

# THE INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL STUDY

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# NEWSLETTER

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## **A Singular Adventure in Paris by Georgia Wright**

The old Bibliothèque Nationale of France, formerly the Bibliothèque Impériale, before that the Bibliothèque Royale, and before that the hôtel particulier of Cardinal Mazarin, still houses manuscripts, prints, and the Cabinet des Médailles. The great reading room for printed books, built between 1864 and 1875 (with a break in there for the Franco-Prussian War and the Commune), is covered by nine glazed earthenware domes balanced on the thinnest of cast-iron columns. Arched windows line one upper wall opposite frescoes of tree tops.

After having my credentials checked and receiving a card, I would go through the doors where two men sat in a booth, one to check cards, the other to search briefcases upon exiting. (French bureaucracy used to guarantee low unemployment.) I'd go down to the card catalogues—ah, those wonderful hand-written cards!—copy out the call numbers, add my seat number, and deposit these cards at the main desk. There Mme la président de la salle (or M le président) reigned from on high, watching over the nearest tables where one read the most precious books, and vetting requests for photocopies. An always male page would deliver my books to my seat. In the reading room for prints and such, which was under less supervision, the elderly pages enjoyed holding my slips until the last moment. “Ah, madame, it's too late. Try this afternoon.” Then there was the *enfers* (hell) where naughty books might be consulted such as those with rude caricatures from the French Revolution. In the manuscript room art historians who wished to look at illuminated manuscripts were pointed to photo albums. “Monsieur,” I pled, “I've come 8000 kilometers to see that manuscript!” That worked.

Alas, now printed books have been moved to the Très Grande Bibliothèque or “TGB” as it is dubbed in allusion to the TGV or trains of “Très Grande Vitesse.” The architect Dominique Perrault won an international competition and dug a big hole next to the Seine, photos of which we saw in San Francisco at a conference celebrating plans for the new libraries there and in Paris. The huge site for the TGB had to be rather far from the center of Paris but on Metro lines, running close to the Seine. According to my friend Charlotte Lacaze in Paris, Perrault planned stacks for the bottom stories in a truncated pyramid (or mastaba), but when the engineers were consulted, they warned of possible flooding of the Seine. By then glass towers in the form of open books were under construction at the four corners of the top of the mastaba. Mitterand was in a hurry. This was to be a monument to him that he wanted finished before he left office. So the architect changed the use of the towers from reading rooms to offices and stacks. No one had consulted the librarians, I suspect, because most of the glass had to be covered with tropical wood louvers. The library is sometimes labeled on the internet the Bibliothèque Nationale Mitterand, but readers call it the Tolbiac for the Metro stop (or the TGB), while the old BN is the Richelieu, an appropriately more noble name.

In 1993 I made my first trip to the surreal TGB. I looked for an entrance at ground level. None. So I climbed up the steep risers on narrow treads—the French are devoted to perilously steep steps, as at La Défense, where boys ride down them on skateboards. (They hadn't yet discovered the TGB's esplanade, a kilometer in length, looking like a landing strip or the set for a surrealist movie.) I found a hole on the esplanade and descended on a moving ramp, checked in, and was given a seat number. As I hadn't reserved a seat, as all the veterans had done, I was a good three blocks from the main desk. The

– *continued on back page*

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

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The Institute held some interesting and fun events this quarter. Among them was the visit to the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, organized by **Ann Harlow** and **Jody Offer** and reported on in this issue by **Kathy O’Connor**. The September potluck supper, held on Sunday the 7th at Ellen Huppert’s home, was a delicious and lively time. Jody Offer had devised a game in which players had the name of an historical figure taped on their backs. The aim was to guess that name by asking a limited number of questions. While some did not participate, those who did found it a fine way to open up conversation. Thanks to Jody for her work—she wasn’t even able to attend!

Looking to the future, plans are underway for a series of World War I films to be shown at the Main branch of the San Francisco Public Library, once a month starting in January. The dates, all Sunday afternoons, are January 4, February 22, March 8, April 19, and May 17. Some dates conflict with regularly scheduled Institute meetings, but we have to fit into the Library’s schedule. Each showing will be followed by time for discussion. The full list with dates will be on our website by mid-November. The organizers of the program are looking for members willing to provide commentary on the films. Please e-mail me if you are interested.

Still looking ahead, the nominating committee will be working to form a slate of candidates for the election of the board of directors coming up in February. I encourage any member who is interested in forming policy, approving and watching over the annual budget, and pitching in to make Institute events succeed, to speak up. Again, you can e-mail me.

Two current exhibitions with historical resonance may interest you. The first, “Ohlone Elders & Youth Speak: Restoring a California Legacy,” is at the Main Library, San Francisco (very conveniently located just opposite the Civic Center BART station at 100 Grove Street) in the lower level gallery, until January 4, 2015. It is based on photographs and oral histories. The second is at the Oakland Museum of California through April 12, 2015. “Fertile Ground: Art and Community in California” details four periods of lively art production in Northern California. Works from the collections of both the Oakland Museum and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art are included.

– *Ellen Huppert*

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## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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### **“The She-Novelist in Venice: The Life and Death of Constance Fenimore Woolson”**

At the home of Georgia Wright, **Stephanie McCoy**, a new member of the Institute, read from two chapters of her novel tentatively entitled “The She-Novelist in Venice.” This is Stephanie’s second novel; the first one, *Sweet as Cane*, was published in 2012.

The “she-novelist” referred to in the title is Constance Fenimore Woolson, a popular 19th-century American writer, who happens to be the grandniece of James Fenimore Cooper. Constance was born in 1840 in New Hampshire. In the first month of her life, three other sisters died from scarlet fever. Constance and her family then moved to Ohio. Her sister Clare was born in 1843. Later Constance attended schools in Cleveland and Madame Chegaray’s school in New York. After her father died in 1869, she and her mother spent a lot of time traveling in the south, finally settling in Florida. After her mother’s death in 1879, Constance left America for Europe. She spent the next 14 years there, mostly in England and Italy, though she traveled widely. She died in Venice in January 1894, falling or jumping from her Grand Canal apartment. Stephanie’s novel is based on the last years of her life in Venice and Florence.

The opening chapter, entitled “Santa Maria della Virgine,” depicts impressions of the main character’s life in Venice. Stephanie’s lively prose creates a vivid image of the writer’s life there.

The next chapter from which Stephanie read, “God of Sleep,” deals with a darker aspect of life, Constance’s brother Charlie (born in 1846), the favorite and only son in the family, whose life stands in stark contrast to Constance’s creative energies. Charlie, a deeply depressed individual, ends his own life in Los Angeles in 1883.

The question Stephanie grapples with as she writes a novel based on historical characters is

the author’s approach in dealing with fiction and history. She quoted from a *New Yorker* article about the imagination of Hillary Mantel (“The Dead Are Real,” October 15, 2012):

“So much of fiction is a matter of trying to force uncertainty and freedom into a process that is in fact entirely determined by choice or events. When [the author] is writing historical fiction, she knows what will happen and can do nothing about it, but she must try to imagine the events as if the outcome were not yet fixed, from the perspective of the characters, who are moving forward in ignorance. This is not just an emotional business of entering the characters’ point of view; it is also a matter of remembering that at every point things could have been different. What she, the author, knows is history, not fate.”

It is with this idea in mind that Stephanie is trying to finish her novel, while still remaining faithful to the facts.

– *Monica Clyde*

### **“Vladimir Dzhunkovsky’s Memory Palace: The Strange Case of his Memoir and Archive”**

The future is knowable. The past is uncertain.  
— anon. Soviet humor

Memoirs can have as lively, and uncertain, a fate as their authors—or so we learned at the home of Nancy Zinn on July 20, when Rob Robbins discussed the memoirs of Vladimir Fedorovich Dzhunkovsky (1865-1938), a public servant whose life spanned the final decades of Czarist Russia and the early decades of the Soviet Union. “This story,” Rob told us, “is about a man and his memoirs and what happened to them. But it is also about a larger story—the struggle for control of history and the sources upon which it was based in the first decades of Soviet power.”

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Dzhunkovsky spent his early years in St. Petersburg, where he was born, but his important work as a public servant began in Moscow, where he would serve as Vice-Governor and Governor of the province of Moscow from 1905 to 1913, earning widespread support for integrity and for his skillful administration. In 1913 Czar Nicholas called him back to St. Petersburg, appointing him Assistant Minister of Internal Affairs and Commander of the Corps of Gendarmes—the Empire’s security chief. When workers in the oil fields of Baku threatened to strike in 1913, Dzhunkovsky was deputized by the Czar to take all necessary measures to prevent the strike. His memoirs provide a vivid account of his shock at witnessing the workers’ living and working conditions and his rigorous dealings with the oil company managers. For the next two years Dzhunkovsky’s relationship with the Czar flourished. But in 1915 his investigations into the reckless behavior of the “holy man” Rasputin incurred the wrath of Empress Alexandra. His life as a public servant came to an abrupt end with his summary dismissal from the Gendarmerie. Without any previous military experience, he served on the front lines of the Great War, where the same qualities that made him shine as administrator led to his success as commanding officer. That, too, came to an abrupt halt, in 1917 with the October revolution.

Dzhunkovsky retired from the army with a small pension and became (or tried to become) a private person. Tried by the Moscow Revolutionary Tribunal for “counter-revolutionary activities” in 1919, he was convicted and imprisoned for two years. A year after his release from prison he began writing his memoirs. Rob noted several possible reasons for this new undertaking: self-justification; earning much-needed money; the request of friends. But he had also been a witness of history; it was important to get the facts set down. He drew upon his personal

archives, including thousands of letters, family memorabilia, business papers, and on a no-longer existing diary. (Rob speculates that he destroyed the diary himself for reasons of personal privacy, especially references to his relationship with a married woman.)

The year of 1928, when he finished the manuscript, was the beginning of a repressive period in the Soviet Union—a cultural revolution against intelligentsia and technical experts from the old regime. Although Dzhunkovsky sold the manuscript to the State Literary Museum in 1934 for 40,000 rubles, it was seized by the secret police. He was arrested in 1937 and executed in 1938 (victim of the great purges of that period), but his memoirs had a curious after-life—never destroyed, but never made public until decades after his death.

In 1952 Dzhunkovsky’s personal archives and the manuscript of his memoirs were moved to the State Historical Archives. In the 1960s, scholars began to make use of these materials, but they were preoccupied with controlling their nation’s history. Only in 1997, six years after the fall of the Soviet Union, would the memoirs finally be published—in thirteen volumes. Rob brought two of the volumes with him so that we could see, and feel, how substantial they were. He speculates that as long as access could be controlled there had been no need to destroy the manuscript. Three cheers for *glasnost!*

– *Joanne Lafler*

### “Torrid Splendor: Finding Calabria”

The time span of Cathy Robbins “book in progress” on Calabria is huge—8000 BCE to the present day—but she has a special entry into the topic: her family’s one-thousand-year history there, in one very specific area, Sant’Andrea Apostolo dello Ionio (Catanzaro), no less. Cathy grew up in New York hearing interesting

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tales and living with customs from this ancient land. Imagine the thrill of discovering that her family's experience raising silk worms dates back to about the tenth century.

"*Torrid Splendor: Finding Calabria*" is an ambitious project made manageable, and readable, by linking personal background to the search for themes that have persisted throughout the region's history. While looking for connections between past and present-day Calabria, Cathy is careful to avoid "a tit-for-tat correspondence." But she believes that certain "qualities have persisted, ethnic and social tensions as well as extreme family loyalty," for example. "Calabria is a contentious place," she said, and "conquest, conflict, and especially resistance provide the structure for the book."

An important element in Calabria's history has been its geography and location; Cathy provided three maps as part of her presentation. Mountains and valleys as well as coastline (and weather) proved fertile for agriculture and trade. The earliest trade (8000 BCE) centered on obsidian; farming began around 7000 BCE. In ancient times Calabria played an important role in the geopolitics of the Mediterranean.

The region was also well placed for conquest by other peoples. The first outsiders to settle, around 1200 BCE, were people from the Peloponnese (not yet Greece), who eventually became known as Bruttians. By 800 BCE Greek city-states began sending excess population to Calabria. "When ancient Hellenes said 'Go West, young man,' they meant Italy," known to Latin speakers, however, as *Magna Graecia*. Italic-speaking peoples also moved into Calabria, from the north. Although the Bruttians "seemed to disappear from history," over time "their reputation as a strong, stubborn and resistant people reasserted itself over later centuries."

Fast forward past subsequent invasions by the Romans, Goths, Byzantium, Normans, Holy Roman Empire, Spain, France, the Bourbons, and Austria. Unification with the north (in 1861) only came after a ten-year civil war of resistance. Over the centuries the "thriving outpost of Hellenism" had descended into poverty, illiteracy, and disease. Calabrians, including Cathy's grandfathers, along with other southern Italians, had little choice but to emigrate.

The problems of today's Calabria, Cathy believes, go back to old patterns. Under the various conquerors, the local government of ancient times vanished. But another Hellenic feature gained strength: allegiance to family or community. Over time "families and clans became the organizing force," eventually producing Calabria's own organized crime mobsters, the 'Ndrangheta, "now a global power." But the resistance of the old Bruttians has resurfaced. "At the grass roots, new generations of Calabrians are rolling up their sleeves, demanding that national and local governments take effective action." Such actions range from the dismissal of Reggio's municipal council because of its ties to 'Ndrangheta, cancellation of plans for a bridge across the Strait of Messina, to the training of ordinary citizens in combating organized crime, and the formation of "Musica Contro le Mafie," with its activities aimed to spread the message of resistance among young people.

Cathy has completed all or part of several chapters. More problematic has been finding an agent. Those approached so far "love the writing, love the project," but because it is not a travel book, are unsure how to sell it. Recently another agent has asked for a full proposal. Cathy is optimistic: "This is Italy. In addition to history I'm writing about great regional food, splendid beaches, as well as the art, architecture, and archaeology."

– *Maria Sakovich*

## GROUP REPORTS

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### California and the West

A dozen or so Institute members and friends visited aboard the *SS Red Oak Victory* ship moored in Richmond (an exhibition of the Richmond Museum of History). This victory ship, built in 1944 at the Kaiser Shipyards, was one of ten built for the Navy. (Compared to the Liberty ship, the Victory was faster, longer, and with a greater cargo capacity.) After World War II the *Red Oak* was transferred out of the Navy. Although in the Reserve Fleet (i.e. in “mothballs”) on three different occasions, the *Red Oak* saw duty during the Korean and Vietnam wars. The ship was retired again to the Reserve Fleet in Suisun Bay. In the 1990s as ships were being moved out of the mothball fleet and shipped to China for scrap, a campaign began to save her as an historic ship, the only Kaiser-built ship remaining.

For fifteen years, work has been taking place to restore and make the *Red Oak* operational, as is the *SS Jeremiah O'Brien*, one of two Liberty ships remaining. Her two lives as an armed auxiliary Navy ship and as a merchant ship are being preserved as much as possible. It is a challenge. The aim is to show enough of the armament to show the ship’s Navy heritage, but without installing all the 20mm anti-aircraft guns that were carried. “We do have the forward 3” gun, and hope to acquire a proper 5” gun for the aft gun tub” our docent told us. “There is a 5” gun stowed in the hold, but it has the wrong type of mount, designed for a shore installation.” Finding funding is a constant challenge. For example, the Navy has offered guns which are free, but money needs to be raised to pay for their transportation.

We then enjoyed lunch before visiting the Home Front Museum run by the National Park Service. The museum highlights the transformation of Richmond from a small town (24,000) to a boom-town (100,000) of shipyard construction and other war-time production. Among Henry

Kaiser’s visionary solutions to the problems of this very large work force was the creation of an employee health plan and childcare facilities for one-year-olds and up. The museum had interactive exhibits that appealed to all ages. The highlight was hearing 93-year-old park ranger Betty Soskin speak of her experiences working in the shipyards and how the war shaped the Civil Rights movement in the 1950s and beyond.

– *Kathleen O’Connor*

### Play Readers

The group read a delightful play called “Wittenberg,” written by David Davalos, first performed in Philadelphia in 2008. Wittenberg, as all know, is where Martin Luther, in 1517, nailed his 95 theses to the church door, an act which initiated the Reformation. In the play, the University of Wittenberg is a university where Luther is a professor along with professor of philosophy, Doctor Faustus. The Danish Prince, Hamlet, is a student here, albeit some years before the Bard had created him. The two men, with diametrically opposed philosophies, strive to influence their star pupil. The troubled Hamlet is torn about whether to major in philosophy under the dynamic Faustus or theology under the stern Luther. He also manages some drinking and tennis, until he is called back to Elsinore for his father’s funeral.

The story of the convergence of the three main players, the indecisive undergraduate prince, the pleasure loving and intellectually curious Faustus, and Luther, the priest outraged by practices of the Church, is both absurd and intriguing. It is worth noting that the playwright assigned Faustus to an office numbered 2B!

The Play Readers remained in the 16th century and at its last meeting began reading “Sir Thomas More,” a collaborative Elizabethan

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play, most likely written in the early 1590s, but never published. The play depicts the life and death of the Catholic martyr. The chief authors were Anthony Munday and Henry Chettle. Several others contributed as well, including William Shakespeare. Three of the original pages of the manuscript, now in the British Library, were judged to be in his handwriting. It is believed that Munday wrote a number of plays, of which only a few survive.

Though the newsletter will be “in press” when we meet next (October 9) to continue reading “Sir Thomas More,” we invite all those interested in our group to attend. Please contact Joanne Lafler at [jwlafler@gmail.com](mailto:jwlafler@gmail.com).

– *Edith L. Piness*

### Medieval Studies Group

On July 27, **John Rusk** presented the story of Medieval lust for spices, based largely on the work of Paul Freedman’s *Out of the East: Spices and the Medieval Imagination* (Yale University Press, 2008).

Spices were desired not as a preservative—they are ineffective at that task—but because Medieval Europeans liked spicy food. All evidence points to that, whether menus and household accounts of the aristocracy or merely anecdotal. Food then was a lot spicier, more like modern Indian and Southeast Asian cuisine, than in later periods.

This was so for many reasons, not the least of which was the snob appeal of using extravagantly priced condiments. Another reason was the humoral theory of health. Spices counteracted attributes of food that caused an unhealthy imbalance of blood, bile, black bile, and phlegm. For example, hot and dry spices countered cold and moist meats and fish. Also contributing was the notion that spices came

from a faraway location in the mysterious East, somewhere near Paradise.

Knowledge of the East became surer as a by-product of the Mongol conquest of a large portion of Asia. European travelers were now able to follow the Silk Road to China. Several of these travelers, including Marco Polo, journeyed farther, visiting ports, where Indonesian spices were transshipped, and production centers for pepper in southeastern India and for cinnamon on the island that we call Sri Lanka.

Eventually Spain and Portugal, chafing under the European spice trade monopoly of Venice and other Italian city-states, sought new routes to the spices. Portugal methodically searched for a route around Africa while Spain searched for routes across the western ocean. Spain found a whole “New World” while Portugal reached the East after nearly a century of exploration.

When de Gama reached Calicut, the first man ashore ran into an Arab trader who asked the Portuguese seaman in Spanish “What brings you here?” The seaman replied “We come to look for Christians and spices.”

In September, **Lyn Reese** examined medieval Rome (ca. 312 - 800) when the city slowly reclaimed her place as the queen of cities and center of European Christianity. She used primarily the revised version (2000) of Richard Krautheimer’s book, *Rome: Profile of a City, 312 - 1308* (Princeton University Press). Handouts included a timeline of the topics covered plus two maps from Krautheimer.

Lyn first discussed ways in which paganism continued to be tolerated following Constantine’s attributing his victory at the battle of Milvian Bridge in 312 to the Christian God. Powerful Roman families still had private pagan shrines and filled their homes with both Christian and pagan items. The 4th-century

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church of San Clemente, for example, overlooked a courtyard in which a Mithraic temple existed side by side with the church. These structures can both be viewed under today's slovenly-built twelfth-century church. Even when paganism was finally suppressed in Rome in 395, an affirmative stand by the authorities ensured that many pagan monuments remained as witnesses to Rome's glorious empire.

Lyn discussed another example, the still intact Santa Sabina, built around 425 on site of the temple of Juno Regina on land owned by a wealthy matron, Sabina. Sabina's name is used for the church although Sabina was never a saint! This structure represents the simple basilica style of the early churches with its heavy carved wooden door and internal mosaics. It was one of a number of titular churches planned and financed by parish congregations or by wealthy individuals.

Lyn chose two crucial events which helped define Rome's medieval character. One was the reign of Pope Gregory I (590 - 604), considered to be the first pope of the Middle Ages. She noted his sermons and acts which accepted the idea of miracles and the special nature of saints and their relics. Pope Gregory instituted processions and litanies attended by all the clergy and people of Rome, introducing a "new" more experiential Christianity which spread throughout the Western world.

Second was the rivalry between the much weaker "Old Rome" and more powerful, culturally and economically, "New Rome" (Constantinople). In these years Rome was simply one of many small provincial cities within the Byzantine empire, heavily reliant on the protection of the army. It was not until the coronation of Charlemagne in Rome in 800 as emperor of the West and protector of Rome and the Church that the question of Byzantine suzerainty over the city was ended.

Finally, Lyn discussed the lives of the inhabitants of Rome. She emphasized the continuing influence of the old Roman families whose wealth was gained through their immense landholdings in Italy, North Africa, Gaul, and Spain. The influx of refugees during various upheavals also was noted, as was, of course, the pilgrims. Since both residents and pilgrims had to be housed and fed, a form of welfare system became a mainstay of city life. The distribution of food to the urban masses was well regulated, using produce from church lands, largely farmed by serfs. A regulated labor force was also needed to repair Rome's huge walls and its aqueducts. In Charlemagne's time, at least, levies recruited workers from the countryside; at other times from the neighborhood of the building site.

The introduction of Christianity into new territories in Western Europe swelled the numbers of pilgrims eager to visit and touch the martyrs' sites and relics. The basilica for Saint Peter was first located on the margin of the city, outside its walls. By the ninth century, as Saint Peter became the focus of veneration for the entire West, the growth of this township led to the creation of a second wall to encompass the area within the city. Thus it was that Rome, the papacy, and St. Peter became identified and nearly synonymous with each other.

*– Lorrie O'Dell*



## MEMBER NEWS

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Welcome to new member **Basya Petnick**, an oral historian of more than twenty years experience. For eight years she was managing editor for the Museum of Performance and Design's Legacy Oral History Program. Currently she and partner Jeff Friedman offer a variety of family and community history services, including memoir-writing, under the rubric Books & Lives. Basya will be giving the next "work-in-progress" in November. Details via e-mail announcement.

Other member news has taken/will take place in Hawaii. In September, **Bob Oakes** was invited by the Lyman Museum in Hilo to participate in their monthly Patricia Saito Lecture Series. His topic was "The Fascinating Life and Mysterious Death of David Douglas." An early 19th-century Scottish botanist and explorer, Douglas traveled throughout the Pacific Northwest, Northern California, and the Hawaiian Islands collecting seeds, animals, and saplings for the Royal Botanical Society. (The Douglas Fir tree is named for him.) He died under suspicious circumstances in 1834 on the Big Island of Hawaii not far from Hilo.

During a busy week in November, **Neil Dukas** will be guest participant in a "staff walk" (battlefield study) at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii about the Battle of Nu'uauu, 1795, hosted by the 3rd Marine Regiment. He will make a presentation at King Kamehameha V Judiciary History Center, Honolulu: "Ashford & Ashford: How two brothers (lawyers) from Canada came to influence the fate of a nation." Also in Honolulu, for the Iolani Palace Docent Program, he will present "Uniforms and Court Costume of the Hawaiian Kingdom." Neil also reports that *The Battle of Nu'nu, 1795: An Illustrated Pocket Guide to the O'ahu Battlefield* (Mutual Publishing, Honolulu) is now in its second printing.

Here on the mainland, or should we say in cyberspace, **Louis Trager's** 1,300-word article

reflecting his current research was published by History News Network at George Mason University. The piece, "How the Government and Private Elites Have Teamed Up for Decades to Astro turf America," can be found at [hnn.us/article/156791](http://hnn.us/article/156791). He welcomes Institute members' thoughts. His adventures publishing on the internet and marketing on social media will soon be featured as a Front Page article.

"It all began last winter," **Dot Brovarney** writes, "with the discovery of a musty old military trunk filled with historic photographs, land records, poetry, and other memorabilia. The trunk proved to hold much of the story of Hazel Putnam's life, including her idyllic times living in the canyon as a child and young woman, and later as an older adult. A friend of a friend believed in the story which had been hidden away for more than 20 years. She contacted me to share her discovery and expressed her concern that its contents not be lost." One conversation led to another and eventually to funding for Dot to write a book that will tell the larger story of Reeves Canyon and Leonard Lake in Mendocino County. "The book will explore the cultural and environmental history of this rugged canyon and remote lake, part of the watershed that holds the western headwaters of the Russian River. The stories of the Northern Pomo groups, who first occupied this territory, and the later residents who chose life in this beautiful, yet isolated, pocket of the North Coast are connected by the land. Both groups shaped the land, and in turn were shaped by it."

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*ordinateurs*, their keyboards Qwerty, but with two letters switched, always a pitfall, gave me call numbers different from those I'd found off-site, plus a mysterious symbol for microfilm.

Leaving my cards at the main desk, I returned to my seat and waited—and waited, then toddled back to ask why a page hadn't delivered my books. Well, the pages are working in the stacks in all four corners, and the books are shot to the desk by *pneumatique*, but only when located. So I sat and looked out the windows into the atrium filled with trees, a poor substitute for the frescoes in the Richelieu. I wandered out of the reading room in search of the “Mesdames,” and found that all the doors were marked “ouvrez.” Open into what? The men's? The staff lunchroom? This *was* a surrealist film!

I did receive my books, or rather pamphlets, at last, and I took extensive notes on “Curious anecdote and singular adventure of a citizen of Paris in the recent troubles in this capital from 13 July until the arrival of the King on Friday the 17 of the same month” before leaving the “set” of the TGB.

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