

The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

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Summer 1994

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this column, I'd like to turn to a time-honored theme for these messages. In a recent conversation with the *Newsletter* editor, we noted the frustration that Institute members sometimes feel when events do not unfold as smoothly and predictably as they would like. Such difficulties, however, are very much in the nature of volunteer organizations such as the Institute. In the IHS, we truly depend on one another, working together to accomplish what we do. Therefore, while the door is always open to ideas for new programs and activities, it is even more open to offers to help!

On another note, I am happy to report that another group of IHS Minigrants has been awarded, as you will see in the article below. Through the Minigrants, the Institute has been able to help several of our members with their projects. Special thanks are due to two members of the Minigrant Committee, Wolfgang Rosenberg and Deborah Frangquist, who will be leaving the committee. The Institute is very grateful to them (and their colleagues, Grace Larsen and Patricia Swensen) for their dedicated service and for the many hours they have put into organizing the awards process, reading applications, and making the grant decisions.

Finally, I want to call your attention to the Annual Meeting scheduled for this October by the National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS), to be held at Mills College. All Institute members will receive a mailing about the meeting, if they have not already done so. I hope as many Institute members as possible will make a point of attending this meeting and supporting NCIS, with which we have close ties.

—Michael Griffith

INSTITUTE MINIGRANT AWARDS

President Michael Griffith announced that a \$300 IHS Minigrant has been awarded to Gray Brechin to pay for photo reconnaissance over the Sierra Nevada for his forthcoming book on environmental degradation, and an award of \$500 went to Peter Browning to

copy microfilm and acquire maps and illustrations for his book on early San Francisco history. In announcing the awards, Griffith said: "Once again, I am glad to say that we are proud of the winners, and the continuing interest of the members in our unique scholarship support program—sometimes labeled the 'world's smallest'—has been demonstrated by this strong showing in the Spring 1994 grant cycle." Currently, \$800 is awarded every six months; the next application deadline is **1 November**.

Brechin's forthcoming book, *Farewell Promised Land: California's Aging Landscape*, will be combined with a museum exhibit, relying heavily on his prior research for *Imperial San Francisco: Urban Power, Earthly Ruin*, in order to compare promotional promises made for California at the turn of the century with what the state has become. The grant photos will illustrate a chapter on the legacy of mining, comparing the changes in the north-central Sierra Nevada, which was amply photographed for mine promotion by the 1870s. Gray hopes to have the book published by the UC Press (which has specifically asked him to finish and illustrate this chapter). The exhibit will be sponsored by the Oakland Museum in 1996.

Browning's book will focus on the early (1835–1849) history and settlement of San Francisco, particularly on the gold rush—how the discovery of gold affected California and the rest of the country, and how it was reported and ballyhooed in the Eastern press, all as recounted in contemporary newspapers and letters. His grant will be used for several trips to the State Library in Sacramento and to copy several thousand pages of microfilm. His book will offer "history to be comprehended as it happened (and as it was understood by the people of that time) rather than written from the retrospective view of the historian with knowledge of events . . . and their consequences."

The four members of the IHS Minigrant Review Committee, Deborah Frangquist, Grace Larsen, Wolfgang Rosenberg, and Patricia Swensen, have executed the new policy, recently approved by the IHS Board, that two members would resign every two years, to provide both continuity and "new blood." Frangquist and Rosenberg have stepped

down, having served since the establishment of the committee in 1992. President Griffith will appoint two replacements before 1 November.

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

Deborah Frangquist

Deborah Frangquist's presentation on 17 April is most aptly characterized as a Work-in-Progress on a Work-in-Progress. Her purpose was to solicit advice and reactions from fellow historians on her reading and research in the general subject of work and its place in people's lives. Keenly aware that the topic has no obvious boundaries, the early part of the session broadly outlined potential themes.

Topics explored by Deborah included women's and children's labor; the organization of the work in a modern context; and the organization of work in the classic case of the factory regimentation mode of the early Industrial Revolution. This last topic yielded the unexpected conclusion that in fact, historians do not have a single, comprehensive model of work for even the early Industrial Revolution, much less the later nineteenth-century Revolution.

Nevertheless, the general trend toward centralization of factory work was dictated by a rudimentary transportation system that was unable to deliver raw materials over long distances, thus requiring factories to be located near the raw materials. That contrasts with modern work organizations, where sophisticated transportation networks allow the processing site to be distant from the locale of raw materials and, in some industries, the concept of one site where people work is undermined by the introduction of telecommuting.

Apart from the theme of centralization versus decentralization of work, yet another aspect is intriguing. Much official literature, purporting to reveal what workers "said, felt, and experienced," all too commonly reflects the perspectives of those with "axes to grind" (e.g., systematizing managers who bemoaned the absence of a "work ethic"). What emerged as a key concern is how to acquire direct evidence of worker's views of their situations.

One final note of the first part of the discussion relates to Deborah's "retooling" as an historian after some years away from intense involvement with the controversies of the discipline. Subjective reactions to scholars' works were mixed with concern over how much 'Marxism' needed to be mastered and how to think about the organized labor movement. Deborah is also fearful that perhaps too wide a range of reading hinders focusing on questions that are amenable to research and conclusions.

There was a wide range of audience reaction to the topic of work. Any assumption that preindustrial societies, with their demands of the harvest, were less regimented than industrial societies was disputed; the specialization of tasks was noted as extensive even in the earliest industrial eras; and the effects of technology on work product and habits was stressed.

Everyone agreed that Deborah's topic had to be narrowed. Two suggestions stood out: the first recommended focusing on a single industry, one whose history was sufficiently long so that the effects of changing technology on the lives of workers could be analyzed. The second recommended defining the problem so that it could be studied in the San Francisco area in order to avoid the cost of travel.

—Dennis Kelly

Frances Richardson Keller

Reading the third chapter of her book manuscript, "Living the Fictions of History," Frances Keller held the rapt attention of more than thirty members and guests at Judith Albert's home on the 15th of May. Frances redefines "fictions" as powerful ideas and narratives "that precipitate themselves into events." They govern the lives of individuals and of closely bound groups. They shape historical interpretations of whole eras. Her third chapter illustrates a fiction in the lives of the most influential of American Communitarians; the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Mormon leaders believed, "Polygamy is the keystone of our faith . . ." but it was a custom of the leaders only—parts of the Book of Mormon had earlier rejected it. Polygamy emerged full blown only after the Mormons reached the safety of Utah.

The "outside forces" that shaped the Mormon community were part of the whirring confusion of American democracy in the era of the Second Great Awakening. Some communitarian groups shared the spiritual and economic discontents and millennial aspirations of the Mormons. Others condemned American marital customs in the mid-nineteenth century. Only the Mormons constructed a powerful faith with a new scripture, based upon a unique revelation to Joseph Smith. It promised spiritual security and linked Mormons to the ancient Israelites, some of whom were polygamists. Through eternal marriage (continuing after death), man would succeed to God's celestial estate.

From this internal dynamic of polygamy, Frances turns to the custom's effects, especially upon the plural wives of Mormon leaders. Given the exclusively male priesthood and the dominance of true patriarchs following Old Testament models, it would be easy to portray wives simply as victims. Frances's analysis, using diaries, letters, and memoirs, is more complex. Although many women expressed sorrow

and moral repugnance when their husbands took successive wives, others considered plural marriage an antidote to male lust. Some formed friendly alliances with their co-wives, sharing work and child care. The Church fathers were so sure of female compliance in all public and private matters that they supported women suffrage in the Utah territory. This led to a strong antisuffrage campaign by non-Mormon women and men. The National Suffrage Association stayed out of the conflict. However, in 1879 Elizabeth Cady Stanton observed that "when women understand that religions and governments are . . . emanations from the brain of man, they will no longer be oppressed by . . . injunctions that come to them with the authority 'Thus saith the Lord.'"

By 1890, the Church itself repealed polygamy, although its attractions remained. After six attempts, Utah won statehood in 1896. Frances sees the Mormon fiction as a challenge to the more acceptable one of exclusive romance. It reveals deep gender tensions in society at large. Her daring thesis and fascinating narrative won the applause of the whole group. A lively question session followed.

—Sondra Herman



BOOK REVIEW

Autumn Stanley, *Mothers and Daughters of Invention. Notes for a Revised History of Technology*. Metuchen, New Jersey & London: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1993. xliii, 1,116 pp., \$97.50.

Autumn Stanley's understated subtitle hides a distinguished achievement. The hardcover edition is going into a second printing, and a less expensive paperback edition will appear in early 1995, from Rutgers Press. Minimally, this is a pioneering study for which the author had "no close models, no ready-made core bibliography, virtually no reliable secondary sources, no mentors or fully informed evaluators to give advice. . . ." Autumn Stanley has done much more than revise the history of technology; she has transformed our understanding of women's inventions and the world's work.

When she began her research, nearly twenty years ago, there were no books on women as contributors to technology, and very few references to the subject. Since the second phase of feminism we have become aware that women have made major contributions to art, literature, music, even science, but in technology, there has been no extensive study

within an historical framework that documents what women have invented. Not strident, the author states that "men can be every bit as inventive as women."

What lifts this study of women inventors to path-breaking history is that the author places her massive documentation of innumerable inventions by women within a historical, analytic, and interdisciplinary framework informed by recent scholarship, helping us understand why we have not known about women's inventions. Connecting her study to the growing number of studies of prehistory and the history of women's submerged cultures, Autumn states that "Humans began from a position of relative sexual equality with perhaps some female advantage, and moved through a shift toward male power when projectile hunting became an important male specialization."

The next great change happened when women began to garden. At Catal Huyuk in the near East (modern Turkey) James Mellaart's findings indicate that "representations of the male hunting god become less frequent and gradually disappear, while representations of a female deity become more frequent and finally dominate as cultivation triumphs, about 5800 BC." Another shift occurred in the late Neolithic Age when, for reasons still not entirely clear, men, and male deities, became dominant. Autumn calls this the "male takeover," which becomes the pattern that subsequently recurs in the history of women and men.

The author's sources for demonstrating women's early and continuing inventiveness range from myths and religious documents to sources in anthropology, archeology, primatology, evidence embedded in language, and her own common sense. She calls the chapter on women and agriculture, "Daughters of Ceres, Songi, and Corn Mother," analyzing evidence from prehistory to contemporary corn geneticists showing that women invented agriculture and have made continuing technical contributions to providing and improving the world's food.

The second chapter, on women, health, and medicine, "Daughters of Isis, Gula, Hygeia, and Brigit," summons information from arts and crafts, literature and history, anthropology, and pharmacology for evidence of women as healers. The prohibition against women healers in western culture began in Periclean Athens, recurred at the time of the great burning of women healers as witches in the early modern era, and has continued to the present as discrimination against women healers. Yet women have continued to heal; for centuries Eastern European peasant women used moldy bread over wounds, precursors of the invention of penicillin. The book becomes a roster of suppressed women's inventions illuminated by the mother wit of an author who knows that women concerned about nutrition have created a

long list of inventive foods right up to low-calorie pizza dough; and as the gender that historically did the caring as well as the cooking, women invented many aids for caring for the handicapped, invalids, and children. Like the neolithic goddess, women have seen to birth as well as death, sickness as well as health, and they have been responsible for their own sexuality. Bringing a feminist perspective to her research, Autumn analyzes women's inventiveness in sex, fertility and antifertility—lore known for millennia to women's cultures around the earth.

In the chapter, "Daughters of Athena, Semiramis, Margaret Knight, and Wei-Feng Ying," the author demonstrates that women have been inventors of tools and machines, starting with controversial reports of women's contributions to the McCormick reaper, the small electric motor, the Jacquard loom, and the Burden horseshoe machine. She includes information, such as that referring to Mrs. Elias Howe and the sewing machine, that changes our view of the history of technology. Autumn analyzes women's mechanical inventions in architecture, art, business, education, health, domestic work, manufacturing and industry, office work, transportation, and other sectors of contemporary life, rescuing many women inventors from obscurity; e.g., Helen Augusta Blanchard (1840–1922), who invented a long list of items from sewing machine improvements, elastic gorings for shoes, a hat-sewing machine, and a pencil sharpener, to zig-zag sewing.

In the twentieth century, women have put their imagination and skills to the invention—to name a few—of typewriters, dishwashers, churns, hog waterers, adjustable rakes, coal chutes, curtain brackets, heating equipment, adjustable artist's easels, vending machines, devices for teaching reading, lamp fixtures, air-cooling mechanisms, and rheostats. *Mothers and Daughters of Invention* gives the reader a great deal to think about; for example, Marie Van Brittan Brown, an African-American woman, invented a video and audio home security system.

The author takes us into the long closet of women's household and artisan inventions: machines that ironed, scrubbed floors, shelled nuts, stuffed cushions, affixed heels to shoes, and sealed wrappers; nail extractors, kilns, wire twistors, belt drives, rotary engines, wave motors, humidifiers, calculators, scales, theatrical fire-illusion apparatus, and toys.

In "Daughters of the Enchantress of Numbers and Grandma Cobol," Autumn examines women inventors and innovators in computers and related technology, a galaxy of inventive women ranging from early nineteenth-century Lady Lovelace through the "Eniac Girls" who first programmed computers to Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper and her successors. Especially noteworthy are Evelyn

Berezin, who designed the first office computer; Silicon Valley's Pat Wiener, who did pioneering work in magnetic core memory and single-chip computers; and the developers or codevelopers of many of today's computer languages.

Autumn Stanley advises, in a personal communication, "Every invention, of course, has two parts—the light bulb/original idea and the bringing of that idea to practical operation; sometimes these two parts come from the same individual and sometimes they don't; and sometimes only one of the two gets recognized. In the nineteenth century, and in the present, if one of the two part(ner)s is a woman, she is the one more likely to be ignored." Omissions in the records of the U. S. Patent Office in the last century sometimes occurred when a woman who had invented an item sometimes called in a male expert or lawyer who often put *his* name on the patent. Then there were all the inventions associated with child rearing and women's other traditional work, which men with a masculinist mindset have deemed too insignificant to list or defined as impossible to patent.

But what accounts for the silence surrounding women's inventions in architecture and many other fields, which have also gone unacknowledged? The silence of historians of technology has persisted up to contemporary inventions, from Rock-A-Bye Bears for calming colicky infants to inventions in high technology, such as the prototype heart-lung machine. Women invent, but have not until very recently been recognized as inventors.

Mothers and Daughters of Invention has more than a hundred pages of appendices documenting and amplifying the text, a 124-page interdisciplinary bibliography, and a 73-page index, all of which will be indispensable to scholars. Autumn Stanley has not only written a book that is a gift to women and a credit to the resourcefulness of humankind, she has opened a Pandora's box (in the original sense of the term, meaning "all gifts") of possibilities for scholars—the evidence of women's inventiveness is all around us. When my mother's arthritis became too bothersome, she would wrap her limbs in cellophane bread wrappers. I asked her doctor about this; he said it was a brilliant invention for treating arthritis—the bread wrappers kept her limbs warm.

—Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum

REVIEW

STITCHES IN TIME

Institute member Eli Leon, a nationally known scholar of African-American quilts, has recently been curator for two exhibits in Bay Area venues: "Models in the Mind" and "Arbie Williams Transforms the

Britches Quilt." The first appeared in the new Center for the Arts in San Francisco in early 1994, and the latter in both the Sesnon Gallery of UC Santa Cruz last fall and at the Berkeley Art Center in late spring of this year. Taken together, these two shows provide a good introduction to an important artistic tradition and a fascinating way—especially for historians—of examining a culture as it has evolved over time. For each show there is a catalogue in which the curator makes historical arguments that merit the attention both of scholars of women's history and of African-American history.

The first order of business, however, is to discuss the thrilling graphic quality of the quilts. To walk into the Berkeley Art Center, for example, a splendid site for exhibiting them, was to have a memorable aesthetic experience. Vibrant colors and striking designs characterize the quilts that Oakland artist Arbie Williams has created out of scraps of fabric juxtaposed with old blue jeans. Williams was born in 1916 and grew up in Texas and Oklahoma, coming to California in the 1940s. After raising her family, she began to have more time to piece quilts and then, after receiving a National Heritage Fellowship in 1990, she went on what another quilter has called a "quilting fit," which resulted in the stunning quilts represented in the show.

Williams's work is also included in "Models in the Mind," along with the work of several other gifted East Bay women, plus some from southern states. Once again, the quilts reveal artists possessed of vivid creative imagination, a strong sense of color, and the ability to engage in jazz riffs around a basic pattern concept.

Beautiful as objects, the quilts are also important historical documents. In the multi-artist show, Leon provides prototypes of West African textiles to demonstrate how powerful the resemblance is between these artifacts of a bygone age and the quilts produced by twentieth-century artists. Having developed a vocabulary and a method for analyzing the formal properties of the modern quilts, he suggests that the traditional African stripwoven cloth may have constituted a "model in the mind" passed down over the course of generations among African-American families. Although this contention cannot be conclusively proven without written documentation unlikely to exist, Leon's work opens our eyes to miraculous possibilities of cultural survival. Moreover, it places women, whose activities have only recently begun to be analyzed systematically, at the center of this enterprise. Many of the artists have informed interviewers that they learned to quilt from mothers and grandmothers, which strengthens Leon's argument.

If the one exhibit with its accompanying catalogue demonstrates the broad outlines of this process

of cultural linkage, then the Arbie Williams show enables Leon to present the evidence in an especially focused way. He says in the catalogue:

Textiles, like all forms of human expression, are keys to understanding the cultures that produce them. Fragments of cloth found in the Tellem Caves in Central Mali reveal that eleventh- or twelfth-century West Africans—like some contemporary African-American quiltmakers—sembled cloth from narrow strips and aligned design elements from strip to strip. Nineteenth-century textiles of the Kuba of Kongo—products of longstanding tradition—evidence the acceptance of irregularities, patchwork strip assembly, and improvisational qualities also found in African-American quilts. Thus, quilts made by African-Americans in post-World War II California mark the most recent leg of a journey, forced at first, that began in West and Central Africa and progressed across the North American continent, flourishing most recently in a 1940s surge of migration to California.

Leon then likens Williams's use of mended britches for her quilts to "the Kuba custom of adorning while mending, using *contrasting* appliquéd patches on ceremonial barkcloth skirts to cover worn spots and holes made during the pounding of the cloth."

Those who missed the shows can only hope that they will find additional venues. Eli Leon, the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship a few years back, has performed an important service to all of us by collecting, analyzing, and celebrating these pieces of a people's history. The service is particularly important because until quite recently women's work (there are a few male quilters, but not many) has been seen, if seen at all, as timeless, unchanging, and irrelevant to the larger processes of historical development. If women's work helped keep a culture alive under the most difficult conditions, this is one more indication of how essential it is for all who care about the human past to pay heed to women's history.

—Glenna Matthews

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Conferences

The Kosciuszko Foundation is holding a conference on "The Warsaw Uprising of 1944" on 23–24 September in New York City. For information, contact: The Kosciuszko Foundation, Cultural Dept., 15 E. 65th St., New York, NY 10021-6595.

The Midwest Association for Latin American Studies and the Illinois Conference of Latin Americanists will hold their annual meeting in St. Louis on 29 September–1 October. For information, contact Charles Fleener, MALAS Program Chair, Dept. of History, St. Louis University, Shannon Hall 119, St. Louis, MO 63103.

Call for Papers

An international conference on "Teaching the Holocaust and Genocide in Universities and Secondary Schools" will be held in Jerusalem on 26 December–2 January. The meeting will focus on teaching about the Holocaust and genocide from all perspectives, including history, education, law, ethics, etc. Call for abstracts by 1 September 1994. For more information, contact: Bernard Klein, Chair, Dept. of History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences, Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Oriental Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11235.

There is a call for papers (no deadline given) for the next meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, "Gambling with the Environment," which will be held in Las Vegas 8–11 March 1995. For information, contact Theodore Steinberg, Dept. of Humanities, New Jersey Institute of Technology, University Heights, Newark, NJ 07102-1982.

The Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association will hold its eighty-eighth annual meeting on Maui, Hawaii 4–7 August 1995. Call for proposals by 15 November 1994. Send proposals to Marilyn Boxer and Robert W. Cherny, AHA-PCB Program Committee Cochairs, Dept. of History, San Francisco State U., San Francisco, CA 94122.

New Journal Announced

The *European Review of History* will be published in two issues annually, including an index. It is an international journal covering European history of all centuries and subdisciplines, written by European scholars. Each journal has three parts: articles based on original research; reviews and review articles; and practical information for researchers about grants, archives, university networks, conferences, etc. To obtain more information about subscribing, contact Carfax Publishing Co., PO Box 2025, Dunnellon, FL 34430-2025



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Judith Albert contributed the final chapter to *Margaret Fuller: Visionary of A New Age*, which was published in February by the U. of Maine Press.

Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum reports that her 1993 book, *Black Madonnas, Feminism, Religion, and Politics in Italy* will be published in an Italian translation in 1995 under the title, *Le madonne nere. Femminismo, religione, e la politica in Italia*. She wrote a chapter: "Historical Origins of Femininity and Feminism: White and Black Madonnas," for *Femininity and Feminism: An Ongoing Discourse in Contemporary Italian Culture* (1994). She also wrote a chapter, "Simone Weil and Italian Feminists," for a forthcoming anthology on Simone Weil to be published in 1995. Last but not least, Lucia contributed an article, "Nonviolence in Italy's Ecological Imagination," forthcoming in 1995 in *The Ecological Imagination in Italy. Literature, Philosophy, History*.

Gray Brechin was the keynote speaker for the annual conventions of the Victorian Society of America and American Association of Geographers, both held in San Francisco. Gray was also awarded a fellowship by the UC Berkeley Geography Department for the 1994–1995 academic year.

Leslie Friedman contributed the biographical essay on Leonid Massine to *American National Biography*, the successor to the classic *D. A. B.*, published by Oxford University Press. Leslie's essay, "No More Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," on the history and legal developments of the no-smoking movement, was published in *Transatlantic*. *Dance Now* has published several of her book reviews—of B. Nijinska's *Memoirs*; M. Siegel's *Days on Earth*, a biography of Doris Humphrey; L. Loewenthal's, *The Search for Isadora*, a biography and cultural history; and E. Stodelle's *The Dance Technique of Doris Humphrey*. On 13 May Leslie presented a lecture on the history of modern dance at the State Ballet Academy in Warsaw, Poland. In June, she led a seminar for directors of national arts institutions and international business leaders on supporting the arts in a free enterprise economy, which was cosponsored by the U. S. Information Agency and the same Ballet Academy.

Rella Lossy's play, *Mozart's Women: Theme and Variations*, will be performed in late July as part of the Oregon Coast Music Festival and the Coos Bay Music Festivals.

Cathy Luchetti has been nominated for a James Beard Award for writings on food for her book, *Home on the Range: A Culinary History of the American West*.

New member Vincenza Scarpaci is co-curator of an exhibit at the Petaluma Historical Museum [(707) 778-4398], which will be there until 30 November. Its title is "A Gathering of Women: Women's Organi-

zations in Petaluma." She reminds us that Petaluma is only thirty-eight miles north of San Francisco!

Bill Strobidge contributed an entry on "Chinese in the Spanish-Cuban American War and the Philippine War" to *The War of 1890 and U.S. Interventions 1898-1934. An Encyclopedia*, published by Garland Press in 1994.

Kyle Wyatt had an article, "The Very Image of the Past: Old Photographs and the Restoration of Historic Railroad Equipment," in the Spring issue of *Journal of the West*. **Peter Palmquist** was not only Guest Editor of that issue, but he also wrote the Introduction and an article, "The Western Snapshot as Document."

Among IHS members participating in the Annual Conference of the Western Association of Women Historians last May were: **Rochelle Gatlin**, **Frances Richardson Keller**, **Glenna Matthews**, and **Karen Offen**.



NEW MEMBERS

Kate Hearst received her BA from the University of Michigan. Her major studies were English, Public Relations, Graphics, and Structural Architecture. She is self-employed, with her own public information agency. Her work includes writing, editing, designing publications, and conducting research for various departments and professors at UC Berkeley. She has also done press releases for KQED-TV and other institutions and individuals. Kate is currently working on three historical projects: completing a book, "The Recovery from the Oakland/Berkeley Hills Firestorm," which emphasizes the personal and architectural recovery process; a second book about students and faculty members with physical disabilities and how they have succeeded in academic careers in spite of—or because of—discrimination. She has recently begun a study of electric cars and their current development for pollution-free transportation. She wishes to meet writers in related fields, join discussion groups, and perhaps obtain help with specific projects. She learned of the Institute from Willa Baum, the director of the Oral History Project at UC Berkeley.

Christopher Jay Newton started as a Humanities major at S.F. State University and received his BS in Business Administration from the University of

Phoenix, Northern California. He has published several articles in trade journals related to his work as a systems analyst for a worldwide lessor of shipping containers. His interest in world history is very strong. He is a member of the AHA, and would like to pursue a career that combines scholarly research and publication. To that end, he has finished the first draft of an historical novel about Vasco da Gama's first voyage to India. His particular interest is in Iberian and Latin American history. He first learned about the Institute from one of our brochures at the AHA Annual Meeting in January. He joined IHS in order to obtain scholarly support and criticism for his historical research and writing. He has already given a Work-in-Progress, reading from two historically based novels on which he is working.

Dora Roth received her MD degree from the University of Zagreb Medical School, her Masters in Public Health from Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School in Jerusalem, and her PhD in Epidemiology from UC Berkeley. Her dissertation was an historical study of epidemiology in its social and intellectual contexts. Dora has also edited academic writings and is an independent scholar. She is currently studying the Berkeley Free Speech Movement, and also working on a book about the nineteenth-century Vienna School of Medicine and the rise of scientific specialization, set in the cultural and social context of the Hapsburg Monarchy. Dora wishes to exchange ideas and resources with IHS members interested in both traditional and neglected areas of historical research. She learned of the Institute from the Directory of the Modern Language Association.

Vincenza Scarpaci received her BA from Hofstra University and her MA and PhD from Rutgers, all in History. She has received grants and fellowships from the Newberry, the Immigration History Research Center, and the NEH. Her most recent writing has been biographical essays on Angela Bombace, Louis Levin, and Rosa Mondavi for the current *American National Biography* revision. Vincenza has participated extensively in grant writing, and is involved in a variety of scholarly activities. She was co-curator of two exhibits for the Petaluma Historical Museum and has coordinated a series of public programs focusing on the history of the Petaluma area. She is currently an instructor in U.S. immigration history at Sonoma State University. Vincenza is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Sonoma County Museum Outreach Committee and cochair of the Petaluma Historical Museum. [See Membership News above.] She is a member of the American Italian Historical Association, as is Rose Scherini, from whom Vincenza learned about the Institute. She would like to be in touch with the Bay Area academic community to learn about ongoing projects.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- August 21 Work-in-Progress—Gray Brechin,
"Conserving *The Race*: Natural
Aristocracies, Eugenics, and the
U.S. Conservation Movement."
September 18 Membership Pot Luck Dinner at
Ruth Willard's home
November 19 Fall Membership Dinner



UPDATE

There will be a short addition to the membership roster coming out in late August.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Deadline for the Fall issue of the *Newsletter* will be 30 September.

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Direct membership inquiries to: Nancy Zinn,
Membership Chair, 1410 21st Avenue,
San Francisco, CA 94122

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