

# The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

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Summer 1992

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As a member of the Institute, I know that many benefits are derived from being a part of our organization: the collegiality for historians who work at their craft outside of academia, the opportunity to present Works-in-Progress before a group of peers, the social events that always seem to result in shoptalk no matter what period or which continent one is interested in, and the contacts and relationships that are individual to each of us and that make up our personal reasons for enjoying our involvement in IHS.

Over the past several years, as the Institute has grown and—dare I say this without jinxing us?—prospered, we have sought to allocate a portion of our reserves to meet members' needs. The establishment of our Endowment Fund, with the earned interest allocated to the Scholar's Support Grant Program, is a direct result of this concept.

This reminds us of what we could do if we had more members—of how our professional events, as well as our social ones, could attract a larger audience and thus be more financially effective. In addition, a larger membership could lead to a larger Endowment Fund, which, as night must follow day, would result in either larger or more numerous grants to members needing help with travel costs, duplicating charges, expenses at conferences, and so forth.

We have remained at about 150 members for the past several years; as people drop out because they move or their interests change, others come aboard, but there has not been an Institute-wide effort to expand since we had a membership drive in our first year, with the help of a generous grant from the W. R. Hewlett Foundation.

The time has come to push for more members, and I believe that the best way to do that is the "member get a member" ploy. It's obvious that with our diverse and widespread membership it would be unrealistic to have each member get another. But if we can add ten, fifteen, or twenty new members to our roster this year, we will be able to provide more for all of our members, and it shouldn't take much time or effort for each of us to "talk up" the Institute when we can.

I try to mention the Institute wherever and whenever possible—just describe it and some of what it offers. I did that a few weeks ago while waiting for a graduation procession to begin, and one of the women in the group exclaimed that the Institute was just the type of organization her historian husband would really enjoy. Would I, could I, send him an application? Voilà! I think I've got my member. Now what about you—how and when are you going to get yours?

—Jules Becker

## ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, 23 February, members of the Institute held their annual meeting in the Chancellor's Room at the Laurel Campus of the University of California in San Francisco. The meeting was called to order by President Jules Becker.

During a deli-style lunch, we heard reports from heads of various Institute committees and groups. In the absence of Ethel Herr, Myrna Smith reported for the Membership Committee; eleven new members joined IHS in 1991.

Lorrie O'Dell gave an account of various programs sponsored or cosponsored by IHS during the past year: the Western Film Series, the lectures given by Glenna Matthews and Leon Litwack, Institute participation in judging and giving of prizes during California History Day, and the delightful membership potluck dinner held in September at the home of Deborah Frangquist.

In the forced absence of Treasurer Al Baxter (because of his injuries in the October fire), President Becker told us about the sound financial status of the Institute.

The Thucydides Study Group has been meeting since July 1991. The group announced that it has become the Herodotus Study Group, having finished Thucydides.

Deborah Frangquist reported on the Nineteenth Century Study Group, which meets about every six weeks. Its format is not rigid—it reads books about and written during that period. At present, inspired by one of the books they have read, its members are working on their own intellectual biographies.

Bill Strobridge spoke about the California History Writers Round Table, a "support" group that meets about every two to three months and encourages its members to keep writing! During its first year of existence, three members have had books published: Jules Becker, Peter Browning, and Mae Silver. The California Group provided the program for the Annual IHS Dinner in November.

Joanne Lafler reported on the activities of the history play-reading group, which meets about every six weeks. No advance reading of texts is required; the idea is to enjoy reading history plays aloud and discussing them, often rather heatedly. Sometimes, the group has explored a particular subject in several dramatic versions or in different media. After reading *A Man for All Seasons*, they watched a video of the movie, which differed from the play in some interesting ways. In addition to *A Man for All Seasons*, works read during the last year included Gerhart Hauptmann's *The Weavers* and T. S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*. The group chooses texts democratically, and usually takes more than one session to finish a play. New members are cordially invited. If you wish to receive announcements of the meetings, please contact Lorrie O'Dell.

More than nine Works-in-Progress were given by members of the Institute since the last annual meeting. Those of you who are interested in honing your skills and your papers before you present them at conferences or offer them for publication, as well as those who are willing to host Works-in-Progress in their homes, please contact Georgia Wright.

Ellen Huppert spoke about the Western Film Series; there is hope that it can be shown again at the Oakland Museum.

Joanne Lafler reported on the activities of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars, of which the Institute is an affiliate. The board of NCIS met in Berkeley last September and will meet again in Washington, D.C. in April. Because the board had been enlarged to include representatives of all nine affiliates and two additional at-large members, the September meeting was especially lively. A number of important new actions were taken. It was agreed that NCIS should have a stronger public service component. Therefore, publications, including the quarterly newsletter, *The Independent Scholar*, are now available to nonmembers at a higher rate. A national conference is planned for Washington, D.C. in 1993. NCIS will work for greater representation of independent scholars as reviewers for NEH grants and fellowships. The board voted to raise annual dues to \$20, which will include a subscription to *The Independent Scholar*. The increase goes into effect for new members in 1992 and continuing members in 1993. New officers were elected: Joanne Lafler, president; Barbara Currier Bell, secretary-treasurer; Gillian Gill,

membership chair. Harold Orlans chairs the conference committee, Ariss Treat Sedgwick is in charge of presentation grants, and William Donahue is in charge of services for unaffiliated members. IHS members are invited to join NCIS and to enjoy the benefits of full membership, including listing in the directory and access to the membership database.

The new IHS Board of Directors was listed in the last (Spring) *Newsletter*. The members of the Nominating Committee for next year are: Oscar Berland, Gray Brechin, Ellen Huppert, Myrna Smith, and Bill Strobridge.

After lunch, there was a lively and interesting panel discussion by Bob Cherny, David Koeller, and Bogna Lorence-Kot on "Creating a New History: A Discussion on Teaching Multi-Cultural and World History," which was moderated by Ellen Huppert. The meeting was pronounced a success by all who attended.

## WORK-IN-PROGRESS

### Jules Becker

On the afternoon of 29 March, Jules Becker presented a paper based on his recently published book, *The Course of Exclusion*. He has been invited to present the paper at a conference on the Chinese in the United States. Jules spoke to a packed living room at Bill Strobridge's house on San Francisco's Mt. Olympus, not far from the sandstone pedestal for Adolph Sutro's monument, "Liberty Enlightening the World." The statue itself was razed long ago.

Jules first gave a synopsis of actions that excluded Asians, in which the state of California led the way. The period he has studied begins with the Exclusion Act of 1882, aimed at the Chinese, and ends with the act of 1924, which was expressly aimed at the Japanese. He noted that between the 1880s and 1917, the U.S. accepted a large number of immigrants to satisfy the demands of railroad building and other expanding industrial concerns. While certain kinds of people (for example, paupers and mental defectives) were excluded, no nationalities other than the Chinese and, increasingly, the Japanese, were barred. Exclusion came late to the latter because the government of Japan had used diplomatic means to ameliorate or prevent repeated anti-Japanese actions.

Jules chose to study the reporting and editorial policies of the two leading San Francisco newspapers, the *Chronicle* and *Examiner*. He explained that his choice was motivated both by his own career as a journalist and by the unusual continuity of ownership. During this period, M. H. de Young directed the *Chronicle* and W. R. Hearst the *Examiner*. The one constant that Jules found during

the four decades was a consistently hostile attitude toward Asians in both papers. He noted that although blacks may have been stereotyped they experienced little of the antipathy directed at Asians, probably because of their relatively small numbers.

Jules concludes that racism, rather than labor conflicts or other economic motivation, was the chief impetus for exclusion sentiment. Although traditionally identified with managerial interests that favored cheap Asian labor, the *Chronicle* sided with nativist labor in its demand that "the Chinese must go." He found that racial stereotypes persisted long after the act of 1882 became law. Chinese were equated with criminals, and were consistently characterized as "wily."

Even though both papers frequently described the Japanese as "little brown men" (Robinson Jeffers called them "brave dwarfs" in one of his wartime poems), they first stated that the Japanese could adapt to American life. But as their numbers grew, both papers increasingly expressed their conviction that the Japanese were "unassimilable," particularly after Japan's victory in the Russo-Japanese War of 1905.

Jules set out to determine whether the two papers simply reflected the concerns of the community or actually formed its opinions. He concluded that both newspapers in fact led public opinion and were in the forefront of efforts to exclude Asians from California. After Jules' presentation, the audience had a lively discussion.

—Gray Brechin

## WORK-IN-PROGRESS

### Gray Brechin

Traditional murals of California history show such scenes as rosy peasants picking oranges in sun-drenched groves, depicting the myth of California as a special place that brings prosperity, happiness, and justice for all. What happens when a muralist attempts a more realistic view of the state's history, showing vigilante justice without benefit of trial during the gold rush, and Indians coerced into abandoning their traditional life and working in Mission fields without pay?

On 10 May, in Monica Clyde's living room, Gray Brechin told us what happened when artist Anton Refregier chose realism over myth after he won a competition to decorate the Rincon Annex Post Office in San Francisco with murals showing California's history. Gray's illustrated talk, "History on Trial: The Congressional Attack on the Rincon Annex Murals," is a chapter from his book in progress, *Imperial San Francisco*.

Gray started with slides depicting the myth of Golden California and followed them with scenes from the Refregier murals—powerful statements on California's history, from the first Indian inhabitants through the 1934 longshoremen's strike in San Francisco. Gray described the controversy that erupted over the murals, which culminated in a congressional hearing.

The mural project was a New Deal program, which employed jobless artists and enhanced American cities. When Refregier began painting his murals in the 1940s, Gray explained, the "Red scare" hysteria that led to the House Committee on Un-American Activities was escalating. Refregier's unconventional paintings were attacked from the beginning; he made some changes to pacify his critics, but the clamor continued. As McCarthyism grew, so did opposition to the murals from conservative groups.

Finally, a congressional committee held a hearing on the issue of the murals on 1 May 1953 in Washington, D.C. The hearings were sparked by Congressman Herbert Scudder of Sebastopol, California; he had introduced a resolution in Congress to remove the murals because they were subversive. At the hearing, Scudder showed slides of the murals and explained why each painting was subversive: the conquistadors looked militant and violent (he said), the priests in the Missions were too fat, while the Indians were shown as too strong and vigorous—clearly, the murals were part of a Communist plot to incite the populace to revolution.

After Scudder's presentation, numerous people, including Congressman John Shelley of San Francisco, testified that the murals told the truth, while others pointed out that most San Francisco artists, as well as several of the city's business and professional elite, defended the murals as a serious work of art. Finally, the committee recommended retaining the murals. Although California's then-conservative State Senate voted to urge Congress to remove the murals, Scudder's resolution failed. The Refregier murals remained on the walls of the Rincon Annex Post Office.

IHS members who missed Gray's presentation of well-researched material, clearly-written prose, and excellent slides need not lament choosing Mother's Day dinner over this interesting Work-in-Progress session. Happily, the restored Rincon Annex murals have been declared a historical landmark, and can be viewed at their Mission and Spear streets location. In addition, in a few years, we can all read about this incident in Gray's book *Imperial San Francisco*.

—Celeste L. MacLeod



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GRANT AWARDS FOR IHS SCHOLARS

IHS President Jules Becker has notified Ruth Willard and Peter Palmquist that they are the first two recipients of semiannual IHS Scholarship Support Grants under the newly approved application procedure described in our last issue. Six applications were received and evaluated by a special committee, which was convened immediately after the 15 May deadline. "We were delighted with the response," President Becker said, "especially because all six were projects of unusual worth. We hope that applications for the next round of mini-grants, due 1 November, will be as difficult to judge as these were."

Ruth Willard of San Francisco will participate in the Sixth International Congress on Historical Metrology, to be held in France in late September. As an affiliated representative of IHS, she will present a research paper on "The Evolution of the Equal Arm Balance in Ancient Egypt." She will use her mini-grant for a stopover in London to study three important collections of ancient measuring devices.

Peter Palmquist of Arcata is preparing a directory of pre-1860 photographers in California as well as a book on pioneer photographers of Santa Clara County. He will use his mini-grant to help defray car rental and related expenses while confirming his citations at the California State Library in Sacramento.

"We wish there were one hundred times more money available," President Becker added, "but at least \$300 twice yearly from our special endowment helps scholars to pursue work that needs a modest subsidy. We do not intend to judge the financial need of any applicant, but rather to follow in this project the principles on which IHS was organized."

### REDUCED NCIS DUES FOR INSTITUTE MEMBERS

At its April meeting, the National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS) board voted to extend a special introductory offer to members of affiliate societies (such as the Institute for Historical Study) to join NCIS as full members. Until September of 1992, Institute members can join NCIS for \$15 instead of \$20. This includes a subscription to *The Independent Scholar*, a quarterly newsletter. Regular membership is open to all independent scholars, and there is an evaluation process similar to that for IHS membership applications. NCIS is in the process of redesigning its brochure and membership application form, but you can start the process now by contacting Joanne Lafler at (510) 547-1791.

### BOOK-SHARE EVENT THIS NOVEMBER

The Institute is sponsoring a Book-Share on Sunday, 29 November, to benefit the five members who lost their libraries in the 1991 Oakland-Berkeley fire and also to provide IHS members with an opportunity to buy as well as donate history books and journals. The event will be held at the Gate House of Fort Mason in San Francisco and will begin with the fire victims being invited to choose items from noon to 1 p.m. Then, from 1 to 4 p.m., IHS members (ONLY) may browse and buy—hardbacks at \$1.00 and paperbacks at 50¢. Raffle tickets will be sold on more valuable books, sets, and collections, with winners announced at 4 p.m.

Please look through your history books and journals for donations, and ask non-IHS members for donations. Remember that these gifts are tax-deductible. Works in the following fields would especially help the fire victims: medieval and early modern European art and architecture; East Asian history; photography, dance, and women's history; 19th century American West, race, and immigration; and California history. Dictionaries and atlases would also be welcome.

You may bring your books and journals to the Gate House between 11 a.m. and noon on 29 November, or if you would like to deposit them ahead of that date, the following members will receive them:

Ellen Huppert, San Francisco, (415) 665-1529.

Lorrie O'Dell, Oakland, (510) 451-8682.

Myrna Smith, Palo Alto, (415) 948-1314.

Please phone them before making deliveries. Thanks in advance for your gifts, and be sure to write "Book-Share—Attend!" on your calendar for 29 November.

### RESEARCH INFORMATION SOUGHT

Gretta Mitchell and her husband hope to do a small book on W. R. Yelland, the architect of their burnt-out Berkeley home. They have established contact with his great-nephew and with relatives of the original owner. If anyone has information on him or would like to help research his other houses, please contact Gretta. Her telephone numbers are in Membership News below. As Gretta says, "An historical document may come out of the disaster!"

### CALL FOR PAPERS

In the previous issue of the *Newsletter* there was an announcement about the conference, "Independent Scholars in the 1990s: Intellectual and Practical

Issues," to be held 23–25 April 1993 in Washington, D.C. It is sponsored by the National Coalition of Independent Scholars, of which Joanne Lafler is President and Georgia Wright is Executive Secretary and Editor of its newsletter, *The Independent Scholar*. The program committee is soliciting proposals for panel presentations on 1) an intellectual issue within disciplines or across disciplinary lines, or 2) practical concerns (problems, success stories, etc.) of independent scholarship. There is also a schedule of workshops forthcoming. Abstracts should be sent to: Frances Davis, 104 Barnhill Place, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Deadline for abstracts is 10 October 1992. For additional information, call Frances Davis at (919) 967-2452. It would be splendid if several of our Institute members represented us on some of the panels.

The Society for the History of Discoveries will be meeting in Miami on 1–4 October. There is a call for papers, with no deadline given. Contact Dennis Reinhartz, Dept. of History, Box 19529, The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX 76019-0529, (817) 273-2907.

The Economic and Business Historical Society will meet in Nashville, TN on 22–24 April 1993. There is a call for papers (no deadline given). Contact Lynne Pierson Doti, President and Program Chair, EBHS, Department of Economics, Chapman University, Orange, CA 92666, (714) 997-6805.

A multidisciplinary conference on "World War II: a 50-Year Perspective," focusing on 1943, will be held 3–4 June 1993. Call for papers by 1 December 1992. Contact Thomas O. Kelly II, Department of History, Siena College, 515 Loudon Road, Loudonville, NY 12211-1462.

### CONFERENCES

The American Studies Association will be meeting in Costa Mesa, CA on 5–8 November. Contact: Office of the Executive Director, American Studies Association, 2101 Taliaferro Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, (301) 405-1364.

An NEH Research Conference, "Crisis and Creativity in the Sephardic World," will be held at Columbia University on 8–11 November. Contact Benjamin R. Gampel, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027, (212) 678-8000.

### SYMPOSIUM

Radcliffe College will be holding a Symposium, "Women—Land—Design: Recovering the Past, Examining the Present, Shaping the Future" in April 1993. It will be a multithematic, multidisciplinary symposium that is part historical review, part work-

ing conference, part celebration of women's role in shaping the environment. For more information, contact John F. Furlong at Radcliffe Seminars Graduate Program in Landscape Design, Cronkhite Graduate Center, 6 Ash Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.



### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

This seems to be the issue dedicated to the lives, events, and recent accomplishments of our esteemed colleagues (thanks in large measure to Anne Richardson)! Read on.

The Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association will be holding its Annual Meeting at Oregon State University in Corvallis on 13–16 August 1992. Two of our members are up for election: **Andy Anderson** is on the ballot for the Council and **Glenna Matthews** is a candidate for the Nominating Committee. Nine IHS members are scheduled to speak: **Judith Strong Albert** will present "The Failure of a 'Fiction': Sophia and George Ripley at Brook Farm," and **Frances Richardson Keller** will give "The Shifting of a 'Fiction': From Mormon Polygamy to American Monogamy," on a panel "'Fictions' as Cultural/Historical Determinants"; **Robert Cherny** will be the speaker at the Friday luncheon, talking on "Writing a Biography of Harry Bridges"; **Rochelle Gatlin** will give a paper, "The Personal is Economic: Working-Class Feminism in Working Women's Organizations of the 1970s," on a panel "Putting Feminism to Work: Changing Meanings of Working Class Feminism in the Twentieth Century"; **Jeff Lustig** will chair a panel on "Looking Forward: The Far West on the Edge of the Twenty-First Century, A Roundtable"; **Glenna Matthews** will chair and comment on the panel, "Gender, Technology, and Power: The Transformation of American Dressmaking, 1860–1910"; **Francesca Miller** will act as chair and commentator for "Constructing Patriotic Culture"; **Karen Offen** will preside at the Saturday luncheon, sponsored by the Western Association of Women Historians; **Therese Pipe** will present "The Finns of California: Cooperative Movement Activities and Labor Practices" at a panel, "Peoples' Movements." We urge all who are participating to take IHS brochures with you in your briefcases and spread the word; there will be seven independent historians, several archivists, and many local members of the academic world present—all potential members of the Institute!

Eleanor Alexander has just published a book, *Life Goes On*, a rich collection that includes autobiographical family history and travel writings as well as essays on literature and art, some of which have appeared in the Book Review section of the *Berkeley Gazette*.

Al Baxter has recovered from the severe injuries he sustained in the Oakland-Berkeley fire and is living at 5963 Wood Drive, Oakland, CA 94611, tel. (510) 658-3303; or call and leave a message for him at this San Francisco number: (415) 567-1667.

Jack Boas is spending the year in Amsterdam doing research. With the assistance of Oscar Berland, he has edited a book, *Kosow Lacki*, about how the town of that name, located eight miles from Treblinka, was affected by the German occupation. With the principal narrative—a journal of a visit to Kosow Lacki after the war—written by Rivka Barlev, the book also contains wartime bulletins on the town by members of a Detroit *landschaft*, edited by Jack and translated from the Yiddish by Oscar. The book is available in a limited edition from the Northern California Holocaust Center.

Gray Brechin and his photographer colleague Robert Dawson were awarded the Dorothea Lange-Paul Taylor Prize by the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University. They will use the grant to develop a collaborative exhibition and probably a book, dealing with the environmental destruction of California—tentative title: *The World We Lost*.

Peter Browning has published *The Discovery of San Francisco Bay / El Descubrimiento de la Bahía de San Francisco*, the diary of Miguel Costansó, the engineer with the Portolá Expedition of 1769–1770. The expedition was the first European exploration by land in what is now California. The book is in both Spanish and English, on facing pages. The diary was first translated into English in 1911; it is that translation that Peter has used. He also wrote a preface, introduction, many footnotes, and a chapter describing how to follow the expedition's route on modern roads. These he had translated into Spanish, with the result that the entire book is bilingual.

Monica Clyde is one of the coauthors of a first-year German textbook, *Deutsch: Na Klar!* (1991), which in its first semester on the market was adopted by 92 colleges and universities nationwide and by the Defense Language Institute. Monica is pioneering a new position at St. Mary's College—Director for Faculty Development and Scholarship.

Catherine Anne Curry has just published an article, "Three Irish Women and Social Action in San Francisco: Mother Teresa Comerford, Mother Baptist Russell, and Kate Kennedy," in the April 1992 issue of *Journal of the West*. The issue was titled "The Irish in the West" and will be published as a book. She is also giving a paper, "Financial Sponsorship of Social and Religious Works by Sisters in San Francisco," at the Conference on the History of Women Religious, being held at Marymount College in Tarrytown, NY 28 June–1 July. While in New York, she intends to do some research in local archives.

Frances Gay Joyce, who lost her home in the fire, is working in Vista College's PACE (Programmed Adult College Education) program. Through a coordinated nontraditional curriculum in history, literature, and art, which targets working adults, PACE offers an AA in Liberal Arts in five semesters. Frances teaches core courses in World and U. S. History, and designs crossover assignments for English 1A–1B.

Bogna Lorence-Kot is thrilled—and so are we—because she has won a Fulbright Award for University Teaching Abroad. She will be teaching at Maria Sklodowska Curie University in Lublin, Poland for five months, starting the end of August. Bogna is particularly happy since she will be teaching, in Polish, an advanced course in Women's History and a methods course in Women's Studies. Since these are subjects that don't exist in Poland, she hopes to win some converts among her students and create a demand for more of the same from their universities.

Rella Lossy's play, *Heart Songs*, was one of seven winners in the Actor's Institute fourth annual one-act playwrighting contest. The play, a historical adaptation based on Shakespeare's sonnets, will be produced in Manhattan at the end of August.

Cathy Luchetti's first book, *Women of the West*, is being reissued by Crown-Orion as part of a series, *The Library of the American West*, developed under the direction of Dr. Herman Viola of the Smithsonian. Her third book, *Plain Cookin'*, is being published next March by Villard-Random House, which has just given her a contract for two additional books. Congratulations, Cathy!

At the annual conference of the Western Association of Women Historians, held in May, our own Francesca Miller "swept the awards." She won the Judith Lee Ridge Prize for her article "Latin American Feminism in the Trans-National Arena," in *Women, Culture, and Politics in Latin America* (University of

California Press, 1991) and the Sierra Book Prize for *Latin American Women and the Search for Social Justice* (University Press of New England, 1991). Francesca also chaired and served as commentator for the panel "Women in Latin America in the Early Twentieth Century."

At the same conference, eight other IHS members were active participants: **Judith Strong Albert** chaired and commented on the panel "Challenging the Image of 'Male' Roles"; **Mary Anderson** was chair and commentator for "Gendering Social Institutions"; **Edith Gelles** presented "The Adams Marriage: Mirror of Colonial American Society" and **Marianne Sheldon** served as chair and commentator to the panel, "Marriage as a Mirror of Eighteenth-Century Culture"; **Sondra Herman** presented a paper, "From International Feminism to Feminist Internationalism: The Emergence of Alva Myrdal, 1936-1955," on a panel, "Twentieth-Century Social Activists in Comparative Perspective"; **Frances Richardson Keller** acted as chair and commentator for a panel on "Minority Women and Community"; **Karen Offen** and **Lyn Reese** served as members of a panel on "The New History/Social Science Curriculum for California Schools: Where Are the Women Now?"

**Margaretta "Gretta" Mitchell**, another of our fire survivors, has a new home telephone number that was unavailable when the membership roster was printed: (510) 254-2453. Her office number is (510) 655-4920. She and her husband have begun the restoration of their home at 280 Hillcrest Road in Berkeley and hope to be in it by early 1993. (Ed. Note: See separate item under Announcements.)

**Diane North** organized a panel and delivered a paper on "Civil Liberties and the Law: California During the First World War," at an international conference sponsored by the Law Society of Upper Canada on "Law, State, and Society in History." The conference took place in Toronto in May.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, in November 1989, **Agnes Peterson** has been collecting both official and "gray" literature on the unification process that is occurring in Germany. Helped by students, friends, and much correspondence, she has gathered a great variety of propaganda material from three major elections—all wonderful source material so essential to scholars and students. She has also obtained, on microfilm, the last proceedings of the East German Parliament, about 600 videotapes from East German and West German television for the period from November 1989 to March 1990, and the proceedings and documents of the citizens' "Round Table," a quasi-parliamentary group. Agnes is going to Berlin

this summer to supervise and finish collecting and copying archival material from the main office of one of the first dissident groups, "Neues Forum."

**Anne Richardson** has been appointed American Correspondent of the William Tyndale Quincentenary Committee, to help organize the celebrations—to be held in London in 1994—of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Tyndale, a Bible translator and Early Modern human rights activist. She is also writing a book, one of a series to be published by SUNY Binghamton, coediting another book, and working on an article.

**Marjorie Wilser** has won two scholarship awards, the 1992 James High Memorial Fellowship and an Education Enhancement Award in the College of Social Sciences, both at San Jose State. An oral history interview she completed last December on the history of the Portuguese community in San Jose will be included in a local history booklet published by the Sourisseau Academy.

## NEW MEMBERS

**James Philip Derbin** received a BS at Loyola University in Los Angeles and an M.D. from Marquette University School of Medicine in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He also received a postdoctoral fellowship from Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore. He has lived in the Bay Area since 1969 and is a practicing psychiatrist, both in private practice and as a medical and psychiatric consultant. He also teaches at UCSF. His interest in history is avocational. His main focus is medical history, but he is also interested in oral history and history as a process. He is currently researching Thomas Jefferson's experiments with variolation (early smallpox vaccination). He has attended several Work-in-Progress meetings and welcomes the Institute's structured environment and the opportunity to meet people with similar interests in history. He learned about the Institute from Ellen Huppert.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 19 Picnic at Redwood Park, with  
Work-in-Progress—Therese Pipe.  
August 2 Work-in-Progress—Rosalie  
Stemer, "Nazi Resistance to the  
Nazis."  
September 13 Membership Pot Luck  
November 7 IHS Dinner  
November 29 IHS Book Share—Fort Mason

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Note the new form inserted in your *Newsletter*. The Editor would appreciate your using it in the appropriate manner. It should improve our Membership News and perhaps gain us some new applicants for membership—or even some donations! Next *Newsletter* will go to press in mid-October; deadline for items is 25 September. Please contact Peter Browning about books for review. P.O. Box 1028, Lafayette, CA 94549. (510) 283-3184.

## 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 Myrna L. Smith, Membership Chair, 3130 Alexis Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94304

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(415) 441-3759

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