

# The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we get ready for another busy year of activities, I want to remind our members that, while the Institute appears to be a special, independent organization, we are actually very well connected in the "historical" world. We maintain official relationships with a variety of groups that provide us with professional and scholarly support.

During almost all of our ten-year history we have been associated with the American Historical Association. As such, we are "credentialed" and have the opportunity to participate at their annual meeting. We took this opportunity last December when we held a reception for independent scholars at the AHA meeting in San Francisco. This affiliation also puts us in contact with the Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA, at whose meetings we have, over the years, offered scholarly panels and receptions.

The Institute has also maintained close ties with the Western Association of Women Historians, which gave us our first "seed" grant of \$200 in 1979. Many of our members are also members of WAWH. We have often shared members of our boards of directors, and the Institute regularly sponsors a panel at the WAWH conferences held in northern California.

Members of the Institute played an important role in the founding of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars, with which we have been affiliated since 1989. Joanne Lafler is Secretary-Treasurer of NCIS, and *The Independent Scholar*, the quarterly newsletter published by SDIS, is edited by Georgia Wright. The Institute is pleased to support such NCIS activities as the publication of a grants and fellowships handbook for independent scholars and a directory of independent scholars.

Last but not least, we are a member of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History, an organization dedicated to promoting the cause of history and the interests of historians in all legislation before the U.S. Congress. NCCPH director Page Putnam Miller addresses a variety of issues, including appropriations bills for government agencies such as the National Archives and legislation proposing changes to the copyright laws. (If you are

interested in knowing more about the activities of NCCPH, please contact me and I will send copies of the reports to you.) There is also a California Committee for the Promotion of History. While we have no official relationship with CCPH, many Institute members are also affiliated with it.

I would like to encourage members who have connections with other history organizations to spread the word about the Institute, not only to encourage the growth of our own membership, but to create opportunities for the exchange of ideas. If you have suggestions for joint programs, please let me know. If you plan to attend meetings of other organizations, please take along some of our attractive new brochures.

—Lorrie O'Dell

## REPORT FROM PARIS

### French History in Documents

There is a corner of Paris where one may encounter French history free of modern shops, gas fumes, and hordes of people. The permanent exhibition of the Archives Nationales is housed in the eighteenth-century Hôtel de Soubise, whose vast wings graciously accommodate a Medieval tower, and whose delights include Rococo apartments, now undergoing a painstaking restoration of their gilded moldings. As a graduate student in Medieval art history, I had used the Archives in the adjoining Hôtel de Rohan, but I had never ventured into the Soubise nor discovered the exhibition, which appears to be newly installed. While teaching Gothic Art in the Ile de France this summer in Paris I also exercised my prerogative as an independent scholar by practicing history without a license, and I found this exhibition to be well designed for the person who is discovering, or rediscovering, an area of history.

In a single long room one may read French history in the original. I have returned twice since my first visit in October, drawn by the thrilling presence of the flotsam of the past. Here is a codicil to Napoleon's will, scribbled in haste in his own indifferent hand, the lines poorly spaced and the pen splitting badly in the last sentence. He asks that his ashes



be buried in Paris among the people whom he loved so much. Henri IV's Edict of Nantes, giving civil rights to Jews and Protestants, is discreetly separated by a few documents from its Revocation, by Louis XIV, which drove the Huguenots from France, impoverishing its culture and damaging its economy. The first paragraphs of these two documents resemble one another, promising, in rolling periods, to safeguard the spiritual welfare of the kingdom. The closely written long documents attest to the tortuous rationalizations: Henri was undoing the age-old privileges of the Catholics while still tainted with his Protestant past, while Louis was cravenly reestablishing them, succumbing to the pressure of the hierarchy.

Some of these documents are merely the stuff of daily administration. Their attraction lies in their antiquity or their paleographical qualities or their authors. The oldest is, surprisingly, a papyrus imported from Egypt and now rather lacy. Signed by King Dagobert, it is written in what to my eye is an indecipherable Merovingian minuscule, the wide spaces between lines allowing for the long tendrils of ascenders and descenders. The papyrus evidently concerns a division of land between brothers, and I realized that I'm not sure about the custom of primogeniture in the sixth century.

The will of Abbot Suger, whose masons, sculptors, glassmakers, and artisans created, with his encouragement, the first Gothic church, St-Denis, is vintage Suger. In one sentence he expresses his humility and his unworthiness, and in the next wonders at his own achievements and his place among the mighty. He establishes masses for his soul to be followed by treats for the monks, and then he has the will witnessed by no fewer than forty clerical witnesses. How many times I have read his little books on the administration and consecration of his church, walked around his choir, or searched out the carved heads from the portals and his altar vessels in sundry collections! But his own will, in a beautiful hand dotted with abbreviation marks like so many whimsical embellishments, while probably transcribed by a monk-secretary, was at least touched by his hand. The power of relics!

This display must be a paleographer's delight. The curious Merovingian script is reformed by Charlemagne to become easily legible Carolingian; later the rounded and differentiated twelfth-century script is transformed little by little until, in the fourteenth century, a word like "minimum" is rendered by fifteen vertical strokes. The secretarial hands of the fifteenth century must be read like a code until the Renaissance revives Carolingian-Classical forms.

In one corner is a brief note from Joan of Arc, who, after her great task was achieved and she was accompanying the newly crowned Charles VII to

Paris, thought to write the people of the Coronation city about the truce between the king and the Duke of Burgundy. Knowing how fragile were the threads linking the royal house to the communes, dukedoms, and smaller fiefdoms, and how potent still was the English claim to the crown, she worried that the Burgundians, who had taken the English side, might have signed the treaty in order to have time to recruit new adherents. The opening sentences resound with her spiritual and military authority. "My dear and good friends the good and loyal French of the city of Reims. Joan the maid wishes you to know her news and prays you and demands that you hold no doubts about the good quarrel that she carries on for the royal blood, and I promise you and vow that I will never abandon you as long as I live." We can hear her own voice, dictating this letter, change in tone as she commands in the third person and pledges her life in the first person.

Next to this homely and unadorned note is the beautiful Treaty of Troyes of 1420, setting the stage, after the Battle of Agincourt, for the next phase of the 100 Years' War. Henry V announces that he will inherit France after Charles VI's death. His Great Seal, six inches across, depicts the king on horseback. French kings preferred an enthroned pose for their seals, leaving to their nobles this warlike representation.

The Declaration of the Rights of Man, that statement of liberties that was so soon to be ignored and then suspended in the course of the Revolution, is accompanied by a brief and unofficial-looking note: "I accept purely and simply the articles of the Constitution and the Declaration of the Rights of Man that the National Assembly presented me. 5 October 1789. Louis." The date is that of the Women's March on Versailles, which would bring back "the baker, the baker's wife, and the little apprentice" to their virtual prison in the Tuileries. A special exhibit on the French Revolution has repaid return visits. The Oath of the Tennis Court, the opening volley of the Revolution, as it were, displays signatures that seem more than usually bold and legible; like the Declaration of Independence, this was an act of defiance. The letter of Louis XVI, foolishly left behind on the eve of his attempted escape in 1791, giving the lie, therefore, to the story of his kidnapping put out by supporters, is followed by the page of Louis's journal recording those days: "Tues 20 [June 1791] Depart midnight from Paris, arrived and arrested at Varennes in the Argonne at 11 in the evening. Wed. 22 Depart Varennes at 5 or 6, lunch at Ste-Menehould, arrived at 10 at Châlons. Thurs 23 They interrupted mass to hurry departure. Lunched at Châlons, dined at Epernay, found the commissioners of the Assembly, Slept at Dormans 3 hours in a chair. Sat. 25, departed Meaux



at 6:30. Arrived in Paris at 8 without a stop." End of adventure. The next day's entry, "rien du tout."

This reticent account is followed by one page of the record of votes on the king's punishment six months later. Robespierre and Danton, death; Marat, death in twenty-four hours; L. J. Egalité [the king's cousin, the Duc d'Orleans], death; Thomas Payne, imprisonment, banishment when peace [is declared].

The note Marat was writing in his bath at Charlotte Corday's behest, spotted with the blood from the deadly blow of her knife, has unaccountably been removed since October. American visitors, however, tend to gather around, and translate to each other, the last letter from Marie Antoinette, written to her sister-in-law and placing her in charge of the two children. The queen faces death with stoicism and faith, concerned only with her children, directing her daughter to guide the young king. Next to that is the record of the interrogation of the same Mme Elisabeth and the eight-year-old king as to the queen's attempt to send a note to some royalists. It is signed by the little boy in huge letters save for a small, hovering "p" that he had omitted from "Capet" on the first try.

I was pleased to find, among the ephemera of bureaucracies, an official diploma proclaiming a M. Béguin as a bona fide Conqueror of the Bastille, signed by the president of the Commission of Conquerors and by the secretary, Estienne. The latter signature would be indecipherable had I not known that Antoine Estienne held that office. Ex-priest, engineer, and pamphleteer, he had joined the volunteer army in 1792, and I had been studying his dossier at the military archives at Vincennes in preparation for writing a book on him. A minor figure, buffeted by the violent currents of the period, he clung to his role at the Bastille, his uniform, his engraved sword from the Assembly, laying claim to that moment of history whenever he was suspected of unpatriotic thoughts or denied promotion. It was satisfying to find this little artifact among all the important documents of the era. Estienne would have been pleased.

—Georgia Wright

## WORK-IN-PROGRESS

Victor Walsh

In June, at De Anza College, Victor Walsh talked about his work-in-progress, a book whose thesis is that a minority of early travelers to the American West were, in essence, conservationists. Certainly the great majority of the trappers, explorers, soldiers, artists, miners, and immigrants went west for adventure, conquest, and financial gain—the usual impelling reasons underlying Westward Expansion

and Manifest Destiny. They wrote in their reports, journals, and diaries about factual matters: where I went, what I did, what I saw. But that saving minority of sensitive and literate people saw it differently, and wrote of their amazement and awe at the vast and virgin land—and their sense that they were seeing it for a first and last time, that their successors would find only a land transformed, and ruined, beyond recognition, or—as it has turned out—even beyond imagination. Vic will make extensive use of excerpts from the writings of those who traveled and lived in the American West before its transformation.

"[Telegraph poles] really are monuments. They mark the graves of the original inhabitants of this land. Wherever such a cross appears, there people, forests, buffaloes will perish; there will perish the virginity of the soil. Today's vast silence will be transformed into the hubbub of men selling, buying, cheating, and being cheated, On the graves of the Indians a leisured professor will discourse upon the rights of nations. Over the lair of the fox, a lawyer will set up his office. Yonder where the wolf roamed, a priest will tend his flock." (A Swedish immigrant, someplace on the Great Plains.)

"Towns will spring up and flourish, and the pure, thin air of the mountains will be blackened and polluted by the smoke vomited from the chimneys of a thousand smelting furnaces; the game, once so plentiful, will have disappeared with the Indians; railroads will climb the steep sides of the mountains . . . and the valleys will be filled with fattening cattle." (George Bird Grinnell, hunter and naturalist, 1879.)

These perceptive early travelers were expressing, in a rudimentary form, what we might presently call a "land-use ethic"—the attitudes that are the foundation of our contemporary conservation movement. One has first to regard the natural world as something to be appreciated, protected, preserved, to be lived in harmoniously rather than to be exploited for mere financial gain. But the prevailing attitude was, as it is now, "the Western spirit against the wilderness." There is a fear of wilderness and a seeming intolerance of *any* natural order, and thus all of nature must be dominated, subdued, and transformed into something familiar.

"We did not think of the great open plains, the beautiful rolling hills, and winding streams with tangled growth, as 'wild.' Only to the white man was nature a 'wilderness' and only to him was the land 'infested' with 'wild' animals and 'savage' people. To us it was tame. Earth was bountiful and we were surrounded with the blessings of the Great Mystery. Not until the hairy man from the east came and with brutal frenzy heaped injustices upon us and the families we loved was it 'wild' for us." (Chief Luther Standing Bear of the Oglala Sioux, 1933.)



Vic is working with a photographer, and intends to illustrate the book with reproductions of historic photographs, paintings, and engravings, and in a number of cases to acquire present-day photos of the same scenes for comparison.

—Peter Browning

#### Ann Pinson

Ann Pinson and her five-year-old daughter spent the summer of 1975 in northern Iceland just below the Arctic Circle while Ann studied changing kinship patterns in the rural township of Holahreppur. Ann shared her experiences there and the results of her research at a work-in-progress in July at the home of Deborah Frangquist.

Ann's interest in Iceland began at SUNY Stonybrook when she took a language course and read essays on farm life written by elderly Icelanders. She went to Iceland for the purpose of studying the Icelandic cognitive language for landscape features. The topic proved less fruitful than she had anticipated, and her interest shifted to kinship patterns. She was able to extend her stay through the winter and following summer and also did research at Reykjavik. She later received a Fullbright grant that enabled her to return to Iceland and spend a year on Westman Island.

Census records and personal interviews formed the basis of Ann's data. She traced the fluctuations in household composition and the changes in women's roles in the village of Holahreppur in the northern district of Skagafjord. Iceland's economy was based on subsistence farming and the barter system until recently. While the population of the rest of Europe began to increase rapidly in the seventeenth century, it did not do so in Iceland until the eighteenth century. Commercial fishing began toward the end of the nineteenth century and brought vast changes to the country. Families had cash for the first time, and children were no longer sent to neighboring farms as servants. Extended families became the norm.

Ann is intrigued by her discovery that the ratio of men to women in Iceland was 7:10 and sometimes as low as 6:10 until the end of the nineteenth century. This is unique to Iceland, and she is still analyzing the information.

In the last two decades, the women of Iceland have brought about some major changes in Icelandic society. The women of Holahreppur were traditionally sent to work as servants on neighboring farms at the age of fifteen. As was common in Europe before the invention of mechanized milking equipment, it was the women who labored in the dairy. In the past, Icelanders lived on isolated and independent farms, but in recent years the women have formed associations that have served to centralize their com-

munities. These associations provide social, economic, and political support for the local women.

Ann has completed seven chapters of a book that will be the main product of her work in Iceland. Those who attended her presentation thoroughly enjoyed it and the lively discussion that followed.

—Myrna Smith

#### Jack Boas

On Sunday, August 12, Jack Boas spoke at Georgia Wright's home about his new project, *Children Speak: Diaries of Young Jews During World War II*. For this study, Jack has chosen five diaries from five different countries—Poland, Lithuania, Belgium, Hungary—all published in English translations, and Ann Frank's diary written in Amsterdam. There were three boys and two girls in the group he had chosen.

Jack read a chapter based on the diary of a Polish boy who was twelve years old when he started to write in 1942. He was barred from attending school, was without friends, and without his father, who had been sent to a Nazi work camp. The boy lived in a Polish village, and Jack learned that many of the Polish inhabitants had tried to help the Jews against their common enemy, the German occupation forces. But in the fall of 1942 all the Jews in the village were deported. The diary ends in July 1942.

Everyone listened with the greatest attention, and an intense and lively discussion followed his presentation. Jack had woven parts of the diary into a commentary that provided a very detailed picture of events in Poland during the middle of the war. Much of this information was unknown to the audience.

During the discussion a suggestion was made to change the format of the book to include more extensive excerpts from the diaries, followed by or interspersed with background material. It was felt that such a method would be very effective, for the words of the children are moving and direct and they present a unique view of their world. Someone suggested that the book might be a valuable tool in teaching school children about World War II.

It is sad to hear of these terrible times in the words of children who lived through them and eventually lost their lives, but it is so very important to preserve these memories, for only if we remember the past can we hope for a better future.

—Eleanor Alexander

## BOOK REVIEW

*Camera Fiends and Kodak Girls: 50 Selections by and about Women in Photography, 1840-1930*, edited by Peter E. Palmquist (New York: Midmarch Arts Press, 1989).



Historians of photography and of women's history have often noted that women are more prominent in the annals of photography than in any of the other arts. They have cited photography's ambiguous status as a fine art, reasoning that it lacked the exclusionary conventions, such as juried exhibitions, that perpetuated male bias. They also pointed to the absence of training institutions that might discriminate against women and the abundance of amateur and commercial photographers who blurred the boundaries of photography as an elite artistic endeavor. Few researchers, however, have attempted to document the participation of women in the history of photography.

Peter Palmquist's latest book is a step in that direction. His anthology of fifty selections by and about women in photography from 1840 to 1930 is intended "to dispel the notion that women were seldom involved in photography until the Photo-Secession movement." Using poems, memoirs, advertisements, essays, how-to articles, photographs, and advertisements, Palmquist tries to show "the evolution of women in photography from the pioneers of the 1840s-1860s to the massive integration of women in all aspects of the trade beginning in the 1870s." Admitting that the documentary record on women in photography was "spotty at best," he searched for references in local and national archives and compiled a bibliography from which the selections in this book were made.

Of most interest to historians of women's history and photography are the selections that reveal the special relationship of women to photography. A surprising number of essays extol photography as a profession or hobby particularly suited to women. One woman wrote, "Especially would I like to urge this, if I might, upon young wives and mothers. I know that they are the busiest of all people and that photography takes time, but after all it is a question of what is most worth while. I call my photography my fancy work, and have never regretted that it took that form rather than crocheted mats and embroidered pillows."

Another woman pointed out that the production of good photographs required patience and exactitude, qualities she felt women naturally possessed. A male essayist emphasized women's innate sensitivity to the sitter's personality and attributed one female photographer's outstanding portraits to her unique sensibilities. Still another woman proved to be a pioneer in nineteenth-century marketing strategy as well as photography. Knowing that customers desired flattering portraits of themselves, she traveled to San Francisco to learn professional hairstyling techniques and was soon advertising "free hairdressing with each studio sitting." The overall impression one gets of the women who took

photography serious is that they were not stereotypical Victorian ladies, but enterprising, determined, and often adventurous women who found both a livelihood and a means of personal expression in their camera work.

One of the strengths of Palmquist's book is his inclusion of essays about such ordinary women who took up the craft of photography. But the book also contains tributes to and biographical information about such notables as Julia Margaret Cameron, Gertrude Kasebier, Imogen Cunningham, Dorothea Lange, and Laura Gilpin.

While the entries reflect Palmquist's national search, many of them describe the experiences of women working and traveling in California and the West, the particular focus of his research and writing over the years. Because the book grew out of his "obsession with California photography," he is able to cite statistics from that state as a benchmark figure for the number of women active as photographers in the nineteenth century. Of 6,000 known photographers in California before 1900, a little more than ten percent were women.

He notes that California provided a particularly fertile ground for women photographers but fails to speculate why. This absence of sufficient background and explanatory text for the selections is one of the book's weaknesses. Anthologies can be of limited usefulness to general readers without enough historical or theoretical context to establish the significance of the selections. A careful chronological reading of *Camera Fiends and Kodak Girls* will certainly repay readers with an overview of women's varied roles in the history of photography, but one wishes that Palmquist had presented more of his extensive knowledge of photography in this book, for the selections alone do not tell the story he hoped to unfold.

—Judy Babbitts

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Franciscan Archives Moves to GTU Library

An important research center and its library is moving to Berkeley. The collection belongs to the Academy of American Franciscan History (AAFH), founded in 1944 with the purpose of "investigating and publicizing the record of Franciscan activity in the Americas during the last 500 years." The AAFH Board of Directors decided to move the Academy, with its historical research library, from Potomac, Maryland to Berkeley, where it will be a research institute affiliated with the Franciscan School of Theology at the Graduate Theological Union. The collection will be linked through FST to GTU's new Flora Lamson Hewlett Library and will serve as a



complement to the University of California's Bancroft Library.

Comprising 25,000 printed volumes and extensive manuscript materials, the collection will be of special interest to scholars in such areas as the colonial history of Mexico, Peru, and California; American ethnography; indigenous languages and cultures of the Americas; and Latin American religious history.

### SDIS Manuscript Competition

San Diego Independent Scholars announces a \$1,000 manuscript competition. The prize will be awarded for the best unpublished research manuscript of at least 150 pages by a California independent scholar, defined here as a resident of California who is not teaching full time, not tenured, and or not in a tenure-track position at the post-secondary level. The prize is funded by a grant to SDIS from the Kolar Foundation of Chicago, for the furtherance of independent scholarship.

Manuscripts, postmarked by December 31, 1990, will be judged by the Institute for Historical Study, San Francisco. The winner will be asked to present a lecture on his or her material at a regular SDIS meeting in the spring of 1991.

Send two copies of the manuscript, double-spaced, with *author's name, address and telephone on the cover sheet only*, to Ariss Treat Sedgwick, 5027 Campanile Drive, San Diego CA 92115; telephone (619) 582-8671.

### Labor History Symposium: Call for Papers

A two-day symposium on "Lost Ways of Work in Northern California," sponsored by the Labor Archives and Research Center at San Francisco State University to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Center, will be held in February 1991. Proposals for papers should include a prospectus (minimum of 500 words) and a short c.v. and should be sent by November 1990 to Lynn Bonfield, Director, LARC, 480 Winston Dr., San Francisco, CA 94132. For further information, write to Lynn Bonfield at that address or call (415) 564-4010.

### History of Science Annual Meeting

The History of Science Society Annual Meeting will be held on October 25-28 at the Holiday Inn, Crowne Plaza, in Seattle. The program includes fifty-nine sessions on a wide range of topics, including historiography, socio-political aspects of science, gender studies, and studies of the environment. Institute member William McPeak, a member of the Society, calls to our attention that the HSS has active-

ly supported the work of independent scholars. A Committee on Independent Scholars will be meeting during the conference, and a number of independent scholars—so identified in the program—will be making presentations as well as chairing and commenting on panels. For more information about the conference or the society, write to HSS Registrations, Department of Medical History and Ethics, SB-20, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Peter Palmquist made a quick visit to the Bay Area in June to lecture on "Photographers in Pioneer California," in connection with the exhibit of three Jewish photographers at the Judah L. Magnes Museum in Berkeley. The exhibit featured the work of Solomon Nuñez Carvalho, Louis Heller, and Elizabeth Fleischmann.

Ann Richardson will be giving a paper on the influence of Erasmus on William Tyndale at the American Society of Church History meeting, in affiliation with the AHA meeting in New York in December.

In May, Karen Offen was the recipient of the Judith Lee Ridge Article Prize of the Western Association of Women Historians, for an essay, "Defining Feminism: A Comparative Historical Approach," published in *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*.

Jack Kornblau presented a paper, "Personal Testimonies of Refugees of the Indochina Wars," at the Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast conference held in July at Stanford.

Georgia Wright will be spending the month of October in France, supervising the filming of her video project, "The Vaults of Vézelay." We must all join her in a prayer for good weather!

## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the members who joined the Institute over the summer.

Michael Griffith has a PhD in history from UC Berkeley, having written his dissertation on "Law Enforcement and Urban Growth: Oakland, California, 1850-1910." He has done research in California history, including a substantial portion of the *Oxford Companion to California*, and has taught courses in U.S. History at Dickinson College. He is currently employed as Historian/Archivist for the U.S. District Court, Northern District of California. He has published a number of articles, books reviews, and



pamphlets, all on legal history subjects, and has coedited *A Judicial Odyssey* (1985) for the San Jose Federal Court Advisory Committee. He chairs the Publications Committee of the California Council for the Promotion of History and serves on the Editorial Board for *Western Legal History*. His current interest is in the history of bankruptcy and the history of Oakland. He learned about the Institute from Anne MacLachlan and Georgiana Davidson and looks forward to the opportunity to meet and discuss history with other scholars.

David Koeller received his PhD in history from UC Berkeley in 1989, with a dissertation on "The Physics of Freedom: The Beginnings of Schelling's Philosophy of Nature." While doing the research for his dissertation he spent a year in East Germany on an IREX Research Fellowship. Having minored in music as an undergraduate at Syracuse University, he enjoys teaching at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where he is responsible for the introductory course in Western Civilization and for upper division lecture courses on selected topics in history and philosophy, including world and modern European history. He has presented papers on topics dealing with Schelling and natural philosophy. His current interests include intellectual history (especially the Enlightenment and Romanticism), the history of science, and religion and the metaphysics of science. He learned about the Institute from his aunt, Lorrie O'Dell.

Bonda Lewis received her MA in dramatic literature and theatre history from San Jose State University, with a special interest in seventeenth-century dramatic literature. As an actor, she has turned her interests in literature and history into a series of one-woman shows on women writers. So far she has completed a show on Jane Austen. Upcoming subjects include Louisa May Alcott, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and possibly Marie de France, Lady Gregory, and Frances Hodgson Burnett. Bonda also teaches acting and other theatre disciplines both privately and at San Jose City College, work that always involves a good deal of history. An aspiring novelist, she is working on a book that she thought would be set during the "bloodless" revolution of 1688-89, but it insists that it is about the Jacobite uprising of 1745-46. She has spent two months in Scotland researching the book. She learned about the Institute from Ethel Herr, who saw a performance of *Tea and Sensibility* (Jane Austen) and suggested that she join.

Brenda Helen Reed graduated from San Francisco State University in 1977 with a BA in anthropology. Since that time she has worked in the real estate business, but in 1987 she undertook a project to bring to the public the issue of war and its effects on women, children, and families. Her work has dealt primarily with the Vietnam War, on which she has

become a writer and professional speaker. She is currently working on and seeking funding for three projects in oral history that she plans to transform into books. One is titled "The Forgotten Widows of the North Vietnamese." A second, "Women and War, the Twentieth Century," is based on interviews with wives, mothers, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, and women friends of men who were killed in one of the four major wars in twentieth-century America. A third project deals with Amerasian children, with a look at the overall patterns in history that have led to "a new people, the children of the dust who are virtually the unwanted and disenfranchised children of war." Her articles on these subjects have been published in newspapers around the country, including the *Washington Post*, the *Dallas Times Herald*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Recently she completed a "non-fiction book in novel form," *There is No Boot Camp for Widows*. As an Institute member she looks forward to sharing ideas about her projects and getting ideas for funding her research.

Nancy Zinn, a longtime friend of the Institute, has an MA in history from Bryn Mawr and an MSLS from Drexel University. She is a PhD candidate at UCSF, writing her dissertation on medical literature in eighteenth-century Britain. This has involved creating a database of medical publications, using the National Library of Medicine's CATLINE, plus the Eighteenth-Century Short Title Catalog. At UCSF she is the head of Special Collections and the University Archivist. Her publications include the chapter on "Special Collections, Archives, Manuscripts, and Oral History" in the *Handbook of Medical Librarianship* (volume 3, 1989). Her energy has recently been devoted to the resettling of the UCSF library in its new home on the northwest side of the campus, and conversion to an on-line catalog, but she hopes to have time to participate in Institute activities and "become acquainted with the larger historical community."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

A symposium on German Unification, originally scheduled to take place as a lecture series at the Goethe Institute in September, has been rescheduled for January at St. Mary's College in Moraga. Announcements giving time and place will be mailed in December.

Planning has begun on a 1991 film series, to be cosponsored by the California History Center at De Anza College in Cupertino. The theme of the series is the representation of the West and the conquest of the West in popular films. As with the film series on the French Revolution, proposed films will be previewed on videocassette. If you would like to attend these previews (a process that past participants have found



enjoyable as well as enlightening), call Ellen Huppert (415) 665-1529.

The annual membership meeting will be held on Saturday, February 23 in San Francisco. You will receive announcements giving the location and time.

## EDITORS' NOTE

Please observe the placement of the apostrophe above. The Institute *Newsletter* is now being produced by an editorial committee. Joanne Lafler will continue to receive material at her address, 43 Abbott Drive, Oakland, CA 94611 and will serve for a while as executive editor and general nag. Elaine Rosenthal will edit and assemble the copy for typesetting. Monica Clyde will be responsible for gathering work-in-progress reports. Peter Browning will be book review editor. Thelma Bryant will be in charge of membership news, so please send news about your latest publications, research projects, etc. directly to her: 470 Vassar Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708. We welcome contributions of various sorts (no poetry or fiction, please) as well as announcements of general interest. The deadline for the next issue is November 25.

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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 Ethel Herr,  
Membership Chair, 731 Lakefair Drive,  
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