

# The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

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## ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The Annual Membership Meeting was held at the Sutro Library in San Francisco on February 21. President Joanne Lafler presided over the business meeting and reported on the "State of the Institute." Although Board membership has changed more than usually during the year due to unforeseen circumstances affecting several Board members, the committees of the Board were able to maintain the outstanding quality and quantity of the Institute's programs.

Interim Treasurer, Monica Clyde, reported that the Institute is in good financial health. Net income for fiscal year 1986 was \$1,8113.19, of which recent fund-raising efforts yielded \$1,230.00. This gratifying result has finally made it possible to hire a part-time bookkeeper, Marian Kassovic. The money will also pay for much-needed clerical help on a temporary basis as the need arises.

Agnes F. Peterson, Membership Chair, reported that the Institute has a total of 157 members of which sixteen joined last year.

Anne Simonsen, acting on behalf of Nancy McCauley, who is on medical leave, reported on program events, singling out the Hoover Library Roundtable as a very successful new event during the last year.

Monica Clyde, Editor of the *Newsletter*, reported that the *Newsletter* continues to operate on a quarterly schedule, and she invited members to come forward with ideas and suggestions.

Glenna Matthews gave a report on her activities as liaison with other institutions. The Institute is cooperating in several events, notably the conference at Stanford in May of this year honoring historian, Carl Degler. Also in the planning stages is an interdisciplinary seminar on California at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Santa Clara Labor History Project.

Georgia Wright reported on the progress of *The Independent Scholar*, the newly established national newsletter of which she is managing editor. She thanked the Institute for its granting of \$200.00 in seed money to help this venture get started. Her plans are for a quarterly publication schedule, and she expects that the newsletter will be self-supporting through subscription contributions which are coming in steadily.

Ellen Huppert and Georgia Wright informed us of their long-range plans to commemorate the bi-centennial of the French Revolution. A program of films and exhibits is in the planning stages. The French Consulate in San Francisco has expressed an interest in helping the Institute with this project.

Next, a change in the bylaws was presented to allow

for termination of membership for cause. This change was approved unanimously. The Nominating Committee then presented a slate of six nominees for the Board of Directors for two year terms: Robert Cherny, Elena Danielson, William Strobridge, Kathleen O'Connor, Agnes F. Peterson, and Monica Clyde. The candidates were elected unanimously. Also elected were five new members for a one-year term to serve on the Nominating Committee: Nancy McCauley, Monica Clyde, Lyn Reese, James Silverman, and Patricia Sanders.

Joanne Lafler took the occasion to thank outgoing Board members, Deborah Frangquist and Bill Bonds, for their outstanding contributions and unfailing commitment to the Institute. This was greeted by a round of applause.

It was also announced by Joanne Lafler that the Institute is considering a new consulting referral service for members and invited those interested to sign up and let her know about their areas of expertise. At the conclusion of the morning session, Ruth Willard publicly thanked the Institute for its support of her work by sponsoring the grant she received from the L. J. and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation, which enabled her to put on her show, "Sacred Places of San Francisco," at the Elizabeth S. Fine Museum of Temple Emanu-El in San Francisco.

For lunch everyone congregated around a number of informal "shared interest" tables. The afternoon program featured three speakers on the subject of "Comparable Worth: Historical and Legal Perspectives and Future Prospects." The three speakers, each focusing on one of those aspects, were Frances Richardson Keller of San Francisco State University, her son, Stephen B. R. Keller, an attorney with experience in federal litigation involving Title VII class action, and Carole Hicke, President of Professional History Associates.

They presented a thoughtful and well-documented survey of the important issues affecting "comparable worth." From biblical pronouncements to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Frances showed how old ideas regarding women's wages have survived tenaciously. She singled out Australia as one notable experiment to the contrary, an example well worth studying.

Stephen Keller, citing recent court cases in Washington and California, pointed out that the law essentially can only provide piecemeal solutions on a case by case basis. This will not achieve parity because the courts do not make policy. It appears that 80% of inequality in pay is due to job classifications. Employers must either correct disparities in pay or face damaging law suits.

Carole Hicke summarized by saying that there is not much hope forthcoming at the federal level; that leaves local and state levels to apply pressure for legislation. She ended her remarks with a provocative question di-

recting historians to think about their responsibilities and their role in the formation of public policy and legal interpretation.

After a lively question and answer session, the meeting was adjourned.

—Monica Clyde



## PROFILE

### Karen Offen: Independent Scholar

Independent scholars share some fundamental dilemmas: how to sustain scholarship outside the venue of the profession, the academy; how to maintain intellectual standards; how to persist without institutional motivation or faculty colleagues to talk with; how to connect with the current literature. In short, how does the independent scholar sustain belief in the self as a scholar?

Karen Offen has confronted these issues and thrived as an independent scholar. She has written or edited two books (two more are forthcoming), eleven journal articles, book reviews, and presented scholarly papers and session comments too numerous to count. Most recently she has earned a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship, and she has had various grants from the NEH; she has served on several national committees of the American Historical Association, currently chairs the Committee on International Historical Activities, and will be its U.S. delegate to the Congress of the International Committee on Historical Sciences in Greece next fall. She gave invited talks at the European University Institute in Florence last February and will present a talk at the Berkshire Conference at Wellesley in June. In addition, she manages a household, is partner to George Offen, whom she met on a chair lift at Squaw Valley, while she was a graduate student at Stanford (and who is every bit as active in his own pursuits as is Karen in hers), and is mother of two teen-age daughters.

Given all of this, how did Karen find the time to sit for this interview? She did in her usual gracious and low-keyed manner. She is thoughtful and consistent in her presentation; she smiles a lot. And she looks at you directly and attentively, and answers personal questions with sincerity, and tough questions with tough answers. There is always the sense that she is in control because she understands herself and expresses that self honestly.

In the best sense, it is appropriate that Karen is an independent scholar—taking the unconventional, the pioneering route. The word "frontier" was a recurrent image in our discussion, the sense of pressing at limits. She described Idaho where she grew up as the frontier. She spent a Fulbright year in France after college while her classmates were getting married. She did a PhD in modern French history at Stanford before it was typical for women to enter graduate school; she began to work in women's history at the beginning of its recent revival. And she became an independent scholar "before there was a name for what I was doing."

Karen did not set out to become an independent scholar. "It just happened." It happened because in the early 70's "there were virtually no jobs in modern European history." At the same time, Karen and George decided

that it was time to start a family. Determined to remain a scholar, Karen became interested in the fledgling women's history movement. Since she was not committed to the demands of an academic ladder, she was free to follow her own interests. "What I didn't realize was how far that would take me. It was really a stop-gap to begin with."

At the same time that she began to do research and writing in women's history, Karen became active in the Coordinating Committee on Women in the Historical Profession, which she considers the other key to her emergence as an active scholar. She became "heavily engaged into what I now see as networks." Her work with the CCWHP gave her contacts all over the country, as did her participation in French historical associations and organizations, the Western Association of Women Historians, and the Institute for Historical Study. Another component was her affiliation at the Center for Research on Women (now the Institute for Research on Women and Gender) at Stanford. Karen believes that the contacts she made—at the local, national, and now international level—have enriched her scholarship. "I need other people... I don't operate in a vacuum in any part of my life."



Karen Offen

People have inspired Karen since her youth in Idaho. She always admired women and men of achievement. Her maternal great-grandmother, for instance, was the first woman graduate of the Salem Academy and a teacher in Oregon. In addition to raising seven children while following her husband through the mining camps of the Northwest, she became a Unitarian-Universalist minister. The notion of educating women through college was never questioned in Karen's family. During her senior year in college, Karen met Margaret Mead. "I nearly expired with

pleasure . . . She was so frumpy and sharp and right on and had an unorthodox career . . . one of those people who took charge of life and made it work for her. I have always had severe intolerance for people who sit around and kvetch and don't do anything about it." Another and different type of model—a dynamic activist—was the late senator from Idaho, Frank Church, whom she met when he first ran for Senator, "clearly a rising star."

Karen started out as a student of math and chemistry before she concluded that her concerns were more humanistic. She then changed her major to history and focused on modern France. Returning from her Fulbright year in Nancy, she entered graduate school at Stanford where she became a student of Gordon Wright and wrote a dissertation on "The Political Career of Paul de Casagnac" (a political enemy of the French Third Republic).

Asked her opinion on how independent scholars can acquire credibility in the academic world, Karen's response was emphatic: "Through publishing, period." And the work cannot be second-rate. "The trick is to do first class work and get published in places where it will be noticed." The way to do that, she insists, is to submit, take the rejections and the criticism, and build on it. Then re-submit. "Circulate your work. Make contact with the 'legitimate' people in your field. In order to establish credibility an independent scholar has to reach out in ways that assistant professors at University X don't have to. You also have to develop very thick skin. Take criticism and do something about it."

Karen's exceptional output, her writings and her activities as a speaker and organizer, testify to years of dedication and discipline. She listens to no institutional taskmaster, nor has she needed to respond to demands other than her own perfectionist standards for her work. Why, then, apply all this energy to history?—an obvious question. "I think history is potentially useful to people in understanding—God forbid—what's to come in relation to what has happened and to assess the possible choices. It's a way of understanding the self, society, and the world in a broader perspective. In general we are all too short-sighted, and in the U.S. we are far too parochial." Women's history, in particular, she believes, is useful that way, both as a theoretical challenge and empirically as sustenance for contemporary women. While she acknowledges that interpretations of the past can be abusive, Karen prefers to think of history as a means to enhance people's lives. At the same time she notes the importance of writing and reading books about the past, she stresses the value of being deeply involved in action—whether that action is "raising children, digging in the soil and making things grow, or engaging in political and social action. It is a mistake not to be involved in several of those levels at once. As an independent scholar I am privileged to have that opportunity." That is the voice of a very independent scholar.

—Edith Gelles

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Details about the annual membership meeting are discussed elsewhere in this issue. I would like to mention, here, a few administrative matters. In accordance with a

new bylaws amendment, a special brief Board meeting was held after the election of Board members at the business meeting, for the purpose of electing officers. Elected for one-year terms were: President, Joanne Lafler; Vice President for Membership, Agnes F. Peterson; Acting Vice President for Program, Elena S. Danielson; Treasurer, Robert W. Cherny; Recording Secretary, William F. Strobridge. During the business meeting other bylaws changes, affecting administrative procedures, were announced. An amendment which added a clause permitting termination of membership for cause was approved by a voice vote of the members. Copies of the revised bylaws will be available to members upon request.

I am sorry to announce that Nancy McCauley will be taking a six-month medical leave of absence from the Board, but I am happy to add that she is willing and able to act in an advisory capacity to the Program Committee. Knowing Nancy, I am sure that she will remain in close touch with Institute activities.

The month of March turned out to be an especially busy time for the Institute, beginning with a lecture series, "Berlin in the 20s," on four Wednesday evenings at the Goethe Institute in San Francisco and ending with a one-day conference on historical methodology, co-sponsored with the History Department at San Francisco State University. At the time this message was written, the first two sessions of "Berlin in the 20s" had taken place, attracting a large, attentive audience. We believe that this program can serve as a model for other projects that will enable us to reach a larger public. The Program Committee welcomes suggestions about other co-sponsors and programs.

By now you should have received an introductory issue of a new publication, *The Independent Scholar*, a national newsletter for independent scholars and organizations edited by Georgia Wright and published by the Institute. In January the Board approved a proposal for the Institute to sponsor this project until an umbrella organization, such as a national coalition of independent scholar organizations, is established. In addition to money raised at the independent scholarship conference in San Diego, a modest seed-money grant from the Institute helped Georgia to get out the first issue. (The Western Association of Women Historians assisted the Institute with a similar grant during our formation in 1979.) As subscriptions come in, the newsletter should be self-sustaining. If you know of potential subscribers please refer them to *The Independent Scholar*, 105 Vicente Road, Berkeley, CA 94705.

I look forward to a successful year of Institute activity. Members who would like to stay in close touch with organizational developments are invited to attend Board meetings, held on the second Monday of each month. For further information, call me: (415) 547-1791.

—Joanne Lafler

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## WORKSHOP

### Using the Labor History Archives

"The relationship of labor history to the larger history of urban society and institutions is often ignored by

social historians," noted San Francisco State University professor—and Institute member—William Issel, speaking at a workshop co-sponsored by the Institute and the San Francisco Labor History Workshop last December. The setting for the workshop was the San Francisco Labor History Archives; the purpose, to alert historians to the many research opportunities in the Labor Archives collections.

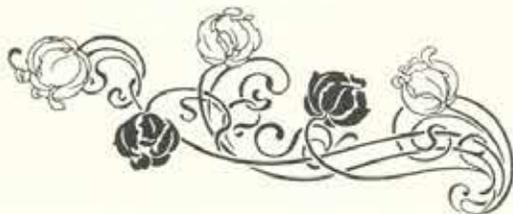
During Harvey Schwartz's discussion of the papers of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific, Issel pointed out that the study of this union offers a picture of the role played by the labor movement in significant urban development policy issues such as public housing and the ownership of public utilities. The papers of the Union Women's Alliance to Gain Equality (Union WAGE) have given historian Barbara Byrd an insight into the often touchy relationships between unions and women's rights activists. Robert Cherny, who has worked with the papers of Norman Leonard, a Bay Area labor lawyer, commented upon the importance of these documents for the study of California history and the "Red Scare," as well as legal issues such as immigration, naturalization and denaturalization. (Leonard, as attorney for the ILWU, represented Harry Bridges, among other prominent figures.)

James Gregory prefaced his discussion of the papers of the Bookbinders and Bindery Women's Union with the observation that "the study of women in labor has revitalized labor history study." In particular, the thirteen volumes of minutes and membership records of these parallel unions for male and female bindery workers, which shared delegates but kept separate identities, shed considerable light on the complex subject of equality in the workplace and in union activity. For Oscar Berland, the enormous collection of material from the Bay Area Typographical Union, Local 21, has afforded wide-ranging research possibilities. Oscar is particularly interested in the very detailed minutes which, since they include minority as well as majority reports, provide an unusually clear picture of the policy-making process.

The last speaker on the program, Karen Lewis, curator of the pictorial collection, described and showed examples from an important collection of photographs from *The People's World*, a San Francisco newspaper. The collection, now being organized for easy access by organization, individual, and subject, provides pictorial information about a variety of subjects, including California migratory workers, the Central Valley in the 1940s, women workers during World War II, life in China, 1950-54, and the memorable parade that was held after Tom Mooney's release from prison.

Labor Archives director Lynn Bonfield was pleased by the excellent response to the workshop, the second to be held since the Archives opened. She expects that it will become an annual event, attracting labor historians from all over the Bay Area.

—Joanne Lafler



## BOOK REVIEW

Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum, *liberazione della donna, feminism in Italy*, Wesleyan University Press: 1986.

"not a single woman's wretchedness is alien to me"

A central motif in this beautifully realized book is the accepting embrace of diversity which, according to Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum, characterizes Italian feminism. The author invokes the ancient earth goddesses of the Mediterranean, who celebrated the diversity of life, as a metaphor for contemporary feminist activities in Italy. Solidarity is not a characteristic of Italian politics, and Italian feminists lay no claim to it. Rather, they express their connectedness in the saying, "not a single woman's wretchedness is alien to me."

The author's grandparents and father came to the mid-western United States from Sicily, and it is from the perspective of Sicily and Southern Italy that Birnbaum approaches her subject. In locating herself first in this poorest, least industrialized sector of Italy, and identifying with the oft-despised Southern Italian, with Sicily and its deeply ingrained traditions of familial violence, Chiavola Birnbaum eschews the distance which might have resulted had she viewed Italian feminism from the perspective of a Milanese political leader, for example. Inclusive rather than exclusive, the book explores the multiplicity of feminisms which have emerged from the female experience to co-exist in late twentieth century Italy.

By applying the techniques of historical analysis to radio debates, selections from poetry and folksongs, and the content of feminist publications in the last decade (and charting their appearance and disappearance), Chiavola Birnbaum illuminates the on-going tensions, differences, and areas of agreement among cultural feminists and political feminists. The political campaigns launched by Italian feminists have been stunningly successful: in 1975, 50,000 women demonstrated in Rome for approval of the equal family rights law, and won that approval; in 1976, a law was passed allowing for the distribution of birth control information through women's health clinics; in 1978, Law 194 legalized the "voluntary interruption of pregnancy." In 1981, that law was challenged by referendum; on March 8, 1981, women of all ages and stations in life went "to the piazza" throughout Italy to demonstrate in support of Law 194; the referendum was overwhelmingly defeated. The struggle to protect the gains made continues, as does the challenge to those gains from the papacy and conservatives.

The history of contemporary feminism in Italy shows how women in a country with seemingly antithetical political and religious traditions—the Communist left and the Catholic Church—have worked to find a space where they can express themselves as feminists. It is no accident that the most visible and dramatic gains the Italian feminists have made revolve around their right to the control of their own bodies, a domain long claimed by the Church, a domain not deemed worthy of defense by the male political hierarchy. Chiavola Birnbaum documents not only how the Italian feminists have sought their own political and spiritual space, but how, in so doing, they have begun to change the institutions they challenge: the political left has rethought its position and strategies on

"the female question", the comunità di base, hardly revolutionary in intent, have proved to be training grounds for self-confidence and forums for direct action politics which poor women have adopted with results which reverberate throughout the post-Vatican II Church.

*liberazione della donna, feminism in Italy* is valuable in a comparative context: Birnbaum's insights about the development of feminism in Italy suggest parallels with, as well as differences from, the history of feminism in, for example, Peru, also Catholic and with a strong political left. Of interest too are the manifestations of global feminism in the Italian context: the multiple feminisms, the popular feminism of the Sicilian peasant, are phenomena more frequently associated with the rise of feminism in Africa and Latin America than with Europe or North America. That the feminist movement in Italy should incorporate these aspects of global feminism is a striking comment on the social, political, and economic situation in the "seventh wealthiest nation in the world." It demonstrates once again that the study of women in society from a feminist perspective can offer new ways in which to understand the whole history of that society.

There is a philosophic wholeness to the production of the book which acts in an intriguing way to underline the feminist principles Chiavola Birnbaum discusses: the shocking pink cover (pink, the unifying color of contemporary Italian feminists, was chosen for its traditional association with the feminine and as a shade of the red associated with socialist ideals), the anti-hierarchical refusal to capitalize such terms as communist and catholic, the wonderfully unusual illustrations (of women's graffitti from the *casa della donna*, for example). Praise should go to Birnbaum for insisting on this textual consistency with her story, and to Wesleyan University Press for faithfully reproducing her vision.

This is a rich book. Complex and sophisticated ideas are presented in disarmingly direct prose; Chiavola Birnbaum allows us to hear the many voices which have shaped the history of Italian feminism.

—Francesca Miller



## WORK-IN-PROGRESS

### January

At the home of Pat Swensen, Ross Maxwell discussed his current work in the history of consciousness—a paper on the late Babylonian creation myth, the *Enuma Elish*, which he believes may be the earliest full accounting of the patriarchal ideology that equates man with civilization and the good, and woman with nature and evil. Ross has based his study upon a theory proposed by Julian Jaynes, that human subjective consciousness developed during the era of the *Enuma Elish*. A study of the creation myth therefore becomes a way of looking at subjective consciousness and a key human response to it—namely, that such consciousness heightens the fear of death and

the desire for immortality. According to this notion, male control of women and children can be seen as part of an immortality scheme.

In Ross's summary of the myth, the powerful new male god Marduk defeats the mother goddess Tiamat, who is equated with anarchy and disorder, and establishes a stable universe. But it is the new consciousness expressed in the myth—the orientation toward death, the mind-body dichotomy, the emphasis upon the need to control the threat posed by femaleness—that particularly interests Ross. He noted that Gerda Lerner, who locates the origin of patriarchal ideology in the Babylonian period, describes a change from an egalitarian, "role-sharing" society to one in which social-class and gender inequalities are institutionalized. Ross stresses the major shift in human consciousness occurring—or at any rate, fully expressed in written form—at this time, which he believes can account for the tenacity of an ideology of female suppression.

Ross accompanied his presentation with illustrations of god-figures from ancient middle-eastern art and fielded numerous comments from the lively audience.



### February

On Saturday, February 7, Bill Strobridge presented his research on the activities of the US Army in Northern California between 1852–1861. Bill's research has resulted in a monograph, *Regulars in the Redwoods*.

Upon attaining statehood, California demanded federal protection against a purported 100,000 hostile Indians. The Regular Army responded to orders from Washington, D.C. and moved into California's northern counties in 1852. For the next ten years under a number of local commanders, the Army as an institution contradicted its historical stereotype. Initially welcoming the concept of Indian reservations, by 1856 disillusioned commanders had pulled troops away from northern reservations. A series of forts were positioned over the decade to protect settlers and miners, but soldiers soon decided that Indians needed protection from California's citizenry. Armed confrontations took place more than once between soldiers and civilians over abuse of Indians. Army officers on at least two occasions cooperated with Indian leaders to get criminal charges filed against citizens. Surviving on poor food and low pay, the Army adopted a policy of non-cooperation with California militia and kept up a steady stream of reports on malfeasance by federal Indian agents.

Bill's research also touched upon off-duty scientific pursuits by individual soldiers, the use of unit funds to better the life of enlisted men, and the life of Army wives.



## CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

### Play Reading Group

The history play reading group has had sessions in January and February—the first devoted to a reading

and discussion of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* and the second to Maxwell Anderson's *Joan of Lorraine*. The group found Miller's drama of the Salem witch trials, written in 1952 and first produced in New York in 1953, an effective stage piece and did not object to the telescoping of events and the inevitable simplification of issues. But the concoction of a fictitious adulterous relationship between the hero, John Proctor, and one of the hysterical girls, Abigail Williams (who in fact was only eleven in 1692 and was never a servant in the Proctor household), introduced an unwelcome touch of melodrama. Although Miller was generally successful in evoking the historic atmosphere, Clio was ultimately done in by the well-made play.

Anderson's Joan of Arc play, written in 1947, is actually a play-within-a-play. Attention focuses not only on the character of Joan but on the character of the actress who plays her. While scenes of Joan of Arc's triumphs and tragedy are rehearsed we are treated to discussions about her motivations and homilies about the subordination of ideals to social utility. Perhaps Anderson felt that he was making Joan's story relevant to the experiences of modern Americans; in fact, the frame story only serves to show up the narrowness and triviality of the author's understanding of the historical events. In the end we were still hungry for more of Joan's story, and it was agreed that the next session would be devoted to reading and discussing excerpts of other plays that have dealt with it. For information about meeting times, call (415) 547-1791.

—Joanne Lafier



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Reviewers are praising *liberazione della donna—feminism in Italy* by **Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum** as, for example, "more than a challenging, thoroughly documented history...an instructive map of a changing culture..." (Helen Barolini, editor of *The Dream Book. An Anthology of Writings by Italian American Women*), and "useful in all types of libraries for readers interested in comparative feminism or in contemporary Italian culture and politics" (Mary Drake McFeely, Smith College, *Library Journal*). A packed schedule of readings from, and lectures on, the book, beginning last February, has included an appearance by the author at the Women's Resource Center, UC Berkeley, March 13, to question "The End of Fair Weather Feminism," and will take her to UC Davis, April 16, as Distinguished Woman Scholar, to lecture on "The Challenge of Italian Feminists."

Too busy, nowadays, buying and selling carved and polished chunks of history to write about it, **Kathleen Casey** reports from England that the price of Victorian artifacts has gone through the roof. London dealers at a demolition sale in a remote and moldering North country rectory were grabbing the very walls and rafters for astronomical sums, and all those charming, run-of-the-mill landscapes of the 1880s, from the busy brushes of a newly leisured middle class, are now expensive collectible art. Meanwhile, Kathleen learned, on a week's break from the chilly round of sales as houseguest of Michael Screech,

Fellow of All Soul's, Oxford, that Japanese historians are treading on our heels in research on Erasmus, Luther, and Calvin. Japan's scholars are entering the field of Reformation studies with as much zeal and expertise as their compatriots in the world of motorcars and microchips. An authority on Rabelais who also happens to be fluent in Japanese, Dr. Screech has been invited to a conference in Tokyo later this year. All of which prompts Kathleen (your membership news editor) to suggest that Institute members should be hauling their great-grandfathers' art work from the attic to finance a multi-lingual, cross-cultural meeting on the Pacific Rim work ethic.

Appropriately enough, **Mary Agnes Dougherty** and **Lyn Reese** have just finished shooting their 15 minute video, for fourth grade history, on the Chinese detention experience at Angel Island, 1910-1940. Loni Ding is director. (She produced "Bean Sprouts," a KOED program, and a documentary on the Nisei soldier.) The episode forms part of an eight-segment school program series sponsored by the California Historical Society featuring historic sites throughout the state. Next in line for Lyn and Mary Agnes is the restored Capitol, as part of a unit on government. They are also developing print material to go with each video cassette, a project for which the Office of Technology, Department of Education, has offered financial support.

An article by **Bogna Lorence-Kot** on Klementyna Tanska Hoffmanowa will appear this year in a double issue of the *History of European Ideas*, edited by Karen Offen and focusing on women's history.

**Ross Maxwell** will contribute a paper to the May conference of the International Society for the Comparative study of Civilization, to be held at Ohio University, Athens. His subject will be the psycho-social religious aspects of the origin of civilization. He has also completed a review of Charles Radding's *A World Made by Men*.

"Community and Diversity: a Work in Progress," the project of writer-historian and Institute member **Irena Narell** with photographer Erik Weber, in preparation for several years, is nearly completed. Drawing on the historical as well as contemporary experience of Jewish immigrants to the Bay Area, their research takes the form of a major exhibit containing in-depth oral history as well as photo documentation comprising more than 250 prints. Sponsored by the Institute and supported by a grant from the California Council on the Humanities and the San Francisco Foundation, the show is expected to open in late 1987 or early 1988. The project's goal is fourfold: first, to document an important aspect of the Bay Area's cultural history while much of it is still within living memory; second, to trace Jewish community development since the Gold Rush; third, to demonstrate the widely diverse social, economic and cultural experience within that community; and, last of all, to expose the forces affecting family and individual life, as an ethnic community adapts to a new, complex, multi-cultural setting.

**Katheleen O'Connor** has been chosen as an Alumnae Fellow from the History Department of the University of the Pacific.

Opening in November at the Haggin Museum in Stockton, California, is an exhibition curated by **Pat Sanders**. Entitled, "Impressions of the Near East: 19th century Orientalist Art," it will include paintings, photographs, and prints.

The Bay Area Storytelling Festival at Mills College, April 3-5, is to be co-chaired by **Jim Silverman**. Parents up and down the State will be happy to hear that he is working on a re-issue of *Uncle John's Stories for Good California Children*. This is long overdue. It originally appeared in San Francisco around the year 1860.

"The Patent Clerk as Conjuror: Errors and Omissions in an Important 19th Century Historical Source" is the title of a contribution by **Autumn Stanley** to a new anthology, *Women, Work and Technology*, edited by Barbara Wright for the University of Michigan Press and due to appear this Spring. The article details and seeks to explain the deficiencies in a crucial body of evidence about women inventors. Nineteenth century women inventors will also be the subject of a paper to be given by the author on the Institute for Historical Study's panel at the Western Association of Women Historians' May conference. She will present a study of older women inventors at the National Women's Studies Association meeting in Atlanta, this June, and contribute a discussion of the links between religious, technological and economic change and change in the status of women during the Near Eastern Bronze Age, to the third International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women to be held the following month in Dublin. She will squeeze in a stint as moderator for the panel on women and the automobile at the Berkshire Conference on Women's History, convening in June at Wellesley College, and has miraculously found time to write a review of Gerda Lerner's forthcoming book, *The Creation of Patriarchy*.

**Bryce Suderow** calls his review of Stephen Starr's *The Union Cavalry in the Civil War* an article in search of a publication. Meanwhile, he is working on the first Deep Bottom expedition, July 23-29, 1864, an incident during the siege of Petersburg.

The Alameda County Historical Society is sponsoring an illustrated popular history of the county by **Ruth Willard**, to be published by Windsor Press.



## NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members whose applications were approved at Board meetings in January and March of this year:

**Ingeborg Fleischhauer** was educated in East Germany and studied at universities in Hamburg, Berlin, and Konstanz where she received her doctorate in 1970. Her specialties are Russian history and philosophy, Soviet society, East/West relations, the Jewish past and present, and national and other minorities in Germany. She has taught at the University of Paris, at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and was a guest lecturer in Finland. A prolific independent scholar, she has published widely, both articles and books.

**Betty J. Nelson** received her B.A. in art and M.A. in art history from San Jose State University. Her M.A. thesis, *Sheet's Monumental Mosaics in California*, has been published. She has contributed articles to several newsletters and has collaborated as a field reporter for women's issues to the United Nations Association of the U.S.A.

(UNA-USA). She also participated actively in the conference on women in Nairobi in 1985. Her current interests include women in art, twentieth century art, California art, and mosaics.

**Wayne Heimbach** received his M.A. in history from the University of Illinois in Chicago where he is now a Ph.D. candidate. He is particularly interested in modern mediterranean history as is indicated by the subject of his dissertation, "Bari, Italy's window to the East, 1860-1930." He has been the recipient of a number of grants and fellowships. At present he is working with public access cable television and is dealing with current issues and labor issues programs.

**Fred Matthews** has both his A.B. and M.A. in history from UC Berkeley and his Ph.D. from Harvard. He is the author of *An American Sociology*, and *Northern California Railroads*, and essays on American intellectual history, historiography, and railways. He is a faculty member of York University in Toronto, but is residing in California until September 1988. Currently, he is working on an intellectual history of the United States between 1925 and 1951, as seen through the liberal weeklies, *Nation* and *The New Republic*. He is also planning a picture book on San Francisco, highlighting architecture and neighborhoods.

**Lewis Weinstock** received his A.B. in history and his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania. A retired senior partner in a Philadelphia law firm, he is actively engaged in historical research and lecturing on historical subjects to non-academic audiences. Thus, he will be presenting two lectures on the history of the U.S. Constitution to the Temple University Association of Retired Professionals.

**James Williams** received his B.A. in history from the University of Oregon and his M.A. from San Jose State University with special emphasis on American and California history. His Ph.D. is from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He is also interested in the history of American technology and in the anthropology of small towns and rural communities.

James has been a consultant to various private and public agencies dealing with energy and technological history. He has taught in California schools and is now Executive Director of the California History Center and Foundation at De Anza College where he is also professor of history. He has published widely and is particularly interested in promoting awareness of history in education, in the legislative area, and in the public and private sectors in general. He has been a long-time friend of the Institute.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The annual conference of the Western Association of Women Historians will be held at the University of California, Davis, on May 8, 9, and 10. The Institute is sponsoring a panel titled "Women and Industry," with papers presented by Autumn Stanley and Susan Casement. Lorrie O'Dell will chair the panel, and Rose Glickman will present commentary. For more information on the conference contact Lorrie O'Dell at 602 Calmar Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610, (415) 451-8682.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, *continued*

California's History Day competition is part of a nationwide effort to encourage secondary school students (7th to 12th grade) to do individual research. Each year, students are asked to create either papers, media projects, dramatic performances or exhibits on some historical event or personality, and on Monday or Tuesday during the second week of May the winners from participating counties enter a state competition held in Sacramento.

Institute members who wish to help judge these events are encouraged to call Lyn Reese, who will explain the judging process. Volunteers may select one category and choose the day on which to serve. It is truly an exhilarating experience to watch so many California teenagers actually excited by history, and a joy to see the high quality of the work they are doing.

Lyn Reese may be reached at (415) 524-0304.

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Prof. Donald Weinstein (History Department, University of Arizona) will be the keynote speaker at the Northern California Renaissance Conference to be held May 2 at San Francisco State University. Contact Sally Scully of the SFSU History Department about registration and further details.

"Hispanic California: Past and Present" is the topic for the 40th annual California History Institute program to be held at the University of the Pacific and sponsored by the Holt-Atherton Center for Western Studies, April 24-25. For information write to the Holt-Atherton Center for Western Studies, University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA 95211.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The deadline for submitting items for the Summer 1987 issue is May 30.

### THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1987

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