The Institute for Historical Study

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am happy to bring you some exciting news. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has just awarded a grant of $7500 to the Institute for Historical Study. The money is to be used exclusively for a direct membership campaign. Plans include conducting a market survey to study potential constituencies; designing and printing a new brochure and posters; redesigning, typesetting, and enlarging the newsletter; obtaining reprints of the article on the Institute, "History in a New Key," that was published in the Spring 1980 issue of the Public Historian; training Board members in the administration of non-profit organizations; and establishing a travel fund for members who give papers and serve on panels at professional meetings, provided that they register with Institute affiliation and accept responsibility for displaying and distributing our literature.

A committee of the Board of Directors will be meeting to plan the implementation of our direct membership campaign. You will be receiving further details about these plans, either in the next newsletter or in a special mailing. Stipends and honoraria for work done on the campaign will be open to all Institute members. Anyone interested in such work should write to me in care of the Institute address or telephone me at [415] 454-6499.

In the letter announcing the grant award, Foundation President Roger Heyns stated that the Institute promises to make an important contribution to the opportunities for historians outside academic institutions. We thank Dr. Heyns and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation for their interest in our organization and for the impetus they have given to the Institute's growth and development.

-- Paula Gillett

UP-COMING EVENTS

FALL WORK-IN-PROGRESS MEETINGS

Our "work-in-progress" meetings will continue in the fall and winter. Slated for September 20 in San Francisco is a report from the study group which has been examining the history of work. A meeting on the peninsula is planned for December. All members, and interested friends in the greater Bay Area, will receive postcard announcements of these meetings giving complete details. Georgia Wright, program committee chair, is looking for contributors, suggestions for topics, and offers of homes for meeting places. These sessions provide an opportunity for the informal exchange of ideas: getting feedback on research proposals, spreading the word about interesting projects in which members are currently engaged, comparing notes with people working in similar fields, or simply finding respite from the loneliness that often attends one's involvement in a long-term project.

LECTURE ON FILM AS AN HISTORICAL SOURCE

A lecture and film showing by Institute member Richard Raack, who teaches modern European history and documentary film-making at California State University in Hayward, is scheduled for Thursday evening, October 29th, at 7:30 on the Mills College campus in Oakland. During much of the last year, Richard was working in film archives in eastern Europe, helping to document their holdings and collecting rare footage of such historical events of World War II as the Holocaust, the battle of Berlin, and the Warsaw uprising. We will be fortunate to see examples of this material, much of which has never been shown in the United States, and to hear Richard discuss the use of film as an historical source. The Mills College History Department is cosponsoring the lecture, which should attract a wide audience. A special announcement, giving complete details, will be mailed in late September.

GRANTS WORKSHOP

By now all Institute members should have received a questionnaire about the upcoming grants workshop to be sponsored by the Institute. The workshop will be open to both members and nonmembers who are interested in funding for historical projects. A fee will be charged. Speakers will present information regarding corporate, foundation and government sources of funding, along with proposal-writing techniques. The questionnaire, which asks about present and proposed individual projects, will be used in planning the program. Please return your completed questionnaires as quickly as possible. Full details about the workshop will be mailed later. Inquiries and completed questionnaires may be sent to Roberta Wollons at the Institute address, or you may telephone her at [415] 441-3204.

DUES ASSISTANCE NOW AVAILABLE

Thanks to the generosity of several members, who wish to remain anonymous, the Institute has established a "dues assistance" fund to which any member, new or old, is welcome to apply. All that is required is a simple request for such assistance, which may be for any amount up to one-half of the annual dues of $30.00. Enclose your request with your application or renewal. Institute members and friends who would like to make a donation to this fund should earmark their contributions accordingly. All donations to the Institute are tax deductible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Institute Director Peter Mellini is Program Chairman for the annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies, which will be held on March 27-28, 1982, at Sonoma State University. Please send proposals for papers or sessions to him in care of the Department of History, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA 94928.

Carroll Brentano announces that she will be teaching a new art history course, "Portrait of a Lady," at UC Berkeley Extension this fall, with Eleanor Alexander.

Institute members and friends who attended the dinner and exhibition on "The Chinese in America" at the Chinese Culture Center in San Francisco last November may be interested to read the review of Jack Chen's book by the same title, in the June 7, 1981 issue of the New York Times Book Review.

From Robert Breuer comes the following announcement:

> For this year's publication in its continuing series of brief monographs, the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association is soliciting manuscripts of 80 to 100 pages on topics of general interest related to the city's architecture. Previous subjects have included the work of Julia Morgan in Berkeley, John Galen Howard and the Berkeley campus, and a family perspective on Bernard Maybeck. Contributions need not be limited to the work of individual architects, but may explore all aspects of Berkeley's architectural heritage. No compensation is foreseen for the author except free copies of the book, but the Association will take full responsibility and bear the cost of publication. Deadline for submission is November 30, 1981. For further information, including specification for the MS, write to Robert Breuer, Publications Chairman, Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, P.O.Box 1137, Berkeley, CA 94701. Phone: [415] 524-4997.

Gayle Gullett and Frances Keller were among the Institute members who attended the Berkshire Conference on Women's History held on June 18-20. A report on the conference will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

Ilse Sternberger announces that she has been appointed as an artist-in-residence at the Briarcombe Foundation in Bolinas, California, for the months of April and May, 1982. She looks forward to a period of uninterrupted work on her book on the children of Theodor Herzl.

Gretta Mitchell is the guest curator of an exhibition, "Recollections: Ten Women of Photography," which will be held in the Art Gallery of the Mills College Campus in Oakland, from September 8th through October 18th. A reception marking the official opening will be held on Sunday, September 20th, from 2 to 4 pm. The photographers whose work will be shown include Bernice Abbott, Barbara Morgan, Louise Dahl-Wolfe, Toni Frissell, Ruth Bernhard, Carlotta M. Corpron, Laura Gilpin, Lotte Jacobi, Nell Dorr, and Consuelo Kanaga. For information on the Gallery hours and the series of Wednesday evening lectures, call [415] 430-2164.

Gretta is also pleased to announce that she has received two grants from the L.J. and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation. The first, sponsored by the Regional Oral History Office of the Bancroft Library, enabled her to prepare an oral history of Rudolph Schaeffer, the 95-year-old pioneer in the field of color design. The second, sponsored by a local foundation, In Dulce Jubilo, was for her project, "Dance For Life: Research and Preparation of Visual and Historical Material on Isadora Duncan and the Temple of the Wings."

An excerpt from Ruth Friedlander's historical drama about King Saul, which she discussed at our first "work-in-progress" meeting last January, was presented as a staged dramatic reading by the Playwrights' Center at Fort Mason in San Francisco on July 28th.

The California Committee for the Promotion of History, a statewide, non-profit organization formed to represent the interests of public history and historians in California, will be holding its first general meeting in the State Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento on September 18-20. Two Institute members, Ann Hagerman Johnson and Diane Spencer-Hancock, serve on the steering committee of the CCPH, whose membership is open to individuals with diverse historical interest and affiliations. For information about membership, write to: The California Committee for the Promotion of History, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819.

WHOM (The Women Historians of the Midwest) will be holding its third conference on the history of women on April 30 to May 2, 1982, at the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota. Persons who wish to present papers or suggest topics for conference sessions should send two copies of their one-page abstract by November 1, 1981, to: Conference on the History of Women, The College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota 55105.

SUMMER WORK-IN-PROGRESS MEETINGS: A BRIEF REPORT

At the June meeting in Berkeley, Ilse Sternberger explained that she had intended merely to complete her late husband's study of the life of his friend, Hans Herzl, son of the founder of modern Zionism. As her work led her to archives in Israel, where she had access to the extensive family correspondence, she became equally interested in Herzl's daughters, Pauline and Trude, and her project has grown into a family biography. Herzl's death, she believes, was especially traumatic for his children. Since he expended his personal fortune in the Zionist cause, the children, who had been raised "like princes," found themselves in young adulthood dependent upon the charitable trust established by Herzl's followers. For Hans, there was the additional trauma of growing up in the shadow of a great man. Ultimately he rejected his heritage altogether, and in Bordeaux, where he had gone to attend Pauline's funeral, committed suicide. Only Trude, whose personal life, like Pauline's, was unhappy, devoted herself to the movement which her father had founded. There are many familiar, but no less fascinating themes in this family saga, and it was valuable to hear an historian's discussion of sources, research problems and approaches to her material.

Bogna Lorence-Kot prefaced her presentation at the July meeting with the disclaimer that she is Polish by birth and a family historian by training -- not a Polish historian. But her scholrly interest has been drawn to the historical roots of the recent political events in Poland. She feels that it is difficult to understand the popular movement for liberalization without some knowledge of the national character of the Poles -- whom Stalin himself characterized as too individualistic to be good socialists -- and the way in which Poland was recreated, geographically and politically, in 1945. Among the causes which she cited for the present political situation were: the Poles' historical contempt for Russia and Russians; the creation in 1945 of a

nation which was geographically more Western and ethnically more Polish than in the pre-war period; and the necessity, as Stalin saw it, of putting Russian and Moscow-trained Poles in positions of party leadership. Moreso than in other Eastern-bloc nations, the reaction against Party leadership in Poland seems rooted in nationalism which decades of Soviet domination have failed to eradicate. Questions about the political role of the Catholic Church and the severe problems of the Polish economy were raised during the discussion period, many by Institute members and guests who had recently spent time in Eastern Europe.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following members who have joined the Institute since the last issue of the newsletter was published:

-- Elizabeth (Penny) Buckley is an art historian with a special interest in the Italian Renaissance. She has been affiliated with UC, Santa Cruz.

-- Dennis Kelly cites an interest in 19th century political history, especially California.

-- Joan Leopold is a 19th century European historian with interests in historiography and the history of science and social science.

-- Agnes F. Peterson is affiliated with the Hoover Institution at Stanford. She cites interests in current European politics, the French Fifth Republic, the British Labour Party, the Third Reich, the two Germanies, and women's work.

-- Mark O. Rudo is a staff archeologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and is interested in historical and anthropological approaches to the study of Spanish colonization in North America.

-- Estolv Ethan Ward learned about the Institute from the Regional Oral History Office in the Bancroft Library. His particular interest is in West Coast labor history, especially the history of the ILWU.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

The publication date for the next issue of the newsletter is December first. We would welcome your contributions by November 15th at the latest. Let us know about your professional activities, up-coming meetings, lectures, or exhibitions of general interest. We will be happy to publish requests for research materials. As the newsletter expands, we would also welcome brief reviews and comments of general interest

Joanne Lafler
Steve Sikora