The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the early days of the organization, program chair Lorrie O'Dell spoke of her fantasy that before very long there would be an Institute activity occuring every weekend somewhere in the greater Bay Area. If events co-sponsored or supported by the Institute count, in the month of May Lorrie's fantasy nearly came true. I am only just beginning to catch my breath.

On the first Sunday in May, past and present Board members gathered at a potluck supper at the home of Ellen Huppert, chiefly to socialize but also to honor outgoing Board members Bill Bonds and Deborah Frangquist. During the second weekend of May many Institute members attended the WAWH annual meeting at Davis—not an Institute-sponsored event, to be sure, but one at which the "presence" of the Institute is always felt. On a very hot Monday and Tuesday after the WAWH conference, I attended the History Day statewide contest in Sacramento, representing the Institute as a judge in the senior high school group performance category and awarding the first Institute prize for a senior paper. Lyn Reese and Mary Agnes Dougherty also attended the History Day competition as judges for the California Historical Society and the Institute prize.

On the third weekend in May there was no Institute-related activity, a lapse that was more than compensated for in the last ten days of the month. The conference honoring Carl Degler, held at Stanford on May 22-23, was largely the inspiration of Glenna Matthews. Glenna called upon the Institute for support and was pleased with the response. But the all-time record for events in a single day (if anyone is keeping records) was set on May 27, with a luncheon meeting at the Hoover Institution at which Institute member Karen Offen discussed her comparative historical approach to the definition of feminism, and a dinner meeting at the Faculty Club on the Berkeley campus, initiating the California Seminar, an exciting new Institute-inspired program about which you will be hearing moreIt is my pleasure as well as my business to attend these meetings, and we can all take pride in such successful recent accomplishments, but sometimes—just sometimes, mind you—I wish that Lorrie O'Dell had had a slightly less ambitious fantasy.

On a different subject altogether, I am pleased so far with the excellent response to the bibliography survey that went out with the last issue of Update. If you have not responded yet, there is still plenty of time. Please be sure to indicate whether you are interested in participating in a speakers' bureau. The program committee would also like to hear from members interested in doing work-in-progress sessions for the fall and winter. Events are planned through the summer; I look forward to seeing you.

—Joanne Lafler

PROFILE

Bill Strobridge: Independent Historian

Bill Strobridge is an independent historian who believes that working outside academia can make one a better scholar. "I'm not caught in the campus time-warp," Bill said in explaining how his interests and research continue to expand. "I get out and travel; I meet people who have caches of letters in their attics; I'm not constantly reworking old archival and library sources; and I have the reward of knowing that my research is useful to average Americans. I've seen it bridge the gap between generations, build esprit among groups, and strengthen people's self-esteem. How many academic historians can claim that?"

Bill reaps his rewards by working full-time as one of several historians employed by Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco and by writing for United States Army publications and historical journals on weekends. His belief in the usefulness of history grew out of practical experience, for Bill did not become a "working historian" until late in his professional career. He joined the Army right out of high school and was sent to Japan in 1947. He served in Korea, Germany, Vietnam, and the Middle East and often found history the tool he needed to carry out his daily tasks successfully. In Germany during the Eisenhower years, for example, he consulted World War II histories to understand the terrain he was charged with defending. In Thailand he charted all trails leading to the Burmese border—a task his superiors defined as difficult and dangerous—by studying Danish archeological maps he found in the Siam Society library.

For Bill, history was clearly useful, but ever since he published an eyewitness account of combat during the Korean War, he thought about studying history seriously. When he returned to the United States in between overseas assignments, he enrolled at the University of San Francisco, receiving a B.A. in history there. Later, at age forty, he completed his M.A. at Georgetown University in American and Southeast-Asian history.

The story of Bill's thesis research reveals the qualities of tenacity and resourcefulness which are essential to good historical work. His thesis is on Hamilton King, an American ambassador, who lived in Thailand from 1890 to 1912. Bill's efforts to find King's papers led him from the Michigan State Historical Society to Olivet College and from there to St. Louis where he found King's daughter who had an unopened steamer trunk of her father's papers in the basement of her house. In the trunk Bill found 5,000 to 6,000 letters and rolls of undeveloped film of pictures taken in Bangkok at the turn of the century. When he returned to St. Louis to present King's daughter with a copy of his thesis, she mentioned that fourteen volumes of her mother's diaries were upstairs. Bill eventually published an edited version of the 1911 diary. He also persuaded King's daughter to deposit her parents' papers in the Georgetown Library.

Bill then went off to Israel and upon his return to the United States became Chief of Historical Services for the United States Army. "I loved it," Bill says of this time. "I think I improved the morale of the historians I supervised by convincing them that they were really making a contribution to the military." According to Bill, the army had long realized the value of lessons from the past, and he credits the army with showing him how important history can be in creating self-esteem and group spirit.

In contrast, Bill was surprised to find when he went looking for a job as a civilian that the corporate world did not appreciate the value of its own history; it had not learned that "history pays." Wells Fargo, of course, being the exception. Bill helps administer the famous stagecoach's appearance at local parades and events and researches the bank's connections with the town and with individuals. "The stagecoach is a constant reminder to people of American history and also of the place of Wells Fargo in it," he explains. In the course of his work day, Bill writes monographs on Wells Fargo history, including marketing narratives on bank products, oral histories of retired executives, and "whatever else comes down the pike."

The one disadvantage he sees to working in the corporate world is the absence of sabbaticals. He pursues his own historical interests on weekends.

Wells Fargo, on the other hand, does not require its historians to publish, but Bill feels he must "just to keep competitive and to let people know where I am and what my interests are. It's not an important measure of success for me," he hastens to add. "I want what I do to be useful, and my work at Wells Fargo and my writing for veterans' groups are that."

Bill has published in *The Journal of the Siam Society* and *The Pacific Historian*, and his helpfulness to other scholars has been acknowledged in the prefaces of nine books. Twice a year he writes an essay comparing some aspect of the Vietnam war with World War II, hoping that his writing will help bridge the gap between the generations of men who fought overseas. He is currently finishing a monograph on the army in northern California before the Civil War. Another book he is working on is examining the American Civil War's impact on Southeast Asia as revealed in American missionaries' writings from that period. "Once you start looking for papers and word gets around, it never ends," he said, noting that his monograph on Camp Fremont owed much to the person who called him offering her uncle's letters. "Knowing how to pursue a topic outside archival sources is the true mark of an independent scholar," Bill emphasized, giving the definition a double meaning. His own life and research offer proof that independence and history bring their own rewards.

—Judith Babbitts

BOOK REVIEW

Eleanor Alexander, *Stories of my Life*. Judah L. Magnes Museum, Berkeley: 1986.

Eleanor Alexander, née Lore Eyck, is now in her eighth decade, and her senior years do seem to be blessed with that golden glow that optimists assure us is not all rare in the aging process. Almost every episode in her book comes to her mind triggered by some happy meeting with an old friend or well-loved kin, echoing down the years to earlier meetings under very different circumstances. Both the original encounters and the recent reunions tend to involve shared meals, and the author loves to report the menus with great gusto. Alexander calls herself, humorously, a Proust fan. Who is this author anyway, I wondered? In spite of this emphasis on life's little pleasures, or perhaps through that very emphasis, the author comes across as the most amiable survivor of hardships past that one may wish to meet. That easy acceptance of the good gifts fate allows, that knack of smiling her way through trouble (while working very hard at the practical aspects of dealing with it), her readiness to let ancient injuries and insults fade into oblivion—we need more people like her in this strife-torn world.

We follow Lore growing up in Berlin, part of an "assimilated" Jewish family, people imbued with the very best of Western culture, especially a love of classical music. The author will often recount the program of a concert heard long ago as lovingly as those menus.

When Lore was twenty, Hitler came to power. She had just finished her first medical exams at the University in Berlin. Sending a daughter to medical school was the elegant and politically correct thing to do during the decade between world wars among those well-to-do, highly progressive Jewish families. Feminism had won out, with a vengeance.

Most Jews feel conscience-bound to remember the Holocaust at every turn of their lives. But in Alexander's book the term Holocaust does not even occur. There is little bitterness, little sense of outrage. I have been critical of those of my fellow Jews who apotheosize vengefulness (a natural enough and biologically useful response) as if it were some kind of holy duty. Alexander goes to the other extreme. No, she does not bother to turn the other cheek. Neither does she try to understand or justify those in the enemy camp. She ignores them. Her focus is all on escaping, helping others escape, and getting to work on the rebuilding of new lives in a more hospitable environment.

She tells of her long journey from destitute refugee to beloved matriarch, through strange lands and sharp turns of fate. There is, right now, a spate of similar memoirs of such odysseys being written and published, as survivors reach retirement age and find the leisure to pass along their experiences. Some of those stories are hair-raising indeed, and most of them do focus, rightly enough, on the losses and tragedies, and on those fallen by the wayside, literally and figuratively. Alexander does not completely ignore them. In the very first chapter "Early Memories" she speaks of the assassination, nearly a decade before the Nazis came to power, of Walther Rathenau: "He was a brilliant man, one of the important industrialists of his time and a Jew, and this led to his assassination on June 22. . . Just the other day, in a catalogue of an exhibition of 'Jews in Germany under Prussian Rule,' I came across Rathenau's words: 'Every German Jew experiences one painful moment in his youth which he remembers all his life: that moment when he becomes fully conscious of the fact that he was born a second-class citizen, and that no achievement or merit can liberate him from that condition.' Rathenau's assassination was for me that 'painful moment.' I sensed for the first time what it meant to be a Jew."

Here is quite a different evocation of *Remembrance of Things Past*. The best story in Alexander's book tells of the year she spent pioneering in the jungles of Brazil, 1936 to 1937. She traveled there in a "Ship of Fools" in reverse: "Relations with other passengers were uneasy, since we were sailing on a German ship." This did not prevent Lore from enjoying the swimming pool, winning a ping pong contest, dancing all night, and participating in the "baptism" at crossing the equator. She came as tutor to a family of Jewish emigrants, the Kaphans, who belonged to a small group of middle class Europeans going back to the land. Few tried exotic places like Rolandia, a border outpost at the edge of the Brazilian jungle, and succeeded like the Kaphans. Lore must have had quite a hand in their success. We see a photograph of her, with all eight of her charges: fit, tough, attractive, smiling and ready for any challenge. Decades later, when she returned to Rolandia for a visit, her old friends, now well established on their ranch, remembered her as a "legend".

Eleanor Alexander

With all her activities, Lore found time to enjoy herself with other young people in the colony. Some of her best friends were German, neither Jewish, nor refugees. Throughout that time she kept up a difficult correspondence (mail service to and from Rolandia was something for the books) with a young academic she had known in Europe, Paul Alexander. He was getting established in the United States and urged her to join him there in establishing a more conventional life. The rest of *Stories* deals with the familiar struggles of young people endowed with no money but plenty of brains and energy, working their way toward the American dream. Lore switches easily from her role as pioneer in the Brazilian jungle to that of working woman battling a tight job market in the United States. With the same easy competence she takes on the job of wife and mother. Feminists are only recently rediscovering the woman of valor of *Proverbs* fame, as a heroine. Strong, reliable, cheerful, stylish, socially skillful, no drudge or martyr, but unapologetically her husband's helpmeet. Later, when the family no longer needed her full time attention, Eleanor went back to teaching, but the book does not focus on those later years. "Lore," incidentally, became "Eleanor" at the time she became a citizen of the United States.

I feel drawn to the personality of the author, but I find her apolitical acceptance of people too easy. Alexander does not focus on much that happened beyond

her own circle of people-known-and-dear. The book is written in a straightforward and unpretentious manner that makes for pleasant and undemanding reading. Its cheerful account of a full life will be of great interest to people of her generation and her descendants and their friends as they look back on those forces that shaped their consciousness.

—Ruth Friedlander

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

April

Jim Silverman has created an exciting way of involving school children in early California history. He presented his program about California children in history in the same way he has been presenting it to schools throughout the state of California.

Jim relied on slides that showed how children lived in the early years after the California Gold Rush. He contrasted images from 19th century children's books with illustrations from modern books, emphasizing California's multicultural heritage. His selection of pictures included scenes from Native American villages, excerpts from books on the lives of Indians, and a selection of photographs of children, some rather startling because the subjects were dead. These photographs would frequently be the only pictorial record of a child as the family simply could not afford to have photos taken on other occasions. Peter Palmquist, IHS member and photo historian, was instrumental in locating some of Jim's unusual sources.

An appreciative audience, including a few children who had been especially invited to hear Jim's presentation, enjoyed the program, which was hosted by Deborah Frangquist in San Francisco.

SPECIAL EVENT

"Berlin in the Twenties" was the subject of a series of four presentations in March sponsored jointly by the Institute for Historical Study and the Goethe Institute, the German Cultural Center, in San Francisco. The series was a timely contribution on the 750th anniversary of Berlin celebrated this year. IHS president Joanne Lafler chaired the series.

During the first evening, Cornelia Levine sketched the political, social, and economic background of the Weimar Republic during the 1920's. She highlighted the promises and setbacks in Germany's first experiment with democracy, pointing out the particular problems of reparations. Eleanor Alexander's personal reminiscences of growing up in Berlin during those same years made for an interesting juxtaposition. Her lively and humorous tales of a happy and secure childhood and adolescence lent an important counter perspective.

The second meeting was devoted to literature and art of the Weimar period. Monica Clyde discussed Alfred Doeblin's novel *Berlin Alexanderplatz*. She placed the novel in its literary context and guided the audience through readings of passages from the novel to an appreciation of Doeblin's innovative novelistic treatment of life in the metropolis. The second part of the evening was a presentation by Georgia Wright of artists Grosz, Kollwitz, and Beckmann, and movements such as Dada and *die neue Sachlichkeit*, illustrated with a rich selection of slides. German painting of the Weimar years had firm roots in modes of expression developed prior to the outbreak of World War I, but it evolved in new directions under the impact of social and political violence and the increasing mechanization of life.

Theater and movies were the theme of the third evening. Joanne Lafler communicated her fascination with "the explosion of theatrical activity in Berlin between 1918 and 1933," including Max Reinhardt's spectacular productions, Jessner's reinterpretation of the classics, and the experimental multi-media approach of Piscator and the "epic theater" of Brecht. The political content or impact of plays and productions—intended or not—culminated in the theatrical didacticism of Piscator and Brecht, best represented by Brecht's *Three Penny Opera*. David Wright presented F. W. Murnau's film *The Last Laugh* (*Der letzte Mann*, 1924). Wright placed the film within the context of the evolution of German still photography, as well as within the development of new film-making techniques. The movie itself drew a poignant picture of the loss of status and self-esteem when the main character loses his position as a uniformed hotel doorman and descends to that of men's room attendant.

The last event in the series was a presentation by Ilse Sternberger and Jack Boas on the political culture of the Weimar years. Sternberger looked back to the days of the empire, explaining the impact of World War I on people's personal lives, the disappointments with the new democracy, and the reactions of at least part of the public to the growing threat of dictatorship. Her account was interspersed with short sketches by Jack Boas of leading poets, writers, and cabaret artists. The two then took turns reading and translating representative songs and poems popular at the time.

The series was attended by a capacity audience who asked many good questions. The Goethe Institute expressed its appreciation for our presentations and extended an open-ended invitation for future offerings from the Institute.

—Cornelia Levine

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome five new members whose applications were approved at Board meetings in April and May.

BethAnn Berliner received her B.A. in history from UC Santa Barbara and her M.A. in history from the University of Colorado in Boulder. She is now a research scientist at the Far West Laboratory, an educational research and development agency. She is involved in the evaluation of a California State University reform initiative that is concerned with the quality of teacher education. Throughout her career she has been active in public service agencies.

Paula Juelke Carr received her B.A. in cultural anthropology at UC Santa Barbara and her M.A. in Native American Studies. She has had additional training in history at the University of Arizona in Tucson where her emphasis was on colonial New Spain. She has worked for the Arizona State Museum, the San Diego Museum of Man, and the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation. She has published articles for the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and has been a docent and lecturer at the museum.

Frank L. Kidner received his B.A. in history from UC Berkeley and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton. His particular scholarly interest is French history of the 18th century. He is teaching European history at San Francisco State University and has published numerous articles. He is currently at work on a book-length manuscript examining urban perspectives on a rural world.

Anne Richardson has a B.A. in English literature from UC Berkeley, a Ph.D. in English literature from Yale, and a MLS from the UC Berkeley School of Library and Information Studies. Her work experience includes college teaching, reference librarianship, computer use instruction, and editing. She is currently revising her dissertation on William Tyndale's "Obedience of a Christian Man." Her particular historical concerns center around Henrician England and Charles V's Antwerp. She is interested in meeting scholars with historical interests in this period.

David M. Walden is expecting his M.A. in history from Brigham Young University this year. His thesis is a social history of alternative health care in Utah. His B.S. degree is in zoology, chemistry, and bacteriology from Iowa State University. In 1983 he became historian for the Springville Historical Society and was principal scholar for a major grant to the Society from the Utah Endowment for the Humanities. He has been an intern with the Congressional Research Service and worked on a project on the termination of the U.S. Trust Territory in Micronesia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Military History Symposium

The sixth annual military history symposium will be held on September 19 at the Presidio of San Francisco. Titled "Sketchbook and Easel: the Artist and the Army," the symposium will feature presentations on Army art from the Civil War period to modern times, including poster art of the world wars and reminiscences of Army artists. IHS member Patricia Sanders will serve as moderator. For further information, write to the Fort Point and Army Museum Association, P.O. Box 29163, Presidio of San Francisco, CA 94129.

The Women's West

The Coalition for Western Women's History announces "The Women's West: Race, Class, and Social Change," a national conference, at Seven Hills Conference Center, San Francisco State University, August 13 to 16, 1987. For further information write to WWH, Women Studies Program, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164.

CONFERENCES

The conference on **Historical Methodologies** held at San Francisco State University on March 28 was one more in a series of successful collaborations between the Institute and Bay Area academic institutions. About sixty people, including many Institute members as well as faculty and graduate students from local colleges and universities, heard a variety of excellent presentations on current problems in visual and cultural history. Even the panelists left the workshops and lunch table discussions invigorated and feeling they had learned from one another and from their audience.

—Bill Bonds

Taking as its theme "the woman scholar," the **Western Association of Women Historians** held its 18th annual conference May 8 through 10 on the UC Davis campus. Women's history dominated the program to an extent it has not before, but there was sufficient variety to satisfy most tastes. The keynote speaker, Margaret Rossiter, now teaching at Cornell, spoke about "Writing the History of Women and Science" as a process of coping with the well-meaning, who warn you that your topic means professional suicide and that "women in science" do not exist. The audience found

Rossiter both sympathetic and powerful in her presentation.

The Institute was, as usual, well represented among the chairs of sessions (Joanne Lafler, Lorrie O'Dell, Jean Wilkinson), commentators (Glenna Matthews, Rose Glickman, Ann Hagerman Johnson), and speakers (Francesca Miller, Edith Gelles, Judith Strong Albert, Elizabeth Griego, Jane Bernard-Powers, Maresi Nerad, Karen Offen, Sylvia Sun Minnick, Annegret Ogden, Autumn Stanley, and Susan Casement). The Friday night concert of Renaissance and Baroque instrumental music was performed by Institute member Luciana Lombardi and Gabrielle Stocker.

Francesca Miller, retiring president, welcomed the incoming president, Jacqueline Barnhart, **not** a member of the Institute. All other offices were kept within the family. Georgiana Davidson, secretary-treasurer, will be replaced by Lorrie O'Dell and Ann Hagerman Johnson. Frances Richardson Keller is national liaison; Ellen Huppert, chair of the nominating committee; Carole Hicke, chair of the Publicity Committee; and June Stephenson, Social Action Coordinator.

—Georgiana Davidson

Those who attended the recent **Stanford Conference in Honor of Carl Degler**, held on May 22 and 23, were unanimous in agreeing that the event was a big success. Most of Degler's doctoral students flew in for the weekend, some coming from as far away as London, Ontario. What made the conference different from the usual academic event was the fact that the participants engaged in a high-level discussion of the impact of Degler's work and also shared their personal reminiscences of the ways in which their mentor "brought out the best" in them. Professor Linda Kerber of the University of Iowa gave the concluding address. The conference coordinator would like to extend her personal thanks to Institute members for their warm support and their participation.

—Glenna Matthews

INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS

An eastern regional conference of independent scholars' organizations took place in New Haven on March 28 under the auspices of the Center for Independent Study. Representatives described the compositions of their organizations (ranging from a single subject to multi-disciplinary), activities, and amenities and shared valuable ideas about common problems and opportunities. Several suggestions as to how the organizations might help each other were advanced: a group might reserve a library card at the local university for use by visiting independent scholars; bed and breakfast arrangements might be reciprocated; newsletters might be exchanged; and lists of names of established scholars willing to read manuscripts and then write recommendations might be circulated.

Margaret DeLacy, IHS member and president of the Northwest Independent Scholars' Association, is chair of the study committee exploring the creation of a national coalition of independent scholars. She presented a preliminary report based in part on the conference convened by the San Diego Independent Scholars in October, 1986. There was a consensus that an umbrella organization of independents' groups should be formed after more responses are obtained via DeLacy's letter, appended below. The New Haven conference proposed some goals; for instance, to obtain representation for independents on the editorial boards of major journals and the executive boards of appropriate foundations; to obtain access for independents to the libraries of private institutions of higher learning and free interlibrary loans; to find subsidies for the expenses of independents giving papers at professional meetings; to press for better tax laws for independents' expenses and income. One of the more provocative goals suggested was the setting of national standards for salaries, insurance, and medical benefits for part-time faculty, who constitute a large proportion of the membership of independent scholars' groups.

—Laura Curtis, Princeton Research Forum

Dear Fellow Scholar:

A study committee, the nucleus of which formed at the San Diego conference last October, is trying to collect information from interested scholars and scholars' organizations all over the country to determine whether a national coalition of independent scholars could perform a useful service. We are soliciting suggestions to see if there is support for the coalition and to find out what it might do. These suggestions will be circulated to those who express an interest in participating further in the process.

Should such a coalition be formed at all?

How should it be organized (e.g., with a board and paid executive director?)

What should be its relationship with the national newsletter?

What dues should it charge and how should organizations and individuals be assessed? How should revenue be allocated?

Should membership be open to individuals or should it be limited to organizations of independent scholars? Is some process necessary to assess the eligibility of groups or individuals for membership?

How should officers, directors, or staff be chosen?

What are the areas of concern that such an organization might address?

Among the suggestions have been:

Libraries: access, interlibrary loan fees, letters of introduction

Foundations: policies, review committees

Awards and grants: for grants-in-aid, for publication subsidies, for published works, for attending conferences

University relations: policies regarding adjunct and part-time faculty, visiting scholar status, other cooperative efforts

Networks: for manuscript review, for advice on grants, for letters of recommendation, for jobs, for colleagues, for information sharing

Publications: newsletter, directory of organizations of independent scholars, directory of independent scholars with bibliographies, articles for national magazines

Insurance: negotiating for group rates for members.

I would appreciate hearing from readers of the Institute newsletter on these issues, and I would also like to know whether you wish to contribute any more time to this effort.

Sincerely,
Margaret DeLacy
7938 S.E. 35th Ave.
Portland, OR 97202

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

This year's program at the Berkshire Conference on women's history includes **Judith Babbitts'** treatment of source material that traditional historians don't use and photography specialists ignore. "Inviting the World into American Parlors: Stereographs Depict Asian Women" will show how most 19th century Americans in the days before television acquired their images of the rest of the world.

For the tercentenary of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, **Gerald Cerny** has reappraised the largest forced migration of early modern Europe in *Theology, Politics and Letters at the Crossroads of European Civilization: Jacques Basnages and the Baylean Huguenot Refugees in the Dutch Republic*, published last year by Martinus Nijhoff. The book is a companion volume of eleven others on 16th and 17th century Huguenot figures and issues.

One of the annual American Book Awards has gone to **Lucia Birnbaum** for her recently published *liberazione della donna: feminism in Italy* (reviewed in our last issue). Founded in 1978 by the Before Columbus Foundation, the awards recognize excellence in contemporary American multi-cultural literature. Lucia was one of seventeen authors so honored at public ceremonies at the University of Pennsylvania Museum, May 17, co-sponsored by the City of Philadelphia to celebrate the 200th anniversay of the Constitution. Her next project is now shaping up as a study of Italy's "unedited communism."

On the way home from a brief European trip, **Elena Danielson** stopped in England to interview Tanya Litvinov, the daughter of the late Soviet diplomat and foreign affairs specialist, Maxim Litvinov, in connection with her research on the life of Litinov's wife, Ivy. Expecting to spend no more than an hour or two on the interview, Elena spent a week listening to fascinating reminiscences; at the end she had to buy a new suitcase to carry home Tanya's gift to her—a large collection of Ivy Litvinov's papers and a folder of Maxim Litvinov's original letters. Among other subjects, Tanya discussed her work as a translator of the novels of John Cheever in the Soviet Union. Elena is frantically trying to write up her notes while memories of the unexpectedly productive interview are still fresh.

Rella Lossy's play, *Hobo Mine*, was given a stage reading, June 9, at the Addison Stage Company in Berkeley, followed by a discussion with the author, the director, and writer Candace Falk, on whose book *Love, Anarchy, and Emma Goldman* the play is based.

Irena Narell addressed an argumentative audience at the Jewish Community Library, February 17, talking about the history of Jews in Poland. She asserted that before World War II, Jews were fully integrated into the liberal intellectual life of Polish society, as exemplified by her own family history. As reported to us by Ilse Sternberger, she gave a poignant and witty description of her multi-talented and distinguished family which represented the four major trends among Polish Jews: Orthodoxy, Socialism, Zionism, and Communism.

Karen Offen spoke before the Huntington Library Seminar in Women's Studies in early June and at Washington State University on "The Historical Definition of Feminism." She has recently been appointed chair of the American Historical Association's Committee on International Historical Affairs. Her article, "Ernest Legouvé and the Doctrine of 'Equality in Difference' for Women: A Case Study of Male Feminism in Nineteenth-Century French Thought," appeared in the June 1987 issue of the *Journal of Modern History*.

Ilse Sternberger wore her Gray Panther hat as well as her Institute affiliation while contributing to a panel discussion on "Aging in a Nuclear and Technological Society," April 21, at a day-long workshop in San Francisco. "Beyond Survival—Aging in a Changing Society" was geared for people who, like Ilse, may not believe that "life begins at forty," yet are certain that it does not end there.

EDITOR'S NOTE

There are several changes in the editorial board. I would like to thank two outgoing members, Ilse Sternberger and Michael Meo, for their help and support and welcome two new members, Judith Babbitts and Peter Browning. Peter Browning has been instrumental in bringing about our first foray into desktop publishing, commencing with this issue, by making available to us his program and equipment.

Our adventure has resulted in one additional change: our typeface is now Times Roman which we find more pleasing to the eye. For those among you interested in the technical aspects of desktop publishing: the text was composed on a PC using WordPerfect, formatted using Ventura Publisher and printed on a Laser Writer. In case you think that everything worked out smoothly, we lost all of the editorial changes accomplished during three hours of concentrated efforts when the screen suddenly went blank. But our minds fortunately did not go blank, and so we were able to do it over again.

The deadline for submitting items for the Fall issue is August 31.

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