

The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

Volume XVI, No. 1

Spring 1995

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am honored to be President of the Institute once again, although I have to admit I volunteered for the job. It's cheaper than campaigning.

The new board has been notified that membership has slipped and that we need to do something about this. Some members who dropped out last year had been inactive for several years and have obviously found something else to do with their money, but we always need to recruit in order to maintain sufficient members to support a good program. The board will be active in this, but the most likely source of new members is your circle of friends and acquaintances.

We'd like to remind those who attend local conferences to put Institute brochures on the flyer table and to carry some around with them. Wearing the Institute name on your badge should elicit questions (although adding "Ask Me About This" is considered *déclassé*). When you have piqued someone's interest in the Institute, take down the name and address and send it to Membership Chair Nancy Zinn at 1410 21st Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122, phone her with it at her number in your membership roster, or e-mail her at: zinn@itsa.ucsf.edu. She'll send the brochure and application. She is also the person you should call for a supply of brochures before leaving for a conference.

With your help, we shall have some good programs this year. It has been a while since we put on a "mini-course." Sometimes we ask a member to lead one and sometimes we share the teaching, depending on the subject. Mini-courses have inspired us to mount programs for the public, but they are themselves engaging.

Let me try to describe our very formal and bureaucratic "program creation procedure," to be used in the case of mini-courses or public programs. One or two people come up with an idea at lunch or around refreshments at a Work-in-Progress, and then talk it up with others to test the waters. Then there's an announcement to the whole membership. Of course, sometimes it's a little more casual and only a few people know what's going on beforehand, but

that's usually because the rest of us haven't been reading the *Newsletter* carefully.

For the record the other board officers are: Al Baxter, Jack Boas, Catherine Ann Curry, Frances Richardson Keller, Daniele Le Croy, Bill Strobridge, Martin Tarcher, Marsha Vande Berg, Masha Zakheim, and Nancy Zinn. Members of the board without portfolio (but not without duties) are Lorrie O'Dell, who has volunteered to continue chairing the Program Committee, and Patricia Swensen, who will carry on scheduling the Works-in-Progress. The Nominating Committee for next year consists of: Michael Griffith, Ellen Huppert, Myrna Smith, Masha Zakheim, and Nancy Zinn.

We all look forward to a lively year.

—Georgia Wright

LATEST MINIGRANT AWARD

A Minigrant of \$500 was awarded in November to Frances Richardson Keller to help her complete the book on which she is currently working, "Living the Fictions of History." In this book, Frances hopes to redefine the term "fiction" so that it includes not only "imaginative literature" but also historical writing and the ideas that propel societies and individuals. Her grant will be used for expenses involved in her research.

The next deadline for applications for Minigrants is **1 MAY 1995**. All members who need financial help with their work or research projects should apply to the Minigrant Committee by that date!

ANNUAL MEETING

Forty-eight members attended the annual meeting, which was held on 25 February 1995 in the President's Room at the Laurel Campus of the University of California, San Francisco. Registration, accompanied by coffee, opened at 9:30 a.m., with the membership meeting being called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Michael Griffith.

Lorrie O'Dell reported on activities for the past year: the summer picnic (with our first annual History Bee) [Ed. note: Very entertaining, as well as enlightening!]; a membership potluck; the annual fall dinner meeting, with a program on education moderated by Ellen Huppert; participation in the second annual NCIS conference; and a tour of the Coit Tower murals, led by Masha Zakheim.

Participants in the various IHS study groups described their work and outlined plans for the coming year. These included: Oscar Berland for the "Readers of Early Historians" (previously "Classical Anarchists"), which reads the works of historians of past ages; Joanne Lafler for the "Play-Reading Group," which reads aloud and analyzes plays of historical interest, such as *The Madness of King George*; Bill Strobebridge for the "California Writers' Roundtable," which discusses and supports its members' work in California history; and Deborah Frangquist for the erstwhile "Nineteenth-Century Group," now the "Intellectual Autobiography Group," working collaboratively on the growth of "The Woman of the Mind." Ellen Huppert suggested organization of a new group to read and analyze recent writings on various subjects, such as the bicentennial of the French revolution. She requested that interested members contact her.

Patricia Swensen reviewed the Works-in-Progress program and mentioned two recent ones: a presentation by Ilse Sternberger, "Princes Without a Home: The Story of the Children of Dr. Theodore Herzl," and one by Pat and Jack Boas titled, "Holland America: 1992-1993, Being an Account of Life in Two Worlds by Californians Looking for Greener Pastures in the Flatlands of North Holland."

Lorrie O'Dell announced a number of important programs for the coming months. (On 25 March, we had a program celebrating women in the United Nations, in connection with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations). Masha Zakheim will lead a tour of the City Club on 15 June, and Edith Piness announced plans for a program on 23 June at the new headquarters of the California Historical Society. Wolfgang Rosenberg noted several events that will emphasize San Francisco history, including presentations by Carl Nolte and Kevin Starr that will be held at the City Club. There are also plans for our annual membership picnic in July, our potluck in September, and the annual fall dinner in November. Details of these will be announced in mailings to the members.

Wolfgang Rosenberg reported on the state of the Institute treasury, which totals \$16,475 in assets. A complete report will be forthcoming shortly. Elaine Rosenthal noted that costs of the *Newsletter* have been cut by dropping nonpaying former members from the mailing list, and by changing from a printing

company to a copy center for the same high quality product. She also passed around a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in reviewing published books written by Institute members. (See page seven.)

Joanne Lafler reported on National Coalition of Independent Scholar events, which included a conference cosponsored by the Institute and, stressing the advantages of NCIS membership, invited Institute members to join.

The new Board of Directors and the nominating committee for 1995-1996 have been listed in the message from our new president on page one.

There were several of other announcements, comments, and discussions before adjournment for lunch: Wolfgang gave various reasons for the recent decision to revise the IHS brochure, and suggested that the Minigrant Committee be made a regular standing committee; Deborah Frangquist observed that we should avail ourselves of the assorted new technologies to advertise our existence to prospective members, and also suggested that, with current desktop publishing capabilities, we might not need a permanent printed brochure, but one that could be revised easily and at less cost.

When these discussions had ended, the meeting adjourned for lunch. After lunch, Institute member Nancy Zinn, librarian emeritus of UC San Francisco, gave the members a most interesting presentation, "The On-Line Historian: What's Out There for You." She covered the great potential offered by computer research networks, with an emphasis on Internet. What information networks are most "user friendly?" Which ones provide global access? How do you and I get on-line? These and other questions were addressed by Nancy in her presentation, which ended with a demonstration on her laptop computer.

Nancy first introduced us to the concept of INTERNET, a computer network that makes it possible for people to have worldwide communication. Being on the Internet is like "driving down the information highway, which can be overwhelming," she said, but can be more frustrating than damaging. Internet was originally developed in the 1970s as a national military system for communicating research information to mainframe computers.

There are many commercial access providers (as well as academic, government, etc.) available for Internet. For instance, there are NETCOM, PRODIGY, and AMERICA ON-LINE. At the University of California, everyone who works in the library is on the internal e-mail (electronic-mail) system. The library is fully electronic, since communications were a prime consideration when it was built. Although communication is basically one-on-one, one e-mail message can be sent to more than one correspondent, such as members of a board of directors or users of a bulletin board.

Archives and libraries can be accessed electronically. For example, through Melvyl, the electronic catalogue for all University of California libraries, the user may also access a few other library catalogues as well.

Some local library systems (Oakland Main and all Berkeley branches) now provide limited access to Internet. Some of the other advantages of going on-line with Internet and e-mail include: they are gender-free, women's usage is extensive, women students who use them in academic classes tend to participate more fully than they do when present in a real classroom, and it is far easier, quicker, and cheaper to exchange e-mail messages and letters with colleagues, friends, and family members.

Being on-line also offers other options, such as TELNET, which goes to remote sites, and GOPHER, which makes it easier for the user to search for documents and information, and download entire documents. The only system that includes graphics and sound is WORLD-WIDE-WEB, but it takes a more sophisticated setup and special software.

Nancy also discussed other on-line information capabilities. Some of the categories listed on various bulletin boards include: Conferences, Local Events, Exhibits, Positions Open, and Government Activity. There are also Historical LISTSERVS through which the historian can access bibliographies, discussion groups, specific fields of interest, research information sought, and other services. There are all sorts of databases and lists available with huge amounts of information, all free for the use of those with on-line access.

Bill Zinn, an educational computer consultant, offered advice on how to ascertain which access provider to Internet is best for you. Determine what your needs are, then compare what each provider offers before you make a decision. Be sure to start with one that provides e-mail. Nancy warned that users should exercise caution when sending out messages that could travel globally—nothing is private when you're on-line!

Nancy has five beautifully-indexed notebooks of lists of available information that she has downloaded from various sources. On the whole, going on-line has great potential for independent scholars and academics of all affiliations and interests. [Ed. note: Nancy and Bill will continue to write an occasional column on computers for the *Newsletter*.]

—Patricia Swensen (morning session)

—Therese Pipe (afternoon session)



SYMPOSIUM

Women Leaders at the Early United Nations: A Fiftieth Anniversary Appraisal.

In this fiftieth-anniversary year of the end of the Second World War and the establishment of the United Nations, the Institute for Historical Study, the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at Stanford University, and the Women's Heritage Museum presented a symposium at the Fort Mason Center on Saturday 25 March 1995, which concentrated on the significant achievements and the high visibility of some outstanding women delegates to the founding session in San Francisco.

Ellen Huppert, of the Institute of Historical Study, introduced the speakers and set the stage by pointing out that the extremely active and well-known American First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, was not alone in her concerns for human rights and women's rights.

Doris H. Linder, also of the Institute for Historical Study, as the first speaker, concentrated on three Scandinavian women who were the most active in their own countries in advancing the position of women. All three, Bodil Begtrup (Denmark), Aase Lionaes (Norway), and Ulla Lindström (Sweden) were members of the Social Democratic parties of their countries, and were happy to cooperate with this momentous project. In the founding assembly, 521 delegates were men, while women delegates numbered only fourteen. The Scandinavian women all worked on the important Third Committee—the Social Committee—which emphasized human rights and the concerns of women and children. Bodil Begtrup had been a member of the League of Nations; Aase Lionaes, a sturdy feminist, had gained experience in international refugee organizations, and Ulla Lindström stressed the need to include family planning in UN resolutions. They ably represented forward-looking Scandinavian thinking.

The next speaker was Neera Kuckreja Sohoni, currently affiliated with the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at Stanford University. She spoke about the spectacular rise of Madame Pandit, sister of Jawaharlal Nehru, to world leadership. Madame Pandit was born in 1890, received a very good education—which strengthened her love of reading—and in the Nehru household became politically educated. She also learned about hardship when her father and brother were arrested by British colonial powers, and was herself arrested in 1932. In 1935 she started her political career by fighting for the right of self-determination of India, and also for greater representation and participation of Indian women in governmental affairs. With a bit of brilliant electioneering, she stole the show from the British delegation

at San Francisco—not an easy thing to do, since Britain was one of the Big Four victors of the Second World War. In 1947 she was appointed by the then newly-independent Indian government to be the Indian ambassador to Moscow, and in 1949 she became the Indian ambassador to the United States. Five years later she was elected Head of the United Nations Assembly, and in 1954 she was appointed India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. The change from being a political prisoner of British colonial power to representing an independent India in London within the lifetime of one woman was remarkable. Madame Pandit expressed her political philosophy by saying pithily that "a world half ox-cart and half Cadillac" was doomed, and she made great efforts to advance human rights.

The third speaker was Sondra R. Herman, also associated with the Institute for Research on Women and Gender (as well as IHS). Her talk concentrated on the ideas of internationalism held by Alva Myrdal. The wife of the economist Gunnar Myrdal, she was very much a person in her own right even after years of child-raising and parenting. Her special concern was what could be done to strengthen the United Nations, particularly the network of moral standards that were part of its foundation. Myrdal felt that western women had an obligation to support women in Third World countries, and stressed that development and disarmament were two sides of the same coin. In 1956 Myrdal became ambassador to India, Nepal, and Burma, and in 1962 she headed the Swedish delegation to the 18th Disarmament Conference, which was to prod the superpowers to disarm. Myrdal believed in a rational, practical, and human approach to problems, and stressed that the UN should stand for social justice, which included access to education. In her phrase, "electricity did not go with illiteracy." For her, social justice had to include women, whom she saw as the classic outsiders. As the Director of the Social Service Division of UNESCO, she worked for the eradication of North-South differences, and stressed gender equality. For her work on disarmament she received the 1982 Nobel Peace Prize.

The speakers presented three sets of women who, fifty years ago and after, made a difference and had an enormous impact on world political and social actions. Interestingly enough, four came from the socially-advanced Scandinavian countries, while one, Madame Pandit, brilliantly represented a Third World country, which at that time still had to strive for its independence. In the long run, they all wielded enormous influence on world events.

—Agnes F. Peterson

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

Jack and Pat Boas

On Sunday, 19 February 1995, at the home of Patricia Swensen, Jack and Pat Boas presented "Holland America: 1992-1993, an Account of Life in Two Worlds by Californians Looking for Greener Pastures in the Flatlands of North Holland," a narrative of their experiences as expatriates. (Jack was born in the Netherlands.) Their presentation had a wonderful sense of immediacy, since Jack and Pat each brought a different and personal perspective to their experiences. Jack focused more on logistical difficulties and analysis of specific events and individuals, while Pat brought in vignettes of human virtues and frailties, such as the responses of their bemused neighbors to these incomprehensible Americans. Their combined views gave a balanced and fascinating panorama of life in another culture, one which has many similarities to our own, but also with some marked differences. In numerous cases these are surprising—sometimes forming barriers—but often forcing new insights, not only into the attitudes and values of the Dutch, but also into their own, as Americans.

The session was well attended by fifteen Institute members and friends, a good number for discussion and comments. Both the subject and the presentation itself kindled lively response and exchange of ideas, as well as providing narrative interest and straightforward facts and details.

—Patricia Swensen

BOOK REVIEW

Lyn Reese, *I Will Not Bow My Head: Documenting Women's Political Resistance in World History*. Berkeley, California: Women in the World Curriculum Resource Project, 1995. 112 pp., illus., maps, pb., \$16.95.

Lyn Reese has published a number of volumes in her continuing efforts to make materials on women's history available to classroom teachers. *I Will Not Bow My Head*, Lyn's most recent work, is an anthology of sixty documents detailing efforts by women from ancient Rome to the 1930s to "stand up for their rights and beliefs." It is handsomely produced with illustrations and maps.

Lyn begins by stating that "students commonly believe that in the past women have been passive, submissive, and nonpolitical. Yet in practically every historical period, primary source documents reveal females whose defiant acts impacted their societies in significant ways." Lyn's compilation offers a rich collection of examples of women demanding the right to be heard and to control their own property, as well as

women who led native resistance against colonial domination.

While some of these women, such as Elizabeth I of England, Mary Wollstonecraft, and the militant suffragettes, are well known in the West, the book has many examples from other parts of the world. These include warrior women from ancient Vietnam, medieval Japan, and revolutionary Mexico, as well as feminists from modern China, Japan, and Egypt.

Entries include not only a document, most often the in woman's own words, but also explanatory material and suggested discussion questions, bibliographical references, and activities for students. The most interesting entries are those in which more than one account of a woman's activities is included, so that students can see how differently women and their opponents saw their actions.

In some cases, by necessity, the documents about the women are at some remove from the events they describe. For example, the Trung sisters of Vietnam lived in the first century C.E., but the earliest account of their activities dates from the thirteenth century. The Nigerian Women's War of 1929 is represented by a passage from a novel. Lakshmi Bai, the Maharani of Jhansi, is described by popular songs and poems. Nonetheless, the fact that the exploits of these women captured the imagination of those who kept their memory alive is an important historical consideration that students could discuss as part of their study of these women.

This collection of materials does not present a narrative of women's resistance or a theory of such actions, but it does provide a number of striking examples of women's individual or collective actions in defense of their beliefs and freedoms in a wide variety of settings. The stories of these women offer students, and adults as well, evidence that women from many cultures and from different places in the social spectrum of their societies have had the courage to stand up for themselves—setting examples for the reader to admire and emulate.

—Ellen Huppert

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Research Information Sought

Deborah Frangquist, Institute member and Alumni Relations Director at Golden Gate University, is seeking information about students who attended educational classes at the San Francisco YMCA from 1853 to 1900. Personal letters or journals describing student experiences at the YMCA are particularly welcome for a video being prepared by Golden Gate University, the direct descendant of the Y's educational programs. Two of the earliest people involved

were H. L. Chamberlain (1868) and Henry J. McCoy (1881). If you have come across these people or others who refer to YMCA educational experiences during those years or even up to 1928, or if you have or can suggest possible sources, please contact Deborah at (415) 441-7823, fax her at (415) 882-1660, or e-mail to dfrangquist@ggu.edu.

Calls for Papers

The Association of American Journalism Historians will hold its annual meeting in Tulsa, OK 28–30 **September 1995**. Proposals are requested on any facet of media history, including electronic media and film. Proposal deadline: **1 May 1995**. Contact: David R. Spencer, Graduate School of Journalism, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario N6A 5B7, Canada.

A conference titled "Woman to Women: 19th-Century American Women Writers in the 21st Century," will be held in Hartford, CT 30 **May–1 June 1995**. Deadline for proposals: **15 May 1995**. Contact: Jo Blatti, Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, 77 Forest St., Hartford, CT 06105.

The annual conference of the North East Popular Culture Association will be held 6–7 **October 1995** in Worcester, MA. Proposal deadline: **1 June 1995**. Contact: James P. Harlan, Humanities Division, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA 01609.

NCPH (National Council on Public History) will be holding its 1996 annual conference in Seattle, Washington (exact dates unknown). It invites proposals for papers, sessions, or workshops that use innovative, nontraditional presentations emphasizing historians' public service mission, and that address the conference theme, "History and the Public Interest." Subjects might include (but are not limited to): environmental history; political history and the uses of history in electoral politics; the formation of public historical identities along local, state, regional, and national lines; and the use of new technologies in museums, broadcast media, archives, and elsewhere. Proposals should include a one-page summary and brief résumé for each presentation. Deadline for proposals: **1 July 1995**. Send proposals to: Robert Weible, Division of History, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, P.O. Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108. (Phone: (717) 783-9867.)

Conferences

During 28–29 **April 1995**, a conference, "Women at Cal: The First 125 Years," will be held at International House on the Berkeley campus. [See Membership News, below.] For information or program, call Dr. Maresi Nerad at (510) 643-9213.

The Western Association of Women Historians will be holding its twenty-sixth annual conference 2-4 June 1995 at Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, CA. [See Membership News, below.] Contact: Jacqueline Braitman, 23250 Mariano St., Woodlands Hills, CA 91367.

The International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations will hold its annual meeting at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio 15-18 June 1995. Contact: Prof. Corinne Gilb, 111 El Camino Real, Berkeley, CA 94705.

"Beyond Convent Walls: Religious Women in Historical Context," a conference sponsored by the Conference on the History of Women Religious, will be held 18-21 June 1995 at Cardinal Stritch College, in Milwaukee. Contact: Florence Deacon, Dept. of History, Cardinal Stritch College, Milwaukee, WI 53217-3985.

The annual International Conference on Critical Thinking and Educational Reform, "Three Waves of Research and Practice in Critical Thinking," will be held at Sonoma State University 30 July-2 August. Contact: Center for Critical Thinking, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA 94928.

The Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association will hold its eighty-eighth annual meeting on Maui, HI 4-7 August 1995. Contact: Lawrence Jelinek, AHA-PCB Secretary-Treasurer, Dept. of History, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

The Klutznick Symposium will hold its annual meeting in Omaha 17-18 September 1995 on "Representations of Jews Through the Ages." Contact: Maryellen Read, c/o Klutznick Chair in Jewish Civilization, Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178.

The annual meeting of the Oral History Association, "Reflections on Relationships in Oral History Research," will take place 19-22 October 1995 in Milwaukee. Contact: Michael Gordon, Dept. of History, University of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

Grants

The Rockefeller Archive Center, a division of the Rockefeller University, invites applications for its program of Grants for Travel and Research at the Rockefeller Archive Center for 1996. The competitive program makes grants of up to \$1,500 to U.S. and Canadian researchers in any discipline, usually graduate students or postdoctoral scholars, who are engaged in research that requires use of the collections at the Center. The deadline for applications is 30 November 1995; grant recipients will be announced in March 1996. Inquiries about the program and requests for applications go to: Darwin H. Stapleton,

Director, Rockefeller Archive Center, 15 Dayton Avenue, North Tarrytown, New York 10591-1598. [Ed. note: the holdings of this archive are much broader than one might think. It might pay to ask for a brochure describing all the collections.]

NOTE: The editor has e-mail addresses and/or fax numbers available for many of the above contact people. just call Elaine Rosenthal at (510) 658-4403 to request them.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Judith Strong Albert contributed a chapter, "Margaret Fuller's Influence: 'The Electrical, the Magnetic Element in Woman,'" to the book, *Margaret Fuller: Visionary of the New Age*, edited by Marie Urbanski, and published in 1994. Judith will also present a paper, "A Far-Reaching Feminism," in April 1995 at a conference on Margaret Fuller at Babson College, Wellesley, MA.

On 31 January Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum lectured at the Faculty Club on "Black Madonnas" as part of the Colloquium Series of UC Berkeley's Department of African American Studies. An article, "Year Zero of the Italian Left?" appeared in *Womanstruggle*, Fall, 1994. Lucia is working on her manuscript of "Godmothers. Italian and Italian American Women and Other Peoples of Colors." On 22 March, Lucia gave the annual lecture in Italian American Studies at the Wolfe Institute of the Humanities and Multicultural Center, Brooklyn College, on her "Godmothers" book. "Black Madonnas, Godmothers, and Italian Feminists" was the subject of her presentation at College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, MA, also in March. *Black Madonnas* was nominated by the Women's Heritage Museum of San Francisco for the best nonfiction book written by a woman; it was also cited as Book of the Week by the *Amici Dell'Italia* program for RAI (Italian national radio/TV), on 12 February of this year. On 4 April, Lucia participates in a Round Table on "The 'Voices' of Dacia Maraini," as part of the series, "Feminine Voices in Italian Literature," at the Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco. Lucia, you are really busy!

Gray Brechin gave two slide presentations, one for the 1995 California Studies Conference on "Energy Creates the Suburb," and the second for the California Transportation Conference at the University of the Pacific on "Transportation as a Means of Spatial Colonization."

Carroll Brentano will be giving a paper at the conference, "Women at Cal: The First 125 Years," while Glenna Matthews is on the Project Committee and will also introduce a speaker at another session. [See Conferences, above.]

Catherine Ann Curry contributed six articles to *European Immigrant Women in the United States: A Biographical Dictionary*, Garland Press, 1994. Two were on San Franciscan Catholics: Mother Baptist Russell, who founded the Sisters of Mercy and St. Mary's Hospital, and Mother Teresa Comerford, who founded free parochial schools in San Francisco.

Pamela Herr is working on a biography of Helen Hunt Jackson, author of *A Century of Dishonor* (1881), an important critique of U.S. policy toward the American Indians, and the best-selling novel *Ramona* (1884). Testifying to the enduring popularity of *Ramona* is the Ramona Pageant (presented annually since 1923 with a cast of over 350) at Hemet, California. On 29 April, Pamela will address the Historical Society of Southern California on the subject of author Jackson.

Luciana Lombardi has a weekly classical music radio show on KUSP-88.9 FM on Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. until noon. During the five programs in March, she celebrated Women's History Month with her twelfth annual series of programs featuring the music of women composers. She also performs historically-correct performances of medieval, renaissance, and baroque music with many groups. Among her latest publications are articles in the new *Encyclopedia of Latin American History*.

Kansas and Me: Memories of a Jewish Childhood, is the title of the autobiography of the late Annette McComas, which was published in the series, *Studies in Judaica and the Holocaust*, Volume 10, by Borgo Press, 1995. At the time of her death, Annette was editing the final copy of her memoirs. [See "In Memoriam" in the Winter 1994-1995 issue of the *Newsletter*.]

Chris Newton has had his comic novel, *Costa Azul*, published as an electronic book-on-disk, readable on an IBM-PC compatible computer. Information can be obtained from Serendipity Systems, P.O. Box 140, San Simeon, CA 93452.

Karen Offen has contributed a chapter to the book, *Suffrage and Beyond: International Feminist Perspectives*, edited by C. Daley and M. Nolan, just published by New York University Press.

At the upcoming conference of the Western Association of Women Historians, many of our members will be taking an active part. Therese Pipe will give the opening talk on the Oral History project of the League of Women Voters. [See Calendar, below.] Glenna Matthews will be one of three speakers on a panel on "Women in Politics, Women in Power." There are two panels dominated by IHS members: one on U.N. Women, with Sondra Herman, Doris Linder, and Francesca Miller as speakers, and the other on historians as independent scholars, with Ellen Huppert as moderator and Lorrie O'Dell and Joanne Lafler as participants. Still another session, on the Women's Heritage Museum, includes a paper

by Jeanette Farr McDonnell, with Frances Richardson Keller as Chair and comment by Judith Strong Albert. Both Autumn Stanley and Frances Keller chair and act as commentators for two other sessions. In addition, Grace Larsen chairs the committee for the Sierra Book Prize. Congratulations to all our WAWH members!

James C. Williams was elected treasurer of the Society for the History of Technology in October 1994. The previous month he was presented with the Award for Distinguished Service by the California Council for the Promotion of History at its annual conference in San Diego. In August 1994 James gave an invited paper, "Seismological Engineering: Designing Unseen Technology Against Invisible Forces," at the 22nd symposium of the International Committee for the History of Technology in Bath, England. He is now affiliated with the California History Center at De Anza College in Cupertino.

NEW MEMBERS

Frederick Isaac received his BA in History from Allegheny College, his MLS from the University of Pittsburgh, and his MA in History from CSU Hayward. He has worked in several libraries on both coasts, was Assistant University Librarian at the Orradre Library at Santa Clara University, and is now Head Librarian at the Jewish Community Library of the Bureau of Jewish Education in San Francisco. Fred has published several articles and given even more papers on librarians and bibliographies. In addition to his interest in U.S. and California History, and the status of librarians, he has made an ongoing study of mystery fiction and has given many papers on varied aspects of this subject at the annual meetings of the Popular Culture Association. He is interested in IHS because of the opportunity it offers for networking and making contact with other scholars, as both provider and recipient of assistance. Fred learned about the Institute at the NCIS Conference last October. He is a member of NCIS and presented a paper at that conference, "The Librarian as Independent Scholar."



WANTED! BOOK REVIEWERS

If any member would like to review books by IHS members for the *Newsletter*, contact Peter Browning at: P.O. Box 1028, Lafayette, CA 94549. (Phone: (510) 283-3184.) Please specify your field(s) of interest: e.g., 20th-century Europe; women's history.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 23 Therese Pipe, "Uncommon Women Making a Difference: A Bay Area Oral History of the League of Women Voters, 1920-1995."
- May 21 John Lafler, "Depiction of War, Politics, and Propaganda on Playing Cards, 1679-1994." With slides. Evening.
- Mid-July Annual Membership Picnic.

EDITOR'S NOTE

If any longtime member has a copy of the following *Newsletters*, please contact your Editor. I will make a photocopy of it (or them) and return the original to you. Needed: Vol. 5, Nos. 1-3; Vol. 6, No. 2; Vol. 7, No. 1, and Vol. 10, No. 1.

Don't forget to send notices of all the good things you've done or won to our Membership News Editor, Monica Clyde, well before each deadline.

Final deadline for the Summer issue of the *Newsletter* is 16 JUNE 1995.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

The Newsletter is the official publication of The Institute for Historical Study, a scholarly organization designed to promote the research, writing, and public discussion of history. Membership in the Institute is open to independent and academically affiliated scholars who are in agreement with its aims and who have a commitment to historical study. Membership inquiries should be sent to the Institute address.

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