are interested in attending should check the sign in the Bancroft Library which will announce each month's topic and speaker. Thanks to the effort of Peter Hanff, the meetings will be held in the Faculty Club, Room E, on the Berkeley campus. Sandwiches, entrees and a salad bar are available. The $5 fee for the room, to be divided by those attending, seemed well worth it to those who attended the first meeting, but could not always hear what was being said over the din in the student cafeteria. The first meeting of the new year will be Wednesday, January 2.

—Georgia Wright

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The annual Board retreat at Jules Becker's house at Lake Tahoe is a reward for a good year's work. On this particular Saturday night, after five hours of meeting and discussion, everyone helped to prepare a Thanksgiving feast, dedicated to Clio, who saw us through the year without deficit spending in anticipation of a Federal bailout, or lawsuits over sub-minimum wages or lack of equal opportunity for men.

Prior to the retreat several Board members had participated in Arts Management seminars mounted by Business Volunteers for the Arts with funding from Citicorp. Topics included fundraising, boards of directors, finances, planning, and marketing. There was also a Resource Fair at which organizations such as the Management Center, the Foundation Center, Executive Service Corps, and Bay Area Video Coalition explained their services. The Institute has many characteristics in common with arts organizations, such as funding targets, certain elements of structure, and audience development problems, characteristics which it does not share with educational institutions, for example. We did find that most arts organizations had paid staff and policy-making boards, so that we could not share their concerns about involving the board or dividing tasks between board and staff—problems that sounded rather attractive. We did share with them the problem of reaching an audience which has many demands made on its time and money.

With the planning seminar fresh in mind, we went to the retreat armed with a zippy agenda—mission statement, assessment of internal strengths and external environment, goals, and strategies for reaching objectives. The seminar had suggested that such planning needed several meetings, perhaps over a few months, but Superpres thought five hours should be enough to reorganize, set out another long-range plan, and decide how to implement it. The rest of the Board, however, balked at her not very well "hidden" agenda and rejected her idea of bringing all California and the rest of the United States into a federated Institute, as well as her idea of increasing pack-

ing?) the Board. Instead, the discussion of our mission and review of our past activities suggested that we have had our greatest impact on the scholarly community in the immediate Bay Area, and that we do not have a mandate from our members to create ambitious public programs.

What this means is that the Board will direct the program committee to continue to mount service workshops such as those on publications and grants, as well as conferences with themes central to the interests of many members. The program committee will also continue to handle work-in-progress meetings and will organize one major public program per year. Beyond that it will be ready to assist members with their program ideas by creating ad hoc committees and providing other support and encouragement. This is not a major shift in direction, but it means that the program committee will solicit ideas from members rather than generating ideas and then trying to find people to carry them out.

—Georgia Wright

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

October

The satisfactions and struggles of interpreting history in which one has participated were set forth by Joe Illick at his work-in-progress given October 19 at the home of Frances Richardson Keller. "At Liberty" is the projected title of Joe's book which will analyze the backgrounds and adult lives and outlooks of his classmates at Liberty High School in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania—the class of '52. The search of individuals for a kind of personal freedom in their adult lives will be set against a discussion of clearly defined socio-economic backgrounds and attitudes in the industrial town of Bethlehem, as well as the changing social outlooks of the 1960s and '70s.

Two important sources for Joe's discussion are 210 responses to a carefully devised questionnaire which he sent to all the classmates he could locate, and some 60 interviews which he conducted with class members in 1976, some of whom he reinterviewed in 1983. The interviewing process Joe often found to be a deeply involving experience for himself as well as for the interviewee. His subjects sometimes spoke about themselves with great candor, causing the researcher to wonder just how closely he should record these self-revelations. Joe was also impressed by the remarkable variety in the adult careers of his classmates who now include, for example, a cancer researcher and a lecturer on soap opera.

Immersed in a wealth of material, Joe has found that his chief difficulties lie in categorizing his information about individuals and providing the appropriate social contexts in which to discuss his findings. After experimenting with various formats for the book which, as he says, still "refuses to be written," Joe has decided to combine his analysis of individual lives with more general discussion of Bethlehem's history and socio-economic patterns. A bridge between these areas may arise from the discussion he plans to develop around the child rearing practices of his classmates and their comparisons of these practices with memories of their own childhood experiences. Still, considering both individual and group patterns, the problem of how to characterize this class of '52, a part of the "silent generation," remains a difficult one. The result, however, should provide some valuable insights about representatives of a generation which will exercise a controlling influence in the nation for the rest of this century.

—Georgiana Davidson

CONTINUING INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES

Nineteenth-Century Studies Group

The membership committee sponsored the first networking meeting on Sunday, August 28, from 3–6 p.m. in the home of membership chair Lyn Reese. The meeting focused on membership interests in nineteenth-century topics. Participants were asked to relate their own research areas to the concept of industrial, political, sexual, and artistic revolutions. During an informal discussion many specific connections were brought up, although certain topics reinforced the concept less well than others. Specific topics discussed were American utopian socialism, women's intellectual history, the woman magazine editor and labor leader Charlotte Smith, California Indian women, and theories of sculpture.

The second meeting on November 25 continued the discussion of individual research topics. As before, these were extremely diverse: educational institutions, German labor history, psycho-history, the Congregational missionary society of the Bay Area, and women's education.

The outcome of the two meetings was a better understanding of the specific research interests of Institute members. Participants received useful suggestions on bibliography and research strategies. So far the group is operating as an informal discussion group and is still seeking a direction. For the next meeting (December 2), the group decided to read E. J. Hobsbawm's *The Age of Revolution* for discussion.

Those who would like to attend future meetings should contact Lyn Reese (415-524-0304). General suggestions for the group and recommended readings are welcome.

—Patricia Sanders

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Family Papers Project

The group project on family papers in the Bancroft Library is continuing to meet once a month to discuss progress and share information. The form of the final project is still to be determined. Institute members interested in joining the group should contact Monica Clyde (415-339-3385).

GRANTS

The following is a selection of grants with deadlines in February or later, gleaned from the AHA booklet on grants of interest to historians. Call Georgia Wright (415-549-1922) for addresses, phone numbers, and fuller descriptions.

American Association for State and Local History. Grants-in-aid for state, regional, or local history, up to $3000. July 1 deadline.

ACLS travel grants for PhD's who will deliver papers at international meetings abroad. Deadlines: March 1 for meetings in July–October; July 1 for meetings in November–December; November 1 for meeting in March–June.

Berkshire Fellowships at the Bunting Institute. Summer research and writing, $1500 for one or two months. For women historians at the post-doctoral level. No deadline specified.

Albert Beveridge Grants (AHA). Up to $1000 for research on the history of Western Hemisphere countries, to be used for photographs, travel, etc. Deadline February 1.

Bunting Fellowships. $15,250 to help women advance careers (probably academic). Deadline not given, but probably January 1.

AHA—Research in American history at the Library of Congress. J. Franklin James Fellowship for recent PhD's. $9000 for at least three months. Deadline March 15.

National Academy of Education. Post-doctoral fellowship for recent PhD's, $10,000. Up to three years of research. Candidate must be nominated by a senior scholar. Interested in minority and female PhD's or others working on ethnic or gender issues. Deadline March 1.

NEH Summer Seminars for secondary and college teachers. Bulletins should be available this month for those wishing to participate.

Various fellowships for study in specific countries are also available.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Focus on Alumnae Resources

Lifelong career changes are emerging as an important trend for our future, according to author John Naisbitt, who addresses this among other issues in a sequel to his bestselling book, *Megatrends*. For some of us this has already become a fact of life as we are either contemplating or undergoing career changes at all stages of personal and professional development. People facing this challenge are turning increasingly to professional career guidance to assist them along the way.

One such organization is Alumnae Resources of San Francisco, a non-profit career development center serving primarily, though not exclusively, the needs of college educated women with liberal arts degrees. Founded in 1978, Alumnae Resources served over 3000 clients in 1983 and is still growing steadily and developing its services. Having recently become a member and volunteer I find myself meeting and working with a talented group of professional women whose creative energies and commitment to work and success make being a part of Alumnae Resources a very positive experience indeed.

For moderate membership and program fees, AR offers a wide spectrum of career development services, ranging from workshops in such areas as skills assessment, resume writing, interviewing techniques, and career transitions for educators, to providing a unique career advisor network. This latter feature consists of a group of more than 400 professional women in the Bay Area who are available to AR members for informational interviewing and networking purposes.

Skillfully guided by Executive Director Susan Kaplan and a small professional staff, the organization also depends heavily on volunteers for its well organized activities. It is a lively and stimulating place to meet interesting people of all ages and professional backgrounds, a place that supports the evolving career aspirations of educated people in a constructive manner.

If you would like to find out more about the organization and its program, call them in San Francisco at 546-7220 and ask to receive the newsletter Careers. Alumnae Resources is moving to more spacious quarters in December. The new address will be: 660 Mission Street, San Francisco 94103.

—Monica Clyde

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: ART HISTORY

Two tenure track positions are available in art history at Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas. Teaching competencies for each position are required in two of the following areas: Medieval, Northern Renaissance, Baroque, American, Modern (with nineteenth-century emphasis). PhD in art history by August, 1985 is required. Candidates should also show strong commitment to undergraduate education, excellence in teaching, evidence of potential as scholar. Salary is competitive. Trinity University is an independent, coeducational, residential institution with an undergraduate enrollment of approximately 2500 students from all areas of the United States and numerous foreign countries. Applicants should send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, at least three letters of reference, a final or up-to-date graduate institution transcript, and teaching evaluations, if available, to:

Dr. Carolyn Valone, Chair
Department of Art History
Trinity University
715 Stadium Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78284

Deadline is January 10, 1985.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Over the five years of its existence the Institute has developed activities such as work-in-progress meetings and practical workshops that seem typical of many organizations of independent scholars. Such "simultaneous invention" no doubt occurs because the needs of independent scholars are much the same everywhere.

San Diego Independent Scholars, founded in 1982, is an interdisciplinary organization with members in such fields as literature, history, psychology, history of science, oceanography, linguistics, political science, and philosophy. SDIS holds regular monthly meetings on the campus of California State University, San Diego. At some meetings members present their work for comment and discussion; other meetings have been devoted to subjects of practical concern such as publication. A newsletter, "The Scholar's Notebook," announces meetings, reports on past presentations, and publishes information on grants, conferences, etc. of interest to independent scholars. Membership dues are $25 for active members, $10 for non-voting associates. For further information write to SDIS Board of Directors, P.O Box 314, La Jolla, CA 92038.

In Chicago, under the energetic leadership of James Bennett, the **Chicago Committee for Independent Scholarship** holds regular Works-in-Progress meetings at the Newberry Library. Reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the organization, topics have ranged from "Marxist and Islamic Trends in Senegalese Historiography," to "A Biography of Wyndham Lewis." CCIS has also organized an orientation tour of the Newberry Library and instituted a Donors Prize for the work of members. A newsletter, which reports on CCIS activities and provides information on grants, conferences, etc. of interest to members and subscribers, is published bi-monthly. The October–November issue announces the publication of *A Directory of Chicago-Area Historians*, just completed by the Family and Community History Center of the Newberry Library and the Chicago Metro History Fair, Inc. The publication lists names and addresses of over 400 local historians, including independent scholars. Sounds like a fine idea. For further information CCIS write to: James Bennett, 805 West Dickens Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-0233.

CONFERENCES

Genocide and Human Rights—Call for Papers

Bentley College and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research will sponsor a conference on the theme: "Seventy Years After the Genocide: Lessons from the Armenian Experience—a National Conference on Genocide and Human Rights." Scholars and other interested individuals are invited to submit abstracts by January 1, 1985 to:

Richard Geehr
History Department
Forest Hall
Bentley College
Waltham, MA 02254

Those selected will be notified. The papers themselves must be submitted by February 15, 1985.

History of Science Congress—Call for papers

The International Congress of History of Science, sponsored by the University of California, Berkeley, the United States National Academy of Sciences, and the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science will be held on the UC Berkeley campus July 31–August 6, 1985. Papers are solicited for symposia on such topics as: science and technology in the Middle Ages; genetics and society; women in science: options and access; cross-cultural exchanges of natural knowledge and their social implications; science, literature and the imagination; contexts of technological changes. There will also be sections devoted to specific scientific disciplines. Deadline for submission of abstracts is March 1. Guidelines for papers and abstracts are very strict, so prospective participants should write immediately for a copy of the program and guidelines to: History of Science Department, 470 Stephens Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720. Note also the registration fees: for regular participants, $120 before March 1, $150 after; for student participants, $60/$75. For those who can attend only a few sessions there will be a daily registration fee.

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Sabina Sedgwick, the pen name of one of our members, is a co-author of the delightful *Ladies' Home Erotica* by the Kensington Ladies Erotica Society (Ten Speed Press). The book is selling widely and well. Evidently this group has been holding work-in-progress sessions in competition with our own.

Georgia Wright has been teaching an art history survey course through UC Extension this fall and will continue next fall. After experiencing problems with projection equipment, and having her handbag stolen from the projection room during class, she has enjoyed the semester greatly.

Although Alison Lingo's UC Extension class, "Women, Witches and Healers: A Historical Perspective," was cancelled because the enrollment was not quite high enough, those who did enroll urged her to teach the class independently, which she has done in her home this fall. First, independent scholars; now independent teachers!

Jim Silverman had a booth at the Moscone Center School Curriculum Fair for his project on the history of children's books in California. He is now applying for a grant (through the Institute) to mount programs for ten libraries and museums in California.

Jean Ackerman announces that the script for her award-winning historical play, *A Pride of Heroes* (recently performed at the Second National Festival of Women's Theatre in Santa Cruz), has been published in playbook form, with production notes and music. Copies are available through The Book Tree in Monterey, Bookworks in Pacific Grove, and Books Incorporated in Carmel, as well as from Jean herself: Box 424, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. We hope to review the book in a later issue.

Although we do not usually publish items of a personal nature about our members, we are sure that Elizabeth Griego's friends in the Institute will be glad to know that her son Paul was born on November 14. He and she are doing so well that she expects to attend the December Board meeting. (Like Deborah Frangquist's daughter Judith, Paul may attend more meetings than many Institute members do.)

Eve Armentrout Ma writes that her earlier book manuscript, *Revolutionaries, Monarchists and Chinatowns: Chinese Politics in the Americas, 1850-1911*, is under review by Cambridge University Press. In the meantime, she is well into chapter three of her study of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Japan Engineer District, from 1945-1984. Two of her scholarly articles appeared this past summer—"Fellow-Regional Associations in the Ch'ing Dynasty," in *Modern Asian Studies*, and "Genealogy as History: the Yu of Yi-mei and Chang-wan in Kwangtung's Xin-hui xian," in *Asian Folklore Studies*. A third article, "Short Biography of Mr. Taam Wu of the Chinese Freemasons (Chih-kungtong)," appeared in November in the *Annals of the Chinese Historical Society of the Pacific Northwest*. Her study of the Chinese Sacramento River town, Locke, *One Day, One Dollar: Locke, California and the Chinese Farming Experience in the Sacramento Delta*, was published in September by the Chinese/Chinese American History Project (of which she is director) and is available for purchase. We hope to review it in a later issue. Inquiries may be directed to: Chinese/Chinese American History Project, 1355 Arlington Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the members whose applications were approved in October.

Judith Babbitts has a master's degree in women's studies from Sarah Lawrence College and is a PhD candidate in American Studies at Yale University. Her dissertation, which is near completion, is on "Stereographs and the Creation of the American World View, 1890-1930." She has published articles and has taught at the University of Maryland division in Japan and at Sarah Lawrence College. She is also a specialist in evaluating Title I programs in higher education and community service. As an Institute member she would like to get critical responses to her work, and to collaborate with others to explore ways to reach non-academic audiences, through radio, television, and computer technology.

Susan Casement heads the Agricultural Economics Library at UC Davis. She has a master of library science degree from the University of Texas and is completing a master's degree in history from Kansas State University, writing on third world women and agriculture. She has published articles on agriculture and on economics for two years in the Centro de Informatica Economica, Bogota, Colombia. Her current interests are in Latin American historiography and United States agricultural history. Since September she has been an active participant in the Bancroft family papers project, whose work, which she finds "a most attractive way to share knowledge and help myself gain momentum," was a major factor in her decision to join the Institute.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue is slimmer than usual, owing to our concern about getting it out in time for the Christmas mail crush. In the next issue you may look forward to a review of the work of one of our members and another in our series, "Guide to Local Archives."

The suggestion has also been made that we carry reviews of historical films and museum exhibits. For example, the new California history section of the Oakland Public Museum opened recently, and it would be interesting to hear a historian's evaluation of it. Warning—we don't wait for volunteers. Sometimes we volunteer them.

Michael Meo would like to correct the record concerning the statement [page one, column two of the September-October issue] that he and his co-translator, Charles Aronson, received no payment for their translation of Marx's mathematical manuscripts, published by the Workers' League. In lieu of royalties, he and Aronson each received $250.

The deadline for the next issue is January 25. It will come out in late February.

SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIONS

September

Approved the treasurer's report.

Approved the membership applications of Brian George and Ross Maxwell.

Heard reports from publications, publicity, program, development, and independent scholars committees.

October

Approved the treasurer's report.

Approved the membership application of Judith Babbitts.

Heard reports from publications, program, publicity, development, and independent scholars committees.

Approved a policy whereby any Institute member may petition the Board for endorsement of an independently taught course or for a project. Upon approval of this policy, the Board unanimously gave endorsement to Alison Lingo's course, "Women, Witches and Healers—A Historical Perspective."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board meeting, January 10, 7:30 p.m. All interested members are invited to attend. Call the Institute number or 415-549-1922 for further information.

Annual membership meeting, February 9, 9:30-3:00. All members will receive a packet of information about the meeting early in January. This is an occasion at which members can learn more about the everyday functioning of the Institute, ask questions, make suggestions, and generally become more involved.

The nineteenth-century studies group will meet on Sunday, January 20 at 3 p.m. at the home of Lyn Reese, 1030 Spruce Street, Berkeley. There will be a discussion of readings in early nineteenth-century women's history. Call Lyn for further information: 415-524-0304.

The Bancroft family papers group will meet on Saturday, January 26 at 10 a.m. in the Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley.

Work-in-progress sessions are planned for January and February, but specific dates have not been set. Postcards will be sent.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1984

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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 events are invited to make tax deductible contributions to assist with the cost of printing and mailing.

Publication of the Newsletter is made possible through a grant from the L. J. and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation.

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.

The Institute for Historical Study
1791A Pine Street
San Francisco, California 94109
(415) 441-3759

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