The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Changes in Board personnel are not unusual, but at present there seem to be more than usual. I would like, first, to announce the appointment of Bogna Lorence-Kot and Jim Silverman to fill a new position created last year and a vacancy created by the resignation of Michael Meo. Bogna, a modern European historian, served on the board several years ago before leaving to take up teaching positions in Hawaii and Mississippi. We are delighted to welcome her back. Jim is known to many of you for his work on childrens' literature and the history of children in California. He and Bogna will co-chair the Program Committee.

Welcome back, also, to Nancy McCauley after a six-month leave of absence and a two-week trip to Kenya. At the same time, Carl Guarneri will take a leave of absence from his Board duties while on sabbatical from St. Mary's College. Glenna Matthews, who will be teaching at UC Irvine, plans to make frequent visits to the Bay Area and remain in close contact with the Institute.

In August the Board voted to join the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History. Many of you are familiar with the NCC, which, under the able leadership of Page Putnam Miller, has served as advocate for the historical and archival professions, including independent scholars. (For more information, see article below.) We are pleased to be able to suppport this important work.

In October the Institute will embark upon two new projects. The first is a membership drive. Through a letter to colleagues in academic institutions in the greater Bay Area we hope to add more academically-affiliated scholars to our ranks. Although the Institute has been prominent in the independent scholarship movement, we are, first and foremost, an organization of historians of many backgrounds pursuing common interestes. In the last year alone, a number of Institute-sponsored, or co-sponsored activities have promoted interchange between scholars in and out of academe. Independent scholars are always more difficult to locate; we hope to find them through advertisements and through annnouncements in the newsletters of regional learned societies. Other suggestions are most welcome. Please pass them on to Agnes Peterson, membership chair.

The second new project has to do with broadening member services and defining a role for the Institute in the community. To this end, a series of "town meetings" will be held in different geographical locations, from Davis/Sacramento to the Peninsula and South Bay, at which goals and strategies can be discussed. Ordinarily, a project of this kind would emanate from annual Board retreat—scheduled this year for the weekend of October 23-25—but a grass-roots approach seemed likely to generate more ideas and member involvement.

I hope that many of you will find the time to participate in our busy, exciting program this fall.

—Joanne Lafler

NEW AFFILIATION

The NCC, with Administrative Offices in Washington, DC, sets as its purpose three major goals, as stated in the Program Report of December 1986.

I. To serve as a central advocacy office for the historical and archival professions with special attention given to: the funding and policies of the National Archives and Records Administration; policies related to access to documents, historical research, teaching and public programs; historic preservation policy; and issues related to historic commemorations, landmarks, sites, and parks.

In order to meet this first goal the NCC maintains frequent contact with Congressional offices by visiting periodically with legislative aides who work on House and Senate committees with oversight and appropriations responsibilities for issues of concern. It disseminates current information and materials on legislative issues to historians and archivists and coordinates efforts of NCC members to alert Congress to their concerns.

II. To develop a state committee network for the promotion of history at the state level.

To this end, the NCC serves as a resource center for state committees. It informs state committees of legislative developments and alerts them to the Congressional committee assignments of their Senators and Congressional leaders. There are currently 29 state committees and the NCC is encouraging the formation of new state committees.

III. To expand both the NCC network and the funding base for NCC

This is accomplished through the addition of new organizations, History Department Associates, and Archival Subscribers, and by involving the NCC in historic preservation issues and the work of the State Historic Preservation Offices.

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

July

For the past year, Institute members Mary Agnes Dougherty and Lyn Reese have been creating a support program for teaching California history in the schools. Under the auspices of the California Historical Society, they started their project by sending out a survey to teachers throughout the state to find out what their needs were and what they would like to have made available to them. There was a common request for video cassettes in social sciences and history because there was nothing available that was new and useful for current students. Since the fourth-grade curriculum is mandated to teach California history for an entire school year, a support program for this particular grade would be most useful for teachers throughout the state. With this idea in mind, "On Location—Travels to California's Past" was born.

Institute members and friends were invited to this particular work-in-progress because Mary Agnes and Lyn wanted feedback and constructive criticism for their project at this stage: a first video about Angel Island and an accompanying teacher's manual, which was still in the draft stage.

It was fascinating to follow the step by step development of the project: how themes and sites for the videos were chosen and how Mary Agnes and Lyn chose to approach their project.

Eight different historical sites in California history were initially selected. Angel Island in San Francisco Bay was the place where Chinese immigrants were detained between 1910 and 1940, the time the Chinese Exclusion Act was in effect. Subsequent projects will deal with the restored State Capitol in Sacramento, old San Diego, Hollywood, the Indians and, of course, the California Gold Rush.

Wishing to draw upon the knowledge and expertise of teachers and local historians, Mary Agnes and Lyn held a workshop for teachers in San Francisco. Several brainstorming sessions and a trip to Angel Island led to one strong recommendation: to create a dramatic video that would capture a fourth grader's emotions and imagination.

There were hard choices to be made at every stage of the production: what to include, what not to include. But at all times did the team keep in mind the larger goal to strike a balance between imparting factual information and telling an engaging story. The story in this case meant a young Chinese boy retracing his dead grandfather's footsteps in the immigration camp.

"Island of Secret Memories," the title of the fifteen-minute video, features a group of fourth grade youngsters on an outing to Angel Island. Guided by a teacher and an Angel Island ranger, the children are skillfully led into the past. They are encouraged to feel empathy for the Chinese immigants who had to go through often harrowing immigration proceedings that reflected the discriminatory policy toward Asians. There were moments of drama and moments of reflection for the youngsters, as for instance when there was a dramatic re-enactment of an immigration proceeding taken from historical transcripts from Angel Island, dated 1910. The Chinese Historical Society lent some authentic belongings from its collection to provide a touch of authenticity to the dramatization. The producers of the video also drew on oral history and on newspaper reports about a food riot and hunger strike staged by the Chinese on Angel Island.

In addition to the video, there will be a wealth of historical data provided in the teacher's manual, which will support and enhance the experience of the video in the classroom. The two actually go hand in hand, for no fifteen- minute video can capture all that one ought to know, even a fourth grader, about this subject.

After the showing, there was a lively debate about the merits of the video. Can there ever be a project that pleases absolutely everyone? Perhaps that would not even be a desirable goal. However, there was very positive approval by all present of this first project to make California history come alive for youngsters of our time. The video impressed viewers as a splendid vehicle to achieve its goal: to capture the imagination and interest of fourth graders in order to allow them to experience history as a part of their lives. Mary Agnes Dougherty and Lyn Reese deserve a great deal of credit and encouragement; they are playing a pioneering role and their project deserves our strong support and a vote of confidence in the success of their endeavor.

September

Glenna Matthews presented her plans for a new book titled *The Rise of Public Woman: Woman's Power and Woman's Place from the Colonial Period to the Present* to a large and receptive group of Institute members and friends at the home of Frances Richardson Keller. The idea for this book grew out of a course Glenna taught at UC Berkeley on "Women in Politics."

The book will begin with a discussion of the differing connotations of "public man" and "public woman": the former implies public-spiritedness and the latter a woman who is sexually available. Given that difference, how *do* women legitimate a public role? Glenna plans to examine the circumscribed nature of women's lives in the 17th century, focusing particular attention on Anne Hutchinson as an instance of the penalties attached to being an outspoken

woman. She will examine various factors, such as changes in the internal dynamics of the family and new religious roles for women. These roles served to undermine patriarchal patterns of authority and to make women feel capable of moving into new, public terrain. For a variety of reasons, middle-class women enjoyed more influence in the 19th century than did their working-class sisters, something Glenna explored in her recently published book, *Just a Housewife*. But as domesticity declined in value, female power had to be built on a base other than domestic feminism, and, in consequence, women of color and working-class women began to stake out a claim for public roles on a new basis. Glenna's focus will be on female efficacy, what serves to enhance it, among which groups, and to what purpose.

The response to Glenna's proposed book elicited several suggestions for possible additional perspectives, such as inherited power and the addition of an international perspective. Glenna put before the group some very provocative theories which we will look forward to being explored in detail in her new scholarly venture.

BOOK REVIEW

Peter Browning, *Place Names of the Sierra Nevada: From Abbot to Zumwalt*. Wilderness Press, Berkeley, 1986.

Historians have an inexhaustible desire for references to help them quickly identify a person or place. Institute member Peter Browning has performed a valuable service to the profession by producing *Place Names of the Sierra Nevada*. Edwin G. Gudde, author of *California Place Names*, included among his advisors Francis P. Farquhar, author of *Place Names of the High Sierra* in 1926. Browning has updated Farquhar's sixty-year-old work, using sources of the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, National Forests, the State Fish and Game Department, history libraries, and local historians, plus Farquhar's own unpublished materials.

More than an index of over 2500 names, the new book includes both geographic and historic references for each entry. This permits a researcher to consult a map or a book. Browning limits his territory to the area from Alpine County to Walker Pass, but does not limit his humor: "Converse Basin, Creek, Mountain. Charles P. Converse built the first jail in Fresno county, and was the first person confined in it." Although there are hundreds of place names in California's famous mountain country whose origins remain a mystery, there is a diversity of names drawn from local personages, fauna, and geography for those that are known. These names include a black stagecoach driver, bighorn sheep, and lone pines.

Cultural historians may ponder the meaning of a quick survey by the reviewer on the origin of names in Browning's book. For instance, forty-one spots in the Sierra are named for soldiers, thirty-two for somebody's wife or daughter, twenty-seven for sheepmen, and twenty for geologists. All of the railroad Big Four, but only two historians, are honored by having their names on Sierra peaks. John Muir is recognized at seven locations, the devil at six, bears at thirteen, eagles at eight, and lions at two locations.

Dedicated to his research, Peter Browning is still collecting information for more place names. For now, his book has the answers. Recommended for historians, backpackers, and those with a passion for the elusive fact, the book deserves to become a standard reference. The Institute is fortunate to add *Place Names of the Sierra Nevada* to its list of member publications.

— Bill Strobridge

"Pohono," or Bridalveil Fall. From a photograph by Charles L. Weed, taken in the late 1850s.

TAX-LAW ALERT

A provision of the 1986 tax overhaul has dire implications for writers engaged in long-term projects, severely limiting their ability to deduct expenses for research and writing. The provision, intended to simplify rules by which businesses write off, or capitalize, certain expenses over a period of time, applies to all costs incurred in manufacturing or creating tangible property—including books and other creative projects such as films.

The effect of this rule is to deny almost all current deductions for expenses of writing and research. Authors will have to spread the deductions over the expected life of the book or article, and estimate expected income from the project. No deductions will be allowed for the years when a project produces no income. Deductions will be allowed only against income from the project on which expenses were incurred.

Many thanks to Karen Offen and Georgia Wright for bringing this issue to the attention of Institute members. You are urged to write to your senators and congressional representatives, asking them to overturn the new rule, which will discourage the work of scholars.

PRIZES

The Californians, The Magazine of California History, announces two annual prizes each year of $250 each—The Pioneer Prize (for articles of 6,000-9,000 words, concerning the American and European pioneers who settled permanently in California between 1823 and 1869), and The California History Prize (open to articles of 6,000 to 9,000 words on any aspect of California and her people, from prehistoric to early 20th century, except the narrowly defined American and European pioneers).

There will be five honorable mentions in each category, which will be published at the regular rate, and all material submitted for either prize will be subject to publication at the regular rate (one cent per published word), with *The Californians* holding first publication rights on all material submitted. In the event that no entry comes up to the criteria to qualify for the annual prize, the $250 will be distributed equally among the honorable mentions.

The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies announces the establishment of its own press and also a prize for the best book-length manuscript submitted each year.

The Institute is soliciting manuscripts for publication in three areas:

1. scholarly monographs on any aspect of immigration or ethnicity in America.
2. general histories of each and every ethnic group in the United States.
3. collections of essays presented at scholarly conferences on the subject of immigration and ethnicity.

All suitable manuscripts will be evaluated by an editorial board and by outside readers and, if accepted, will be published in conjunction with Associated University Presses of Cranbrook New Jersey.

A $1,000 prize will be awarded for the best book published each year. Inquiries should be addressed to M. Mark Stolarik, Director, The Balch Institute Press, 18 South 7th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association is inviting papers to be submitted for the 1988 conference to be held in conjunction with the Western Association of Women Historians at San Francisco State University. Papers in all areas of history are invited. The deadline for submission is December 15, 1987. Send papers to: Jess Flemion, Program Chair, PCB, Department of History, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Institute for Research on Women** at Rutgers is sponsoring a Humanist-in-Residence Fellowship Program under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation. Two junior or senior scholars will spend the academic year at Rutgers to work on book-length manuscripts about women's studies and the humanities. Potential fellows are encouraged to apply.

Another program for scholars, the **Blanche, Edith and Irving Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies** is offering persons of significant achievements in women's studies the opportunity to be at Douglass College for up to two years. For more information about these opportunities contact Ferris Olin, Executive Officer, Institute for Research on Women and Laurie Chair in Women's Studies, Rutgers, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903.

"Immigration, Ethnicity, and the Industrial Revolution" is the theme of the eighth annual **Lowell Conference on Industrial History**, to be held October 29 through October 31, 1987, in Lowell, Massachusetts. Rudoph Vecoli of the University of Minnesota will deliver the keynote address. He will be followed by panel discussions examining immigration history's relationship with education policy, museum education programming, and museum exhibitry.

For more information contact Robert Weible, Lowell National Historical Park, 169 Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA 01852, (617) 459-1025.

The **Groupe de Recherche Art Histoire Architecture et Litterature (GRAHAL)** is an association that assists researchers in obtaining documents and conducting research in France. It can help overcome problems associated with distance from and unfamiliarity with the French library system, and in gaining access to various archives. For more information contact GRAHAL, 4, Avenue Percier, 75008 Paris, France.

Video-taped discussions of **American military strategy** at the highest levels have been produced for non-profit use by five semi-retired military analysts. Topics include: The National Strategy of the US, The Moral Aspects of Western Defense Policy, A Comparison of the Warsaw Pact with NATO, and others. Instructors or discussion group leaders can obtain information from Colonel James Short, USA, Retired, 2565 Rose Street, Berkeley, CA 94708. Colonel Short is former Chairman, Department of Strategy, Army War College.

Institute board meetings are held regularly on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm. All members are welcome to attend and may find out the meeting place by calling any board member or Joanne Lafler.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome three new members and to welcome back a former member returned from a lengthy stay abroad.

Jane Altman received her BA in English at the California Institute of Technology and her BS at the University of San Francisco. She is now enrolled in the doctoral program in the History of Health Sciences at UC San Francisco. This is a program that offers humanities curricula to medical students.

Jane heads her own management consulting agency and has designed, developed, and implemented a large automation project at UCSF. She has been manager of information services at the Bank of America, and Senior Human Resources Planner at Fireman's Fund Insurance Companies.

Because UCSF is so science-oriented she hopes to gain some social and cultural benefits and historical perspective through association with the Institute.

Jeanne Farr McDonnell holds a BA from Ohio State University in English and an MA from Columbia University in American literature. She held a Fulbright scholarship in comparative literature at the University of Brussels. She has been editing the quarterly *News* of the Women's Heritage Museum and has written for various history and museum newsletters. The founder of the Women's Heritage Museum, she is currently editing a collection of biographical essays on California woman suffragists and creating an exhibit on Julia Morgan.

Gloria Rexford Newhouse received her BA in history of art at the University of California, Irvine and her MA in history of art at Stanford University. She has been the recipient of numerous grants and fellowships, and has published, presented papers, and assisted in putting on exhibitions, such as the Exhibition of Venetian Art at the Stanford University Gallery in 1982. She has headed her own Design Consultant Institute and is now engaged in completing her PhD on the work of Jacques Louis David.

Last, but not least, we welcome back **George J. Lerski**, Professor Emeritus of Modern European History at USF. Having just returned from Israel where he reports he planted his pine tree as a " Righteous Gentile," he is planning to publish his work on Jewish-Polish relations in America. He will present a lecture on that topic under the sponsorship of the Institute in the near future.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Anthony D'Agostino's book *Soviet Succession Struggles* will be published by Allen & Unwin in October of this year. Members of the Institute will recall that it was the subject of a Work-in-Progress session about a year ago.

After serving briefly as Executive Director of the Agape Foundation, **Rochelle Gatlin** has returned to teaching and is currently offering women's history at Diablo Valley College. She gave a course on "Women in the United States" at San Francisco State University in August. Macmillan (U.K.) has scheduled publication of her book *American Women since 1945*, for late October, while the University Press of Mississippi will bring out the American edition.

Edith Gelles' paper "A Virtuous Affair: The Correspondence of Abigail Adams and James Lowell" appeared in the summer issue of the *American Quarterly*.

A collection of essays published under the title, *The Struggles of Eve: Understanding Our Heritage*, will contain contributions by **Frances Richardson Keller**, who is also the editor of the collection, and essays by Institute members **Sondra Herman** and **Bogna Lorence-Kot.**

Institute members attending the AHA in Washington DC in late December are invited to attend a reception on the occasion of the publication of *Slavery and the French Revolution* by Anna Julia Cooper, which was translated by **Frances Richardson Keller** who also contributed a biographical/historiographical interpretive essay. Announcements of the reception will be found in the program.

"Impressions of the Near East: Orientalist Art of the 19th Century," an exhibition curated by **Patricia Sanders**, will open on November 8 at the Haggin Museum in Stockton. Featuring seventy paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures, and photographs by Western artists, the show will run through January 3. Patricia's essay in the illustrated catalogue explains how nineteenth century images of the Orient reinforced existing stereotypes. This is the first West Coast exhibition of Orientalist art.

Jim Silverman is now working with the California History Center at De Anza College to produce a curriculum kit called "Children in California History" for elementary school students and teachers.

Georgia Wright will be teaching at Stanford this quarter. She is pleased with the response to *The Independent Scholar* from subscribers, foundations, and state humanities councils. She is working on the script—as well as the funding—for a thirty-minute video on a French Romanesque church, which could be used in art history and Western civilization courses.

MISCELLANEOUS

Sondra Herman is interested in matching papers on feminism and fascism for a comparative session at the PCB-AHA. She herself will present a paper on Elin

Wagner-Virginia. If you are interested in this contact her at 15 Anderson Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025, or call her at 854-3119.

Anne Richardson would appreciate advice from anyone who has dealt with the British Library's Department of Manuscripts regarding etiquette in tracking down a key document and obtaining a photocopy of it by mail. A major problem has been the lack of an adequate catalog available in local libraries to trace a document.

Ellen Huppert is organizing a program on the French Revolution Bicentennial. There will be an exhibit and a film series. Films are being previewed by Institute members in order to decide which to include. Anyone interested in joining this group please contact Ellen at 665-1529. Suggestions and help will be gladly accepted.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Having the last word, as usual, I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who comes up with ideas and suggestions for the Newsletter. In deciding what to include in the Newsletter, we try to reflect the breadth of our members' historical interests.

The deadline for submitting material for the winter issue is December 1.

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The newsletter is sent to all members. Non-members who wish to receive it and to get regular announcements of Institute events are invited to make tax-deductible contributions to assist with the cost of printing and mailing.

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

The Newsletter is the official publication of The Institute for Historical Study, a scholarly organization designed to promote the research, writing, and public discussion of history. Membership in the Institute is open to independent and academically affiliated scholars who are in agreement with its aims and who have a commitment to historical study. Membership inquiries should be sent to the Institute address.

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