The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

Volume VII, No. 3 Fall 1986

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A major event of the fall is the annual Board retreat at Lake Tahoe. The weekend of October 18-19 marks the seventh time that past and present Board members will be making the journey to the Becker family houses near Tahoe Ski Bowl for two days of concentrated reflection upon the Institute. The invigorating climate and the culinary contributions of the participants are always conducive to "constructive engagement." We expect to come down from the mountains with new ideas and renewed commitment.

This year we will be particularly concerned with program development—finding new audiences for projects generated within the Institute and by individual members. Georgia Wright would appreciate hearing from you about community groups and professional organizations that might offer a forum for various public programs.

In the meantime, our existing program continues to hum along, under the fine-tuning of Nancy McCauley and her committee. The Bastille Day Picnic, beginning with a decidedly American-style barbecue, ended with the formation of a committee to oversee the Institute's French Revolution bicentennial program. The winery tour and picnic in Santa Clara county, under perfect weather conditions, attracted members from all over the Bay Area (and added a case of cherished Ridge late-harvest Zinfandel to the Lafler family wine-cellar). Work-in-progress sessions, continuing through the summer, are scheduled through November. The history play reading group has met three times so far and the nineteenth-century studies group continues to meet regularly. A major public event, Francesca Miller's lecture on the history of women and dissent in Latin America, will have taken place at the Hoover Institution by the time this Newsletter reaches you, and plans are underway for two public programs in January and March.

All of this is being accomplished with a modest budget—under $10,000—and an incredible amount of volunteer labor. We are fortunate that we have always been able to live within our income and find enthusiastic volunteers among our members. (I feel an impulse to cross my fingers and say "no Evil Eye," but it's hard to type with crossed fingers.) The support of our members and friends makes the enterprise worthwhile, but it is necessary sometimes to remind ourselves of the effort involved.

—Joanne Lafler

CONTINUING EVENTS

History Play Reading Group

Three paragraphs into his account of the reign of Edward II, the Tudor historian Raphael Holinshed presents a "character" of the unfortunate and incompetent king. "We find that in the beginning of his governement, though he was of nature given to lightnesse, yet being restreined with the prudent advertisements of certeine of his councellors, to the end that he might shew some likelihood of good proofe, he counterfeited a kind of gravitie, vertue and modestie; but yet he could not be throughlie bridled, but that forthwith he began to plaie divers wanton and light parts, at the first indeed not outragiouslie, but by little and little, and that covertlie. For having revoked again into England his old mate the said Peers de Gaveston...through whose companie and societie he was suddenlie so corrupted...he burst into most heinous vices."

It is exciting to see the dramatic imagination of Christopher Marlowe working upon this material, translating it not only into Gaveston's magnificent opening soliloquy but into the backbone for a study of "the troublesome reign and lamentable death" of Edward II. This early Elizabethan history play (ca. 1591), which stands between Shakespeare's loosely-constructed *Henry VI* plays and his more mature studies of the reigns of Richard II and Henry IV, is not, of course, "good history." Issues of concern to historians today, and even some of the issues that concerned Holinshed, are largely ignored.

What does emerge is the Elizabethan horror of monarchial weakness. In the course of the play even those who appear victimized or well-intentioned at the beginning are corrupted by the inevitable power struggle. Elizabethan audiences, well-versed in popular versions of their history, could find comfort in the knowledge that the splendors of the reign of Edward III, who asserts his power at the end of the play by punishing his father's murderers, would efface the shame of the preceding thirty years. For modern readers—in addition to insights into Elizabethan ideas of history and kinship—there are the pleasures of lip-smacking villainy, witty *Realpolitik*, and one of the most harrowing death-scenes in the Elizabethan canon.

From *Edward II* by Marlowe out of Holinshed, the reading group turned its attention to *Luther* by John Osborne out of Erik Erikson. It is evident that Osborne's chief source for *Luther*, published and produced in 1961, was Erikson's acclaimed psycho-history, *Young Man Luther*, published in 1958. The episodic play charts the

course of Luther's psychic growth from 1506, just after he enters the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt, to 1530, when he has become a husband and father. Key points in Luther's public life—nailing the ninety-five theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, burning the papal bull of excommunication, appearing before the Diet of Worms, supporting the princes during the peasants' rising of 1525—are dramatized, but Osborne, writing historical drama in the post-Freudian era, is concerned with the interplay of public and private life.

Closely following Erikson's interpretation of events in Luther's well-documented life, Osborne pays scant attention to theological and political issues. The action of the play is advanced through a series of confrontations between Luther and various authority figures. It is completed when Luther repudiates the rebellious peasants who ask him to support their Manifesto of the Twelve Articles, identifying himself with order and authority. Our reading and discussion were greatly enhanced by Ellen Huppert's references to *Young Man Luther* and by Lorrie O'Dell's presentation of the historical background, which showed us what the playwright had left out, what he relegated to the background and what he chose to emphasize. Osborne's Luther, deeply flawed, driven by inner demons, is a compelling dramatic hero for modern audiences. Many of us have problems with the very notion of heroism, but we remain fascinated by the inner lives of men and women who have made history.

The next session of the reading group, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 1, will be devoted to *The Death of Wallenstein*, the last play of Schiller's famous trilogy set during the Thirty Years' War. No general mailing is planned, but new participants are warmly invited. For further information, call (415) 547-1791.

—Joanne Lafler

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

August

Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum discussed her recently published book: *Liberazione Della Donna: Feminism in Italy* (Wesleyan University Press, 1986), at a work-in-progress (actually work-completed) session held at beautiful Villa Montalvo on Sunday, August 24. Focusing on recent Italian women's movements, the work incorporates the rich history of Catholic, pre-Christian, and Communist movements and culture, to explain the power of Italian feminism.

Three major themes shaped recent Italian feminism, Dr. Birnbaum stated. The Sicilian peasant woman, representing the culture of the Mediterranean earth mother, understood both her own oppression and the "miseria" of others. This brought Italian feminism a paradoxical identity both with pre-Christian traditions and the needs of the third world. Secondly, Italian feminists respected and appreciated an enormous diversity of views, so that housewives and professional women, Catholic sisters and ardent Marxists felt at home in the movement and in touch with each other.

Finally, the women did not hesitate to challenge and modify either traditional Catholicism or traditional Marxism using their own interpretations of Vatican II or of Gramsci's writings to do so. This indicated their self-confidence (based upon a realistic evaluation of women's role in the Italian resistance movement), and it swayed a good many men to their side. As a result the Italian movement, starting from a situation far worse than that of Northern Europeans or Americans, achieved a good deal, including a remarkably liberal abortion law.

Lucia Birnbaum's presentation provoked a good many questions and comparisons from her listeners who continued the discussion over a table of delicious Italian hors d'oeuvres graciously prepared by Nancy McCauley. *Liberazione Della Donna* is available at local bookstores including Keplers in Palo Alto and through Harper and Row (1-800-638-3030).

—Sondra Herman

July

On July 29 Kathleen O'Connor discussed with Institute members her investigation of the career of a Lafayette Dorrington at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Kathleen pursued this research in the course of her training as archivist at the Federal Archives in San Bruno, where some fifteen boxes of files contain a record notable for fairness and decisiveness in a post too often filled by bureaucratic hacks or racial bigots.

Dorrington had trained for the law but sought a career in the U.S. army where in the Philippine war for independence from Spain in 1900 he led a native platoon in several engagements. Like most Americans, he believed, as he wrote in a letter to the Chicago *Sun-Times*, that the U.S. should not grant the Philippines independence because the natives were not ready for freedom and the patriots were really bandits. (He also excoriated the press for not supporting the army and navy in the war.)

Kathleen conjectures that Dorrington's experience with the Filipinos led him to seek employment at the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1913. His training as a lawyer as well as his experience in processing homesteading grants stood him in good stead in his new work. He acted as a trouble-shooter, investigating land disputes between Indians and whites, aware of the necessity to obtain water rights along with the land granted as reservations. Considered impartial by the Indians, whose voices he always insisted upon hearing, he was capable of reaching decisions in situations that all too often led fellow bureaucrats to waffle. He appears to have been able to interpret complex points so that people who had no concept of land ownership could grasp them.

Kathleen has found that some cases with which Dorrington was concerned, for example a dispute between Hopis and Navajos who had been given reservations one within the bounds of the other, have continued to be matters of contention. She hopes to continue her study of Dorrington to determine how exceptional he really was by examining the careers of other agents of the Bureau.

—Georgia Wright

BOOK REVIEW

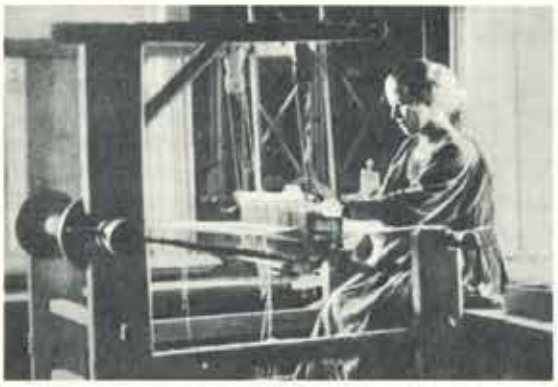
Rose L. Glickman, *Russian Factory Women: Workplace and Society, 1880–1917,* Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, 1984, xiii, 325 pp., tables, illustrations, index, $28.50.

This book, Dr. Glickman says, "is an examination of the significance of gender within class; of the woman worker's relationship to male workers, to the work process, to changes in family relations; ...of her relationship to broad economic and political changes of the period." She has tried to resist "the temptation to find a 'hidden history,' a record of women bolder, more assertive, more intelligently conscious of their oppression than others have acknowledged," or "to emphasize the most dismal aspects...."

She begins by describing "the world of Russian labor," a very bleak world, indeed, but one which was obviously attractive to peasants in need of a cash income or, increasingly, to peasants unable or unwilling to live on the land. The conditions under which Russian workers lived cry out for detailed comparison with the situation in Western Europe at the time, but we get, for the most part, only a few pages on attempts to legislate better working conditions for women, where we see what is sometimes easily forgotten, that Russia used the West as a legislative model while at the same time struggling with its own male-oriented tradition. Glickman confines herself to demonstrating that however bad the Russian male worker's life was, it was better than that of the Russian woman worker, simply because men always had an easier time than women. She shows that even before the Revolution, many branches of Russian industry were almost entirely female, mostly those that employed cheap, unskilled labor. She also shows, as few scholars have, that the *attitude* toward women on the part of men influenced women's actions more than the actual circumstances of their lives. *Knowing* as a result of political protest and revolutionary struggle that life could be different through their own efforts must have been a great liberation, however hard won. Attitude is such an important concept in Glickman's book that it compels meditation on current Soviet achievements in changing the lives of Russian working women, for much has changed, and much (in terms of attitude) remains the same.

One of the best parts of this very lively, intelligent book is the final chapter "Between Feminism and Socialism," in which feminism seems decidedly divorced from Russian reality. Russian feminists devoted much effort to attempts to secure the vote, an activity far removed from the daily concerns of most working women. Socialists at least demonstrated some awareness of the enormous gulf between rich and poor, educated and uneducated. Yet, if the chapter is meant to serve as some sort of conclusion, it fails. Glickman seems simply to have stopped writing rather than to have summed up, perhaps in an effort to be true to her resolve not to find a "hidden history." In a way, for all its many virtues, the book is an example of the fragmentation of history rather than its integration, a fault shared with many historians of Russia, even those who delve as deeply as Glickman has into the works of Russian and Soviet historians. I believe that there is a part of history hidden in her second chapter, "Peasant Women and Their Work." Glickman's picture of Russian peasant women is traditional for Western historians, and not entirely accurate: there *were* women who inherited equal shares of family property. The "right" to sexual intercourse with daughters-in-law was not universally recognized, nor were beatings always condoned. In some places women *did* represent themselves in the communes, and their interests were upheld in courts. Such women often belonged to the movement broadly described as religious sectarianism, a movement Glickman ignores, although she does mention it in passing in her chapters on female protest. Glickman says "by the turn of the century the Russian Marxists had left the direct interests of women workers by the wayside in theory as well as practice," although they agreed with the Populists "that the emancipation of women would be achieved only as a corollary to the total transformation of society." Sectarians had argued this and other propositions at the same time as (and perhaps even before) the people described in her chapter than "Women Workers and Society: The Emergence of the Woman Question." It is, to my mind, a proposition that still needs discussion and investigation.

—Ethel Dunn



Russian woman at the spinning loom

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Judith Albert, Rochelle Gatlin and **Rose Glickman** have all been appointed as lecturers in history at San Francisco State University for the fall semester 1986. **Frances Keller** was reappointed as Adjunct Professor of History at SFSU for 1986-1987.

Bob Cherny received a grant from the American Philosophical Society to support his research for the authorized biography of labor leader, Harry Bridges. Bob's most recent book, *San Francisco, 1865-1932: Politics, Power, and Urban Development*, which he co-authored with **William Issel**, was published by UC Press in the Spring of 1986.

Anthony D'Agostino was awarded a grant from the U.S. State Department to work at the Hoover Institution this semester. He is completing research for a book on Soviet succession struggles, which is scheduled for publication in the Spring of 1987.

Roger P. Davis reports from Kearny, Nebraska, where he has relocated from Las Vegas, Nevada, that a book review written by him on *Impulse to Revolution in Latin America*, by Jeffrey Barrett has recently been published in the *Times of the Americas*, vol. XXX, no. 16, Aug. 6, 1986.

Jack Boas is going to Amsterdam to inspect the letters of Johan Huizinga, author of *The Waning of the Middle Ages*, with a view toward preparing an English selection of these letters. Jack is going there at the invitation of the group of people from the University of Amsterdam who are currently preparing a three volume edition of Huizinga's letters for publication.

Peter Palmquist reports from Arcata on a number of interesting activities he has been involved in. He participated in three different exhibits: *The Photographers of Siskiyou County, 1850-1920*; *100 Years of Humboldt County Culture and Artistry, 1850-1950* for which he did the preliminary planning and curated the photography portion; and finally *The Return to Eldorado: One Hundred Years of California Stereographs, 1850-1950*. Peter wrote the catalogue for this show which was on exhibit at the California Museum of Photography in Riverside. And last, but not least: Peter is the only male speaker for the first-ever symposium on *Women in Photography* to be held in October of this year in Syracuse, New York.

Glenna Matthews will be teaching History at the University of California, Davis, during the winter quarter, 1987. She is teaching at the Berkeley campus, in the Political Science department, this fall.

A grant from the Radcliffe Research Support Program will allow **Francesca Miller** to pursue her study, "The International Relations of Women of the Americas: Issues of Gender and Foreign Policy in the Western Hemisphere from 1880 to 1986" at the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, at Radcliffe College. She will also be presenting a paper, "Latin American Feminism and the Transnational Arena" at the American Studies Association in Boston, on October 24.

A major story-telling festival to be held at Mills College next April will be co-chaired by **James Silverman,** and coordinated, the same weekend, with a children's literature event hosted by the Ethnic Studies Department. Jim's seminars on "California Children and Their Books, 1836 to Today" have been accepted by about a dozen college and university extension programs around the state, with courses upcoming at Dominican College, San Jose State and San Francisco State Universities. Meanwhile, he has teamed up with puppeteer-actress Denys Adida to conduct a series of programs for the Sacramento History Center. Their just completed two-week theatre arts and history summer camp sessions, called "Sacramento Kids," used puppets, story-telling, architecture, artifacts, documents, 19th century photographs, songs, and so forth, to bring to life Sacramento during the Gold Rush era, and the weekly public performance of skits for campers' families elicited an enthusiastic letter of commendation from a local Superior Court Judge. Jim and his colleague are also planning a fall training program for the History Center docents.

A five-minute videotape of the summer camp programs is available to any interested viewer.

The Great American Housewife: From Helpmate to Wage Earner, 1776-1986 took **Annegret Ogden** almost a decade to complete, as any of the subjects of her work could doubtless have foreseen. It was originally intended to mark the national Bicentennial, appearing instead last March. Published in hardcover by Greenwood Press of Westport, Connecticut, it forms part of their Women's Studies Series. Should anyone have difficulty getting a copy, Annegret will assist in placing the order.

Alison Lingo has been appointed to the faculty of the California College of Arts and Crafts, in the department of General Studies. The part-time position calls for her to teach a course in World History. During the summer Alison attended the International Summer Institute for Semiotic and Structural Studies at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. She attended courses given by Carlo Ginzburg on *The Witches Sabbath* and Lynn Hunt on *Revolution and Semiotics*.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

The Western Association of Women Historians will award the 1987 Sierra Prize for the best monograph by a WAWH member at its annual meeting in May, 1987. Authors must be members of the WAWH; the book must be a monograph based on original research (not an anthology or edited work); the prize is open to all fields of history. Send one copy no later than March 1, 1987 to *each* of the following: Linda S. Popofsky, Chair, Sierra Prize Committee, Department of Social Sciences, Mills College, Oakland, CA 94613; Joanna Cowden, Department of History, California State University-Chico, Chico, CA 95929; Rosalie Schwartz, 4161 Olympic Avenue, San Diego, CA 92115.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members approved by the Board at their recent meetings:

Gray Brechin received his BA in Geography and History from UC Berkeley in 1972 and an MA in History of Art in 1976. He is a TV urban design critic, a lecturer for UC Extension, and a freelance writer who has had articles published in *Christian Science Monitor, California Living, California Monthly, California History,* and *Sierra* among others. He is currently interested in contacting scholars knowledgeable about the US expansion in the Pacific Basin and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Peter Browning is a freelance writer whose main interest is California and Western history. He has had three books published, the latest by the Wilderness Press in Berkeley, *Place Names in the Sierra Nevada*. He has also published articles in *Harper's, Smithsonian, The Nation* and *Sierra*. His current historical interest focuses on biographies of important Yosemite figures and the exploration of Death Valley, the history of the CANOL project, a US built pipeline in northern Canada during WWII.

Peter Grant is a graduate of the University of Texas where he earned his BA in 1972. He also studied at the Free University of Berlin and at the Sorbonne. He received his MA in History from Harvard in 1976 and his law degree at the University of Texas in Austin in 1979. He is working towards a PhD in History at Harvard University. Besides being a practicing attorney and a member of numerous legal organizations, he is also a member of the AHA.

Elisabeth Judd received her PhD in English from the University of Michigan. She has taught Women's Studies at Kansas State, the University of Hawaii, and has been an exchange lecturer at the University of Mainz in Germany. Though her training has been in English and sociology, she has a particular interest in intellectual history. Elisabeth has published widely and has been the recipient of two NEH summer grants. She is looking forward to a scholarly affiliation with other researchers.

Philip Paul received his BA in Social Sciences at City College New York and his MA in International Relations at San Francisco State University. His thesis dealt with international terrorism. He is the editor and author of introductions to publications put out by the Data Center in Oakland. He is interested in the role of intelligence agencies in combatting terrorism and the covert origins of the cold war between 1945–1950. He is eager to make contact with contemporary historians at the Institute and to learn about grant proposal procedures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

California Committee for the Promotion of History Conference

The CCPH will hold its sixth annual conference at the Rio Mirada Motor Inn in Bakersfield, October 17 through October 19. The theme is managing historical resources —what do we save, how do we save it, where do we save it, what planning approaches should we take. A special Sunday workshop will focus on historical archeology for the historian.

The conference is being hosted by the Kern County Museum. For further information contact Carola G. Rupert, 3801 Chester Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301, or contact: The California Committee for the Promotion of History, California History Center, 21250 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Cupertino, CA 95014.

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American Committee for Irish Studies-West

The second annual conference of ACIS-West is scheduled for October 10–12 at the University of California, Santa Barbara. To register and for further information contact: Prof. Donald Jordan, History Department, Menlo College, 1000 El Camino Real, Atherton, CA 94025.

The American Committee for Irish Studies is an interdisciplinary organization with approximately 800 members in the U.S., Canada, Ireland, the UK, and other countries around the world. For more information, including the dates of national and regional conferences in your area, contact Robert E. Rhodes, English Department SUNY at Cortland, Cortland, New York, N.Y. 13045.

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California Woman Suffrage, 1870–1911

The Women's Heritage Museum is putting on an exhibit for the 75th anniversary this year of women voting in California, created jointly with the California History Center at De Anza College in Cupertino. Opening day for the exhibition is October 11 to commemorate the date of the election 75 years ago when women were accorded equal voting privileges in California. Also on the occasion, the Women's Heritage Museum will dedicate a new state historic plaque at the homesite of Sarah Wallis, the first president of the California Woman Suffrage Association in 1870. If you wish to become a member of the Women's Heritage Museum and to subscribe to their news bulletin, contact the Women's Heritage Museum, 1509 Portola Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

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Western Association of Women Historians

The Western Association of Women Historians will meet at the University of California, Davis, on May 8, 9, and 10, 1987. Proposals for sessions and papers should be sent to Dr. Marguerite Renner, 775 North Mentor Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91104. Deadline for submissions is January 15, 1987.

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San Diego Independent Scholars

Independent Scholars: Pooling our Resources is the theme of a one-day conference organized by the San Diego Independent Scholars at the Manchester Conference Center at the University of San Diego at Lacala Park, October 25. For registration contact Jean N. Mayer, 2259 Via Tabara, La Jolla, CA 92037.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UC Berkeley History Colloquia

The History Department at UC Berkeley is sponsoring a series of colloquia which you are invited to attend. Following is a partial list of October and November events. All colloquia begin at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

October 13 Monday	Stephen Ambrose, University of New Orleans and Visiting Professor, Department of History, "Richard Nixon as Vice President," Lounge, Alumni House
October 15 Wednesday	Kurt Raaflaub, Brown University, "Homer, Hesiod and the Beginning of Political Thought in Greece," location to be announced; call 642-0016 for information
October 22 Wednesday	Charles Joyner, University of South Carolina and Visiting Professor, Department of History, "A Tale of Two Disciplines: History and Folklore," 3205 Dwinelle Hall
October 28 Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	Charles Joyner, "Songs of Southern Dissent," Lecture/Concert, Lounge, Alumni House
November 5 Wednesday	David Roberts, Dartmouth College, "The Victorian Vision of Laissez Faire Society," 3205 Dwinelle Hall
November 12 Wednesday	Dell Upton, Department of Architecture, UC Berkeley, "Holy Things and Profane: Anglican Parish Churches in Colonial Virginia," 3205 Dwinelle Hall

EDITOR'S NOTE

In addition to the *Newsletter,* Institute members will have received two issues of *Up-date* containing information about upcoming events in the near future. We would like to thank those of you who remember to send us information about yourselves, your research, and accomplishments so that we can share it with our members. The deadline for submitting items for the winter issue is November 28.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1986

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Direct membership inquiries to Agnes F. Peterson, Membership Chair, 362 Yerba Buena Ave., Los Altos, CA 94022.

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