The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

Volume IX, No. 3 Fall 1988

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The fall season has gotten underway with a large number of work-in-progress meetings already held or scheduled, and a major public event, a workshop with the intriguing title "Independent Scholarship for Love and Money," planned for Saturday, December 3 at Mills College. Workshop coordinator Jim Silverman has assembled a program that addresses a wide range of interests and concerns, both philosophical and practical. Speakers include Institute members Glenna Matthews, Peter Palmquist, Ruth Willard, and Peter Browning. You will be receiving a flier with more information.

A new season of lunchtime meetings of the Readers' Roundtable at the Hoover Institution is also underway. The first speaker, Jonathan Haslam, a Senior Research Fellow at King's College, Cambridge, discussed "Soviet Far Eastern Policy, 1933–1941," on September 20. Meetings are held in room 250 of the Herbert Hoover Memorial Building on the Stanford campus. If you wish to receive announcements of subsequent meetings, contact Agnes Peterson, Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, Stanford, CA 94305–6010.

The annual retreat for past and present Board members will take place over the weekend of October 22 at Lake Tahoe. This year the Board will be discussing ways to expand our membership, which has not grown enough during the past year to offset the inevitable attrition. A perennial problem is the difficulty of locating independent scholars. You can help us by sending the names of potential members to membership chair Agnes Peterson, either at her office (above) or at her home: 362 Yerba Buena Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022. We encourage potential members to attend meetings and get to know us before completing their applications.

IN MEMORIAM

Sylvia H. Myers

We are saddened to report the death of an esteemed colleague, Sylvia H. Myers, on June 29, 1988. An active member of the Institute since 1980, Sylvia presented her work on the bluestocking writer Elizabeth Carter at our first work-in-progress meeting, thereby helping to launch our most successful ongoing program. She was a graduate of Brooklyn College, Cornell University, and UC Berkeley, where she earned a Ph.D. in English, and combined a busy teaching schedule with research and with her involvement in the Institute and numerous professional societies. In 1982 she received the Ellen Moers Memorial Fellowship of the Tulsa Center for the Study of Women's Literature at the University of Tulsa. The fellowship enabled her to carry on the principal research for her book, *The Bluestocking Circle: Women, Friendship and the Life of the Mind in Eighteenth-Century England*, which will be published by Oxford University Press.

Like the subjects of her book, she was part of a network of friends and scholars who sustained one another in their work. Her loss will be deeply felt.

—Joanne Lafler

INSTITUTE GRANTS-IN-AID

The Board of the Institute has established a grants-in-aid program for Institute members to support a variety of scholarly activities. An endowment fund in the amount of $5,000 has been set up, the interest of which will be used to accomplish this goal. Applications for the first grant are now invited. Send a curriculum vitae and a one-page letter of intent to Anne MacLachlan, 459 44th St., #D, Oakland, CA 94609, by January 31, 1989. The winner of the award will be announced by March 15.

The Board is trying to encourage a broad range of scholarly activities. Thus, the letter of intent should explain how a grant of approximately $350.00 would advance the member's research or scholarly development. Appropriate uses of the money might include travel expenses for research purposes or to attend a conference, software, photographs to be used in a publication, computer searches, editing services, secretarial expenses, photocopying, micro-filming, and child care. A committee consisting of members of the San Diego Independent Scholars will review all applications and decide on the winner, so that there will be no conflict of interest in the decision making process.

At this time there is only enough money for one award the first year. The Institute hopes to raise more money to expand the program in order to offer multiple awards. The stronger the applicant pool and the better the ideas generated by members, the easier it will be to raise

money for this purpose. The Board hopes that many members will apply.

UPCOMING EVENTS

French Revolution Film Series

For better or worse—most historians would say for worse—commercial films have affected popular conceptions of great historic events. The French Revolution is no exception. Beginning with D.W. Griffith's *Orphans of the Storm* in 1922, generations of audiences were treated to images of mobs sweeping through the streets of Paris, and of aristocrats mounting the scaffold. The historical lesson most often taught, especially in films made for English-speaking audiences, is that events moved rapidly from the taking of the Bastille to the Terror, and that aristocrats were the chief victims of the Terror, which ended when Napoleon took charge.

Can "bad history" be turned to good advantage? Members of the Institute who have been planning a film series in connection with the bi-centennial of the French Revolution believe that it can. The program, co-sponsored with the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, begins at the Legion of Honor Museum on Saturday, February 5, with a showing of the influential film version of *A Tale of Two Cities* (1935) starring Ronald Colman. Before each film showing there will be introductory remarks on popular and historical sources, issues dealt with in the film, etc. We will also provide resource material, including lists of suggested reading.

Other films in the program include the Peter Brook production of Peter Weiss' *Marat/Sade*, Jean Renoir's *La Marseillaise*, Ettore Scola's *La Nuit de Varennes*, and Andrzej Wajda's *Danton*. The Museum is also planning morning lectures in connection with some of the films. Karen Offen will be one of the lecturers. More information will be forthcoming in the next Newsletter or in Update.

BOOK REVIEWS

Rochelle Gatlin, *American Women Since 1945*. Jackson, Miss., 1987.

In *American Women Since 1945*, Rochelle Gatlin provides a valuable overview of postwar developments affecting women. The book provides a synthesis of relevant literature in several fields, and will be especially useful in the classroom.

Gatlin begins with the anti-woman backlash that immediately followed the war. Here she is retracing ground already covered by William Chafe and others, although it is necessary to include the material for students who will be learning about the period for the first time. Her analysis of the 1960s will also be familiar to those acquainted with the field of women's history. But when she gets to the more recent past, she hits her stride because hers is the first synthesis of the period by a historian. Gatlin is impressively fair to the many components of the women's movement as it has blossomed and broadened in the last fifteen years. She introduces us to socialist-feminism, the movement for women's spirituality, and women's peace activism. Another strength of the book is the author's mastery of data about patterns of female employment. We become well-acquainted with the configuration of the so-called "pink collar ghetto," where most women still work. The book is highly recommended for all who teach either women's history or twentieth century American history.

—Glenna Matthews

(In the past, we have only reviewed books written by our members. As a new feature, we will publish book reviews written by our members of books they find particularly worthwhile. We invite members to send us their reviews of books that would be of significant interest to our readership. Our first contribution is by editorial board member Nancy McCauley and was originally written for the CCWHP Newsletter.)

Riane Eisler, *The Chalice and the Blade: Our History, Our Futures*. New York: Harper & Row, 1987.

Riane Eisler's new book is a striking contribution to a theoretical framework for a history of gender relations and their consequences. From the earliest prehistory to the late twentieth century, Eisler sees a complex pattern of two models of human social organization: dominator (male) and partnership (female) paradigms. Structuring time and culture through two strands, she invents the terms "androcracy" (male social system ruled through force or threat of force) and "gylany" (a female/male linked partnership social system). Drawing upon theory rooted in the behavioral, social, and biological sciences, she presents history as an evolving construct of relatively unchanging gender-based systems perpetually in conflict. The title of the book echoes this dialectical construct wherein the meaning of the chalice is life-generating and nurturing whereas the blade connotes the power to take rather than to give life. The underlying problem revealed by history is not men as sex, rather it is the social system in which the power of the blade is idealized. Thus political, economic, religious, and ideological systems throughout historical time, although seemingly dichotomous . . . are in essence different manifestations of the androcratic/dominator blade.

Eisler constructs her book along traditional lines, beginning in prehistory with those ancient societies seemingly organized within the gylanic model. Her footnotes yield

a wealth of sources for her interpretation, including Hawkes, Levy, Mellaart, and especially Gimbutas—all of whom have in the past laid out the archaeological evidence and its interpretation in exhaustive textual and visual detail. This reviewer is puzzled, however, by the lack of visual evidence in Eisler's book—even rudimentary and cursory visual images for readers less familiar with persuasive archaeological basis for interpreting history as gylanic. As an art historian, this reviewer felt treated once again to the seemingly hollow claim of text without visual proof—a mockery of the stupendous art history which belongs to women of our ancient past, the first potters and weavers and models of the human being.

The central section of the book treats world history familiar to us all, history we were taught was "History" but shown now through the prism of androcratic systems and their rigid enforcement. Glimmers of lost gylanic values of men and women emerge in the myths and religions of the East and West, such as in the man Jesus, the worship of Mary, and the role of Kuan Yin. Because gylany was submerged but—according to cultural transformation theory—evolved its values historically alongside androcracy, both systems have survived thousands of years until the present time. Just as Eisler views all modern, post-enlightenment movements for social justice as evidence of a strong re-emergence of gylanic values, she sees the central thesis of cultural transformation theory as pointing to the differences in direction of the cultural evolution for dominator/androcratic and partnership/gylanic societies. In other words, these two systems evolved, and survive today—to offer conflicting values and solutions to global problems.

The *Chalice and the Blade* concludes with the depressingly familiar review of cataclysmic world problems to be solved today. . . . This concluding section, while thought-provoking, remains vague in just how the panacea is to come about. It is idealistic to a fault. Eisler does observe, however, that "the basic problem is that in male-dominated societies there are two fundamental obstacles to formulating and implementing the kinds of policies that could effectively deal with our mounting global problems. The first obstacle is that the models of reality needed to maintain male dominance require that matters relating to no less than half of humanity be ignored or trivialized. . . .

Eisler's next book should be a blueprint for the gylanic revolution. She provides copious material for theorists and activists. Ways to implement this material, however, are sketchy. Because this book is a theory of social science, which uses history as the matrix of its analysis, historians will be put off by various schemata and perhaps by the author's over-reliance on a few selected sources at critical points. Nevertheless, *The Chalice and the Blade* is a provocative contribution to feminist theory because it provides a synthesis of concepts useful for bolstering a broad range of issues concerning gender and history.

—Nancy McCauley

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

August

Ingela Albers, a visiting independent scholar from Munich, presented a fascinating illustrated talk entitled "Puzzles from Olympia: Reconstructing the Subjects of the Roof Ornaments from the 5th Century (BC) Temple of Zeus," at the home of Georgia Wright. Albers, a professional artist and teacher of drawing and design in Munich, had been asked to draw the fragments of tall terra-cotta figures found in Olympia. Her work was but one part of a larger project of the German Archaeological Institute to write a comprehensive study of the fragments found at the Temple of Zeus. Ingela was chosen not only to draw the fragments but also to attempt to reconstruct these figures as they might have looked when they were whole. The drawings are intended for a book on this subject, which will be published sometime in the next few years.

It was a challenging project that involved not only careful research, but imagination, knowledge of styles of sculpture, and skill in measuring the existing fragments and in establishing the style in which they had been executed before finally drawing a complete figure. Slides shown by Ingela showed a number of fragments that she had to puzzle over, and then her "finished" product. It was fascinating to follow Ingela's explanations and reasoning as to how a fragment, which to a non-expert looked like a seemingly insignificant piece of terra cotta, fitted nicely into an upper body part of a Nike figure. She pointed out, for instance, how traces of wings indicated that the figure was not a goddess but rather a supernatural creature.

It was an instructive and very interesting presentation that was much appreciated by the audience.

August

Also in August, Servando Gonzales gave an interesting presentation on the subject "The Future of Hyperhistory," demonstrating the wonders of hypertext on a computer. The event was hosted by Ilse Sternberger at her home in San Francisco. The presentation was based on Servando's book for the Apple Macintosh, *Hypertext for Beginners.*

Hypertext, a term coined by computer visionary and philosopher Ted Nelson as early as 1965, means "non-sequential" writing. The main characteristic of hypertext is the use of links to relate different parts of material to each other. Though pragmatically related to computers, hypertext is originally a literary concept. By extension, the non-sequential use of graphics, pictures, film, music, and other media in addition to text, is called hypermedia. The use of hypertext and hypermedia for the writing of history books —particularly history text books—is what Servando Gonzales calls hyperhistory.

Although the term hypertext is relatively new, the notion of it is not new at all. Most specialists agree that the first hypertext system was described by Vannevar Bush in his 1945 article in the *Atlantic Monthly*, "As We May Think." The use of hypertext, however, is a lot older. Traditional literature—in its broadest meaning—is richly interlinked. A literature is a system of interconnected writings. Almost all writing is part of some literature. Making connections—or links—is what we mostly do when we research at a library. The role of computers in the process is to make this a thousand times faster, thereby increasing the availability of links.

In his talk Servando demonstrated his theories by including some work on his two forthcoming books, one entitled "The Riddle of the Swastika," the other "The Nuclear Deception: Nikita S. Khrushchev and the Cuban Missile Crisis."

September

Peter Mellini presented an illustrated discussion entitled "'Gabriel' at the *Daily Worker*, 1936–1956: Twenty Years of Radical Cartooning." The talk was hosted by Frances Richardson Keller at her home in San Francisco.

The object of this presentation was the cartoonist Jimmy Friel, who now lives in retirement in England. The cartoons shown on slides were indicative of the political views of the cartoonist, who had joined the staff of the *Daily Worker* in the mid-1930s. Friel chose the name Gabriel as his nom de plume for its symbolic meaning as a "prophet" of the people. According to Peter Mellini, Friel was the only "visual radical voice in Britain" in the late '30s. The targets of his political caricature were quite clear: Chamberlain, Hitler, Mussolini, to name a few. During the late 1940s, while anti-Communism was on the rise, his targets were not so clear. One cartoon showing Stalin in a paternalistically friendly attitude looking in through a window may have had a chilling effect on his audience. In 1956 Jimmy Friel resigned from the *Daily Worker* and became a free lance cartoonist working for a variety of publications, thereby diminishing his visibility.

The sources for Mellini's presentation are all collected at the Cartoon Center at the University of Kent in Britain. It was an informative and thought-provoking discussion, which presented the beginning phase of Peter's work on the subject of political cartoonists.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Positions

The History Department of California State University, Chico, invites applications for an Assistant Professor position, tenure track, in American diplomatic history, preferably with an East Asia emphasis, beginning with the Fall 1989 semester. The ability to teach the introductory survey course in U.S. history is essential. Ph.D. required.

The deadline for applications is November 1, 1988. Send applications and supporting material, including resume, dossier, and letters of recommendation, to: Dale R. Steiner, Chair, Department of History, California State University, Chico, CA 95929–0735.

The Department of History of California State University, Hayward, invites applications for an Assistant Professor position, tenure track, to begin September 1989. Area of specialization is Continental European history. Ph.D. is required. Send letter of application and resume by 30 October 1988 to: Prof. Judith M. Stanley, Chair, Department of History, California State University, Hayward, CA 94542–3045.

Colloquia

The following colloquia will be held by the Department of History, UC Berkeley, and are open to the public. Questions regarding colloquia should be directed to Janet at 642–0016.

October 17, **Frances Conte**, University of Paris-Sorbonne, "The Pagan Heritage of the Slavs," 5:00 PM, 3205 Dwinelle Hall.

October 18, **Clarence Walker**, UC Davis, "How Many Niggers Did Karl Marx Know: Peculiarities of the Americans," 4:00 PM, 3205 Dwinelle Hall.

October 26, **Carla Hesse**, Rutgers University, "Enlightenment Epistemology and the Revolutionary Author," 4:00 PM, 3205 Dwinelle Hall.

November 9, **Gregory Hanlon**, York University, Visiting Professor, UCB, "Interconfessional Tolerance in Seventeenth-Century France," 4:00 PM, Dwinelle Hall.

Bay Area Labor History Workshop

Institute member Rochelle Gatlin will speak at the Bay Area Labor History Workshop on November 13 on "Union W.A.G.E. and Working Class Feminism." Call Jean Pauline, Modern Times Bookstore, 282–9246, for place and time.

Indians, Outlaws, and Angie Debo

On October 18, PBS will air a one-hour documentary film on the life of the late Angie Debo, noted native

American scholar. Having published nine books (some still in print fifty years after their original publication) without ever having a regular academic appointment, Debo may be seen as a patron saint of independent scholars. Much of the energy that went into producing the film came from the Institute for Research in History in New York.

Debo's achievements spanned many decades. Her first book, *The Rise and Fall of the Choctaw Republic*, won the John Dunning Award of the American Historical Association in 1935. In December of 1987 she received the AHA's award for distinguished lifetime achievement. In January 1988 the award was personally delivered to her by the governor of her home state of Oklahoma. Three weeks later she died, having just celebrated her ninety-eighth birthday. The film is a fitting testimonial to a remarkable woman.

Course Proposal

Jim Silverman is calling for course proposals for extended education courses aimed at K–12 teachers in Bay Area school districts. The courses will be offered through Chapman College. If you have an idea for a course you would like to teach, contact Jim Silverman for further information at 51 Locust Ave., Larkspur, CA 94939, (415) 924–3948.

Dance for Life

Dance for Life, a multi-media presentation by Margaretta K. Mitchell, will be shown on television on the evening of December 30 at 11:00 PM on "Independent Eye," KQED's monthly showcase for short pieces by contemporary film makers and videographers. Dance for Life is both a documentary and an original photographic project that weaves rare and historic photographs of Isadora Duncan and her first American follower Florence Boynton with the more recent generations of dance at Berkeley's Temple of Wings, which Margaretta has photographed for the last 25 years.

This work grew from the time in the early 1960s when Margaretta first photographed the annual Spring Festival at the Temple. Her sensitive photos are a contemporary counterpoint to the historical photographs, and show the timeless quality of the Duncan dance style.

The project was originally sponsored by the Institute for Historical Study, and was supported by several grants. A major museum exhibition was held at the Oakland Museum in April-July 1985, at which *Dance for Life* premiered. Following the exhibition, Margaretta published *Dance for Life* in a magnificent portfolio of photogravures under the imprint of Elysian Editions.

CCH Scholars' File

James Quay, Executive Director of the California Council on the Humanities, would like the names of California humanists interested in serving on a film and speakers' program or as evaluators of projects. Please drop him a card and ask for forms for the scholars' file. CCH is located at 312 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94108, tel. (415) 391–1474.

NEW MEMBER

The Institute welcomes **William McPeak**, who received his M.A. degree in history from Pepperdine College in 1977. He is currently a technical editor and writer, but he also likes to teach. He is particularly interested in the Renaissance and in sixteenth century science and the printed book. He has done research at the Huntington, the British Library, the State Library in Vienna, and at the Victoria and Albert Museum. He has published a series of articles and has a book forthcoming, *The Renaissance Earth.*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Gray Brechin is writing an essay on visionary projects for San Francisco for the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art exhibition. He is also researching and writing a book: "Imperial San Francisco—the social and ecological impact of city building on the Pacific Basin." He is also teaching a course on this subject.

Mary Agnes Dougherty and **Lynn Reese** report that their three fourth-grade videos on California history have been released and are being shown on ITU stations throughout the State. A teacher preview was shown on KQED and will be repeated in January 1989. They are also writing a curriculum to accompany an exhibit on the history of Blacks in the East Bay, which will appear in January at the Oakland Museum.

Rochelle Gatlin gave a paper on "Union W.A.G.E. and Working-Class Feminism in the 1970s" for the Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA conference at S.F. State University in August.

Doris Linder presented a paper on "The Founding of the International Planned Parenthood Federation" at the History Institute, University of Oslo, Norway, on August 29. She also participated in a seminar at that same Institute on the development of Scandinavian social welfare programs during the 1930s.

We hear from **Peter Mellini** that *History Today* will publish his "From Britannia to Maggie: the Decline and Rise of John Bull's Descenders," co-authored with Roy T. Matthews of Michigan State University. He is also preparing chapters for a book on the origin and evolution of national symbols, such as Britannia, John Bull, Miss Liberty,

Uncle Sam, Marianne, et al. Peter would appreciate hearing from anyone with suggestions for this subject. In addition, Peter's review of *Who killed CBS?* by Peter Boyer appeared in *The Economist* in July 1988.

Margaretta Mitchell has been working as associate producer and artistic advisor for a film entitled *Isadora Duncan: Movement from the Soul*, which will premiere at the Film Arts Foundation festival on November 4 at the Roxy Theater in San Francisco.

Kathleen O'Connor presented a film program *Carved in Silence* by Felice Cowe about Chinese on Angel Island, at the Pacific Coast branch meeting of the AHA at San Francisco State University in August.

Peter Palmquist has added an impressive list of accomplishments to his already long list of achievements. Since January he has presented twelve lectures throughout the country. His Emma B. Freeman exhibit traveled to the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah and the Sutter County Museum in Yuba City. Besides receiving numerous grants for his projects, he has also been elected a fellow for distinguished scholarship by the National Stereoscopic Society.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The deadline for submitting material for the winter issue is December 15.

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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 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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Saturday, December 3rd from 9:30am to 5:00pm

SCHOLARS at WORK:	**TOPICS:**
Glenna Matthews	"An Ethical Balance"
Peter Palmquist	"Images For Books"
Ruth Willard	"King Tut Visits Macy's"
Dale Seuss	"On Funerary Architecture"
KEYNOTE ADDRESS:	
Molly MacGregor	"Creating National Women's History Week"
WORKING SESSIONS:	
Briarpatch Business Consultants	"Organizing and Marketing"
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WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION FOLLOWS

REGISTRATION FORM

Independent Scholarship for ❤ + $

Mills College Alderwood Hall

5000 McArthur Blvd., Oakland, CA

Saturday, December 3, 1988

9:00am - 5:00 pm

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

Area(s) of Interest: _____

Registration Fee: $10.00 (I.H.S. Members and Mills College students/staff)
$12.50 (General Public)

Please reserve your box lunch by 11/23/88.

- ☐ Roast Beef Croissant @ $8.50
- ☐ Shrimp Croissant @ $8.50
- ☐ I plan to provide my own lunch.

Make checks payable to the Institute for Historical Study and send them to: 1791A Pine Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Call (415) 924-3948 for information.