The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

Volume IX, No. 1 Spring 1988

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Later in the Newsletter you will read a detailed account of the annual membership meeting. I would like to add a few personal comments. A lot of the work of the Institute is invisible. That includes the efforts that go into planning large meetings. But when response is so good, in attendance and spirit, there is a sense of excitement and renewed commitment. That is the feeling that the Board and committee members—particularly membership chair Agnes Peterson, who organized the meeting—came away with this year.

During the business meeting, treasurer Bob Cherny discussed in some detail several important recent Board actions. The first is the creation of an endowment fund, the interest from which will be used to support the work of members in the form of small grants-in-aid. The amounts will be modest at first, but as the endowment grows, through contributions, both the number and the size of the grants will increase. A committee is being formed to establish guidelines and to devise an application form for the first grants, which will be awarded next year. The Board also approved the establishment of a 'seed money' fund for members who need help in getting a self-supporting project started. Such grants would be paid back when the project is fully established. We are excited about the possibility of offering such tangible help, no matter how modest, to our members. When complete details have been worked out they will be announced in the Newsletter.

Writing, publishing, and library use are continuing concerns of our members. Another publication workshop, with emphasis upon various writers' issues, will be planned for this year. Georgia Wright will be organizing another library orientation at UC Berkeley, this time on use of the computerized catalogues for subject searches. The Newsletter will also carry more information about library use. If you have encountered problems at libraries or archives, or know about new acquisitions or out-of-the-way collections, be sure to contact Newsletter editor Monica Clyde.

The many excellent suggestions made at the annual meeting have helped us to plan our program for the year and improve member services. We look forward to hearing from all of you as we begin our ninth year.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Institute's Annual Membership Meeting was held on Saturday, February 20, at the Seven Hills Conference Center on the campus of San Francisco State University. A record number of members and friends attended the meeting.

Treasurer Bob Cherny reported that the Institute is in excellent financial health. There is, in fact, a surplus, which will be used to establish an endowment fund to support members' scholarly projects. (See also the President's Message.)

Membership chair Agnes Peterson reported that total membership of the Institute now stands at 163. She presented an informative profile of our widely varied membership, which includes art historians, historical novelists, current affairs writers, biographers, historians of the Colonial Period, scholars interested in plays and in playwriting, European historians, architectural critics, women historian, to name just a few. Our members are scattered all over the country, and two are living in Europe, but most of the membership lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Bogna Lorence-Kot, co-chair of programs, reported on activities and events sponsored or co-sponsored by the Institute last year. There were eight work-in-progress sessions, and four major events co-sponsored by the Institute: a conference on historical methodology at San Francisco State University, "Berlin in the Twenties" at the Goethe Center in San Francisco, a conference honoring Carl Degler at Stanford University, and a fellowship and grants workshop at Mills College.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Monica Clyde, presented a slate of five candidates for the election. Joanne Lafler and Glenna Matthews were nominated for re-election to the Board. Bogna Lorence-Kot and Jim Silverman had originally been appointed to the Board when unexpected vacancies had occurred during the year. Ethel Herr was nominated as a new member to the Board. There were no additional nominations from the floor, and the candidates were elected unanimously.

Leaving the Board were Nancy McCauley, formerly program chair, and Carl Guarneri. Both were thanked for their work in behalf of the Institute and for their ongoing commitment.

Joanne Lafler talked about a limited consulting service now being offered by the Institute to non-profit institutions. Joanne and Ellen Huppert have been in contact with several organizations in need of organizing their archives and writing their institutional history. There will be no charge for this service at this time since the Institute wants to establish a track record of its consulting services.

After lunch, which featured several common-interest tables, the afternoon program offered a fascinating illustrated lecture by Gray Brechin, "Megafollies: The History of Progress that did not happen." Gray presented numerous slides of projects that were considered at one time or another for the Bay Area—projects ranging from a band of freeways circling the city to a large shopping center built over the Bay near the Embarcadero. The vivid presentation and the questions and comments that followed brought the meeting to a spirited conclusion.

—Monica Clyde

CONFERENCE REPORT

California Working Women in the Forties

"The war made me live better. . . . My sister always said that Hitler was the one that got us out of the white folks' kitchen." This provocative statement, quoted by keynote speaker Sherna Berger Gluck from an oral history in her book *Rosie the Riveter Revisited*, set the theme for a conference on "California Working Women in the Decade of the Forties," held in March at the Labor Archives and Research Center at San Francisco State University. Looking back on the forties from the perspective of the women's liberation, Gluck noted that many of the gains made by women, especially in economic independence and self-esteem, were temporary. Yet the influence of the war upon the lives of many women would be profound, lasting, and often positive.

Picking up these contradictory threads on the second day of the conference, Sue Cobble, Professor of Labor Education at Rutgers, discussed the effects of the wartime economy on working-class women. The picture she painted was not one of limitless possibilities in which women worked side-by-side with men, earning equal pay for work directly related to the war effort. It is true that many more women became wage-earners, and that married women and older women moved into the work force in unprecedented numbers, but the popular image of glamorous "Rosies" who put down their nail-files to take up welding tools was a distortion of the truth, according to Cobble. The growth of the "pink collar ghetto," in which lower-paying jobs were redefined as female, was the story of the forties.

Despite the bleakness of this picture, Cobble also saw some positive developments. In the aftermath of the war, women became a majority in some unions for the first time. Numerous strikes in 1946 indicate that women were responding militantly to their deteriorating position in the work force. Black women, who generally fared poorly, made some economic gains in the public sector. The seeds of a continuing debate within the women's movement were sewn during the forties, as working-class women demanded not only equal pay but special protection for women workers and recognition of family needs.

Lynn Childs, the first of eight women who told of their war-work experiences in the Saturday morning session, is a black woman who fared better than most, despite racism. Childs, who appeared in the film *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter*, described her progress from "unhappy domestic" to ship-fitter's helper. At a shipyard in Richmond she had to settle for a lesser job, as a burner—which she compared to cutting a dress pattern, only with an acetylene torch on metal—when, despite her excellent performance in the ship-fitter's training course, she was passed over for a better-paid job in favor of three white women and a white man.

The effect of the war upon unions was discussed by several speakers. Despite a shortage of nurses, Esther Blanc was expelled from the California Nurses Association for her attempts to organize her co-workers at a hospital in Berkeley. Helene Powell and Betty DeLosada spoke of sex discrimination in Local 6, a warehouse unit of the ILWU, one of the most progressive unions in the nation. Before the war not only were men's and women's jobs kept separate—women did low-paying "belt-line" work—but male and female workers voted in separate units and no women served as elected officials. Powell noted that "Pearl Harbor changed all of that." With the influx of women workers, many of whom took over the better-paid jobs of drafted men, the separate units were combined and a woman was elected as a business agent—gains that were permanent. As a shop steward, DeLosada helped negotiate one of the first maternity leaves at Local 6—capitalizing upon the publicity surrounding the Helen Hayes "act of God" pregnancy case. This and many other benefits that are now taken for granted came about through increased participation by women in unions.

Reeva Olson and Lorna Johnson pointed out that white-collar jobs could be as regimented and oppressive as factory work. Olson's description of working in a large insurance company sounded like something out of Kafka, as did Johnson's account of the numbing schedules and regimentation of telephone operators. (Though invisible to the public, they had to observe a strict dress code.) It is not surprising that both women became union activists. The protracted, ultimately successful strike of telephone operators in 1946 was an example of increased militancy by women workers.

Louise Wright remembers enjoying her job as policewoman in the Navy shipyard at Mare Island in spite of her initial difficulty getting a security clearance because members of her family were living in German-occupied

Yugoslavia. Despite her excellent credentials, Josephine Cole, a black educator, encountered racial discrimination in the San Francisco schools in the early forties. She was eventually hired at Balboa High School, in part because male teachers were being drafted and the District couldn't keep bypassing her forever.

Author Tillie Olson, co-keynote speaker on Friday night, brought up the subject of the "eighty-hour week" with which working mothers struggled—and continue to struggle. After an introduction by Marjorie Lasky of Diablo Valley College, four speakers on Saturday afternoon addressed the problem of "Working Women at Home" during the forties. Joyce Maupin, a founder of Union WAGE, worked in a factory where paper and burlap bags were manufactured under abysmal conditions, with low pay. Coping as best she could with her own child care problems, she noted the tremendous turn-over among working mothers under the strain of full-time work and domestic responsibilities. Sylvia Weinstein, a child care specialist, noted that provisions for child care were especially good on the sites of heavy war work. But jobs and conditions such as this were not the norm for working women in the forties.

The effect of the war upon home life was experienced very differently by Virginia Smith Castillo and Elaine Black Yoneda. Castillo was fortunate in finding well-paid work as an electrician's helper. The hours were long, however, despite the shorter working day for women, because she had a lengthy commute from San Francisco to Mare Island. At least she was able to make informal child care arrangements with a neighbor whom she knew and trusted. For Yoneda, a Caucasian married to a Japanese American, part of the war was spent with her husband and young son in the Manzanar relocation camp, where inadequate housing, poor working conditions, and an unhealthy climate added to the stress of domestic disruption.

Summing up the discussion on working women at home, Sheila Lichtman observed that more than half of the wage-earning women in San Francisco during those years had recently come into the area. Being without the traditional support systems of family, neighbors, and friends made the stresses far worse. She suggested that more study needs to be done on other issues that contributed to stresses on working mothers, such as job safety and occupational health.

In the course of the conference the point was frequently made that the gains women made under the extraordinary conditions of the war years should not be overemphasized, and that many problems experienced by working women in the forties have still not been resolved. But Charles Wollenberg, from Vista College, offered what might be called a 're-revisionist' view in summing up the conference. The war years *were* a watershed for women, he insisted. Many of the women who entered the work force for the first time did so permanently, changing forever the realities (if not the myths) of family life in America. Although some of the effects were not to be felt for many years, the changing consciousness of women in the forties laid the groundwork for reforms in the workplace and for the women's movement of the sixties. The women we had heard about, and from, had participated in a true revolution.

The Institute was pleased to be a co-sponsor of the conference.

—Joanne Lafler

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

January

New member Prixilla Hexter hosted a work-in-progress session for Edith Gelles on January 31. Titled "A Gendered Perspective on the Constitution," Gelles's paper examined a one-year correspondence between Abigail Adams and Thomas Jefferson in which the two former friends explored the nature of the breach between their families. Their correspondence, according to Gelles, was gendered: Adams argued from a female mode of reasoning while Jefferson's approach was masculine. The issues of gender difference and whether this case study successfully presented the 'difference' inspired a lively discussion following the presentation.

March

On Saturday March 26 at the home of John Brunn, new member Robert Goss presented some of his research on the writer B. Traven, whose identity has mystified—and continues to mystify—literary detectives. Between 1925 and 1960 Traven published a dozen novels and many stories, almost all set in Mexico and dealing with Mexican social and political problems. In his attempt to clarify the historical background of Traven's identity and writing, Goss concentrated on the activities of American conscientious objectors and radical labor organizers who fled to Mexico between the U.S. entry into World War I and the amnesty of 1923. It has been claimed that Gerald Gale, the first-person narrator of Traven's early novel, *The Cotton Pickers*, was modelled on Linn A. E. Gale, an American exile who tried to bring socialist ideas into the mainstream of the Mexican Revolution. Goss's research brought out fascinating details of Linn Gale's career and of the activities of Bolshevik undercover agent Mikhail Borodin (a.k.a. Axelrod), M. N. Roy, and Borodin's contact man in Mexico City, an American who called himself Manny Gomez. All this makes Linn Gale seem unlikely as a model for Gerard Gale. On the other hand, Goss showed the similarities between the Mexican union depicted in *The Cotton Pickers* (first published in 1926 in Germany under the title *Der Wobbly*) and the Mexican syndicalist union La Casa del Obrero Mundial, a close ally of the American Industrial Workers of the World, or Wobblies.

The presentation illuminated a few of the myriad strands of a fascinating puzzle that has captured the imagination of scholars. The mystery of B. Traven, in the meantime, remains only partly solved.

PROFILE

Agnes Peterson: the Hoover Institution's Curator of Middle European Collections

My friend and colleague at Stanford, Agnes Peterson, and I have shared many years as members and chairs of committees and have served on the board of the IHS. During that time I have developed a kind of awe of Agnes's special gifts for diligent organization and can-do practicality, which are the hallmarks of her long and distinguished career at the Hoover Institution. A mutual friend, Barry Katz of Stanford, sums up the role Agnes has played for literally hundreds of scholars and specialists who have turned to her collections and her expertise. "A mere glance at the 'Acknowledgments' page of most books on modern European history will confirm my own experience: that Agnes Peterson is one of the great, insufficiently-sung contributors to the field."

Agnes's office at Hoover Tower is a sunny room with comfortable chair and tidy desk overlooking a small grove of eucalyptus trees. Once, while attending an IHS Membership Committee meeting in her office, I looked about and finally began to understand Agnes's secret of being able to produce, at the drop of a hat, any piece of information or document one could imagine. Every record, even tiny scraps of paper, is arranged in pamphlet boxes which line her office in neat shelves. Each pamphlet box is carefully labelled and colored.

Agnes's distinctive and orderly mind and her natural predilection for the most sensible and practical solution to any problem are qualities that unfolded gradually in her career. Fresh from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor's degree in history, she began as a research assistant for the National Film Board of Canada.

"I started out as a negative-cutter, the lowest of the low. When the administration learned that I was a historian, they stuck me in the film library—a stock shot library—where it was my job to take care of overseas films, mostly British armed forces film. During the critical VJ-day period when the Film Board had to turn out an end-of-the-war propaganda film in very little time, my boss was on leave and I remember desperately looking for a stock shot of Emperor Hirohito on his white horse. We found it, and the film went out."

Agnes returned to graduate school and earned an advanced degree in history from Radcliffe College.

"When I finished Radcliffe in 1949, my parents moved to Berkeley. For many years, my father had been professor of Biochemistry at the University of Berlin, the University of Basel, and the University of Toronto before coming to California to become Professor and Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry at the University of California. I was the only girl in our family. While my brothers were encouraged to go on and excel in the sciences, I was given lots of support to go on in anything *but* science.

Agnes Peterson at her desk.

"After coming to California, I eventually took a job at the California Historical Society doing bookkeeping and working on membership. I learned a great deal about the history of San Francisco and the Bay Area. The Society gave lunches and parties, and I had to make the arrangements, do the exhibits and decorations, and open the champagne. I am good at that due to this training!

"I applied at the Hoover Institution and got a temporary job replacing someone who had gone on leave for the summer. I was given responsibility doing reference work and exhibits. Later, I took the place of the curator of the Western European collection who had asked for a summer's leave and who eventually did not come back. I was a temporary, acting curator for quite some time.

"What fascinates me most about the Hoover Institution and my work there, which finally settled in on a permanent basis by 1959, is that at its best it is a superb research resource in history, political science, and economics. Since we are a private organization we can move much more quickly than state universities or government libraries can. We depend upon a corps of well-trained and experienced curators who have developed

their own lines of communication, sometimes have friends in high places, and who take great pride in collecting sources that they believe are going to be of use to the scholars of the future. The whole point of the organization of the library is: get the material now, while it is possible to get it, for the scholars of the future to use. I try to collect material to be used five to ten years away.

"I have, for example, spent a great deal of time and effort on the French Fifth Republic and the Algerian War. For the Algerian War, we obtained material from Algeria issued by the National Front of Liberation that was not obtainable in France. I exchanged my duplicates with one of the curators at the Bibliothèque Nationale for Cuban material that had been inaccessible to us here. The best reward for any of us is when a visiting scholar comes to us for a document after a long search everywhere else; or when we have the newspaper of a particular political party or obscure group, such as the *Orgelsberger Eulenspiegel* (journals published by prisoners of war), which are virtually nonexistent anywhere else in the world.

"I have done a good deal of bibliographical work, mostly in an attempt to let scholars know what they can expect to find at Hoover. After all, I collected the material so I am probably the person for whom it is easiest to describe the particular items."

I asked Agnes if her apparent interest in women's history was due to the nature and abundance of research material in the Hoover Library.

"I am not particularly a feminist historian. I think I came to these particular subjects because the material was at hand and was accessible to me. But I very firmly believe that women are half the sky, and that they should be given their due in song and story, and in real life too. I have always felt an obligation to help and to be a mentor to my younger female colleagues.

"I am always on the lookout for interesting new ideas and trends in historical scholarship. I read professional literature in many languages—publications, bulletins, newsletters, journals, anything and everything. New methodologies provide me with the knowledge of coming trends in the field. This enables me to continue collecting as the curator of Western European materials, mindful of what will be vital to scholarship in the future."

In characteristic understatement, Agnes sums up her remarkable career as having been brought about by her being "the right person at the right spot at the right time." Surely there is more to the making of this outstanding archivist and scholar than mere good luck. She has made splendid use of the opportunities and challenges coming her way. The Institute for Historical Study is fortunate to be a beneficiary of Agnes Peterson's many talents and her capacity for commitment and hard work.

—Nancy McCauley

BOOK REVIEW

Women in the World: Annotated History Resources for the Secondary Student. Lyn Reese and Jean Wilkinson, eds. The Scarecrow Press, Inc., Methuen, New Jersey and London, 1987.

Institute members Lyn Reese and Jean Wilkinson have compiled a much-needed bibliography of printed resources on women throughout the world. Their particular objective was to make this material available to secondary-school teachers who wish to incorporate women's history into the curriculum. In the words of the editors, "We need to hear from the women themselves in order to learn about their day-to-day lives, how they deal with their concerns, and how they create bases of power—not only today but throughout time."

The six chapters focus on different geographic areas, ranging from Africa, Asia, and Europe to the Middle East. Each chapter is subdivided into background information, reference material, autobiographies and biographies, first person accounts, fiction, and curriculum.

The section on Europe is by far the most extensive, as might be expected. Much of the material on women in Third World countries covers only contemporary matters. This situation reflects the current state of writing and publishing in women's history. In the introduction to each chapter the editors point out the obvious gaps in knowledge. Historians with interests in Third World countries should take note of this in order to start filling some of these gaps.

There is a useful index of titles and places, and an appendix listing addresses of publishers. The suggestions on how to use the available resources reflect the editors' many years of experience in the classroom. They provide ideas for classroom readings, outside readings, and individual and group research projects, as for instance a comparative study using the students' own home experience in exploring the subject of "Haruko's World: A Japanese Farm Woman and her Community."

The Background/Reference section of each chapter lists basic books on women's history.

The editors point out, with some pride, that their book was prepared by them on a computer in a camera-ready format. This allows for easy up-dating of the material.

Thanks to the thorough and careful research done by Reese and Wilkinson, *Women in the World* will become an invaluable and handy resource for teachers exploring women's history with their students.

—Ellen Huppert

NEW MEMBERS

The Institute extends a warm welcome to the following new members.

Alfred W. Baxter is the director of the Sonoma County Historical Society and the Managing Editor of the Bohemian Club Annals. He graduated from Stanford and received his M.A. in history from the University of Maryland. He is interested in land titles and settlement in Northern California, in the history of the Bohemian Club, and in San Francisco cultural history in general, and has published on each of these subjects.

Servando Gonzales received his education in Cuba; he holds degrees in history and teaching methodology from the University of Havana. After leaving Cuba in 1981 he became a free lance journalist in Switzerland and later in New York writing for Spanish-language journals. He has published extensively in Spanish and is currently working on a book about the Cuban missile crisis of 1962.

Robert Goss received his B.A. and M.A. in German from UCLA, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at UC Berkeley. He also holds a M.L.S. from UC Berkeley. His particular area of interest is B. Traven, the enigmatic writer whose personal history and writings continue to attract considerable scholarly attention. *Text und Kritik* (Göttingen, West Germany) has just published his most recent article on Traven. Bob has also been active in Bay Area theater and radio productions.

Pamela Staley Herr received her B.A. in English from Harvard/Radcliffe and her M.A. from George Washington University. She has just published a biography of Jessie Benton Fremont, and has also written articles on California history. She is a member of the Western Association of Women Historians.

Susan Lehman is a public historian who received her B.A. and M.A. from UC Santa Barbara. She is a consultant researcher writing a Division History of the US Army Corps of Engineers, South Pacific Division. She has been working extensively at the National Archives in San Bruno where she met IHS member Doris Linder who introduced her to the Institute.

Jean Matthews received her B.A. from the University of London, her M.A. from Smith College, and her Ph.D. from Harvard University. Her husband Fred Matthews has been a member of the Institute since last year.

Jean has published a book: *Rufus Choate. The Law and Civic Virtue*. She has also published a number of articles on American history and on Women's history.

Anne MacLachlan received a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in history from UC Irvine. She is currently teaching at UC Berkeley in an extension freshman program on the "History of European Civilization from 1500." She has published in German and in Dutch and is at present working on two subjects: "Prussian Judges in Weimar Society," and "the Rise of the Dutch Multinationals."

Harvey Shapiro received his B.A. from Brooklyn College, attended the New School for Social Research, and also studied at the University of Munich. He has published widely, both non-fiction and fiction. In 1986 he wrote *Democracy in America: A political history of the United States, 1620–1789*. He is at work currently on a "Cold War Trilogy."

Johan van der Zande is a Dutch citizen who received his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Amsterdam. He is particularly interested in early modern European history, the history of political ideas, and European Intellectual History. He has held Dutch government fellowships and has spent two years at the Institute for European History at the University of Mainz in West Germany. He has published widely in German, English, and Dutch.

Jane Shaw received her A.B. in history from Stanford University. Her particular historical interest is focused on British social, political, and military history from the Victorian era through the 1920s. She is at present working on a historical novel. She learned about the Institute at the Hoover Roundtable, where she presented a work-in-progress on her historical novel/biography.

CALIFORNIA MANUSCRIPT AWARD

San Diego Independent Scholars announces a $1,000 prize for the best unpublished scholarly book or article written by a California independent scholar. The funds were provided by the Kolar Foundation. The winner will present a lecture at the November 16, 1988 meeting of SDIS, where the award will be presented. Travel expenses will be paid. Send two copies of the manuscript with return postage to Independent Scholars' Competition, c/o The Independent Scholar, 105 Vicente Rd., Berkeley, CA 94705. Include a *vita* and a cover sheet with your name and title, but omit your name from the manuscript. Deadline is August 1, 1988.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Jack Boas's book *Boulevard des Misères: The Story of Transit Camp Westerbork* is scheduled for publication in Dutch in April 1988. He also has an article, "Etty Hillesum," that will be published in *Dimension, Journal of the Holocaust*.

Robert Cherny will present a paper on the early stages of the Harry Bridges deportation case (1934–39) at the Southwest Labor Studies Conference, April 29–30, at Loyola-Marymount University in Los Angeles.

Mary Agnes Dougherty and **Lyn Reese** have now completed the second video in their ongoing project of producing videos on California history for fourth graders. The second video is titled "Sketches from the Capitol" and

highlights the capitol at Sacramento and deals with responsibilities of citizenship. The projects have found responsive audiences, and a third video, on the old town pueblo in San Diego, is already in the making.

Edith Gelles participated in a panel that explored the status of women in the early American republic at the symposium "Women and the Constitution" that took place in Atlanta, Georgia, February 11–12.

Quentin Griffiths published articles on collegiate church clergy in the French Capetian government in *Medieval and Renaissance Studies* (University of British Columbia) and *Revue Mabillon*.

Francis V. O'Connor will travel to the San Francisco Bay Area in May to deliver a lecture at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor for the Archives of American Art symposium, "Earthquake to Albright: Modernism in Northern California, 1906–1945." The title of his lecture is "The Development of the Proto-Modernist Mural: Academic Wall-Painting in Northern California from the Panama-Pacific International Exposition to Diego Rivera." The lecture will be Saturday, May 7, as part of the afternoon program scheduled from 2:00–4:00 p.m. For information and registration material call (415) 556–2530.

The Year of the Dragon proved auspicious for **Sylvia Sun Minnick** who celebrated the publication of her book, *SAMFOW: The San Joaquin Chinese Legacy*, during Chinese New Year. SAMFOW, or the "third city" in the Cantonese dialect, referred to Stockton, California, the gateway to the southern Mother Lode and the San Joaquin Valley. *SAMFOW* is the history of the Chinese in the San Joaquin from the mid-1800s to the present. Minnick, who teaches the Asian-American section at California State University-Stanislaus in Turlock, is also the chairperson of the city of Stockton's Cultural Heritage Board.

Patricia Swensen published an article in *The Journal of British Studies* in January 1988 on "Patronage from the Privy Chamber: Sir Anthony Denny."

Ruth Willard was honored at the Women's Breakfast at the AHA national conference in Washington, D.C. in December 1987 for her role as coordinator of community projects involving San Francisco State University and the community. Frances Keller, President of the Coordinating Committee for Women in the Historical Profession, presented the award.

Ruth also gave a presentation on "The Female and the Specie: Women of the California Gold Rush" at the Conference of the Coalition for Western Women's History, August 13–15, 1987 at SFSU.

Georgia Wright gave a talk on French Gothic at Columbia University in March. The title of her talk was "Engraved Tombs and the Question of Popular Iconography." She will give the same talk—in French—at Fonterrant, France in May.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Historical Fiction Writers Self-Help Group

The Historical Fiction Writers Self-Help Group has met twice so far. The group presently consists of ten people, who meet on the fourth Saturday of each month. They discuss and critique their manuscripts. Members are working on a variety of projects, including short stories, novels, plays, and fictionalized biographies. Topics range from ancient and medieval to early modern history and the American frontier, and from women's history to political and social problems. For more information call Ethel Herr at (408) 734–4707.

Introduction to Desktop Publishing

Peter Browning will conduct a free workshop in the use of the page-formatting program Ventura Publisher for PC, XT, and AT computers. This should be of interest to anyone who intends to self-publish, especially those who wish to have control over the layout and appearance of their own work. A tentative time for the workshop is April 24 or May 1—several hours on a Sunday at Peter's apartment in Lafayette.

Contact Peter at (415) 283–3184.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

National Council on Public History

The National Council on Public History and the Organization of American Historians will hold a joint meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, April 6–9, 1989. The NCPH Program Committee invites submissions for complete sessions, individual papers, or media presentations. While proposals may be on any aspect of public history, presentations or sessions that address the general program theme of "Consciousness and Society" are particularly welcome. Proposals should consist of a two-page summary and a *vita*. Deadline for proposals is June 1, 1988. Send three copies of the proposal to Patricia Mooney Melvin, Department of History, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, AR 72204.

Coalition for Western Women's History

The Coalition for Western Women's History announces "The Women's West: Race, Class, and Social Change," a national conference, at the Seven Hills Conference Center, San Francisco State University, August 13–16, 1988. For further information contact WWH, Women Studies Program, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164.

CORRECTION

In our write-up of Francis V. O'Connor's work-in-progress last October, we incorrectly described the scope of his forthcoming book, *The Mural in America*, as covering only 19th century academic art, when in fact this is only one aspect of a much larger study covering American wall painting from native American times to the Community Mural.

EDITOR'S NOTE

We welcome a new member to the editorial board: Nancy McCauley, who just finished two terms on the Board of Directors. Nancy will help out in many different ways, but she will be particularly on the look-out for news about our members on the Peninsula. She is making her debut in this issue with her profile of Agnes Peterson. Alison Lingo is leaving the editorial board at this time and we thank her for her commitment in the past.

The deadline for submitting material for the next issue is June 11. Please send membership news to Kathleen Casey, 1130 Delaware Street, Berkeley, CA 94702.

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Direct membership inquiries to Agnes F. Peterson, Membership Chair, 362 Yerba Buena 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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