

The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

Volume XVI, No. 2

Summer 1995

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The National Coalition of Independent Scholars, of which the Institute is an affiliate, will hold its Third National Conference 3–6 May 1996 in Princeton, NJ, on the theme *Situating Scholarship: (1) The Discourse (Theories, Trends, Boundaries); (2) The Scholar (Profession, Public Life, Ethics)*. Independent scholars and academics are invited to submit 150-word proposals for papers by 1 November 1995 to: NCIS Conference, Princeton Research Forum, 301 N. Harrison Street, Suite 222, Princeton, NJ 08540.

These conferences have been wonderful gatherings; the papers have been memorable and the fellowship heartwarming. Those of us who attended the first were eager to look for our new friends at the second. Princeton is delightful in the spring; while the air fare is high, the living and eating arrangements will be moderately priced. The themes are broad, so as not to exclude would-be speakers. The audience is diverse, intelligent, but not necessarily in your field. We hope for a good number from IHS.

NCIS is receiving many inquiries from a message posted on an Internet bulletin board, and we shall try fishing that pond for IHS. I am beginning to feel like a troglodyte, unwired, unfaxed, linked with friends and family only by post and telephone calls. Yet I fear snail-mail rather suits my tendency to delay replies as well as my preference for the pen over the keyboard. I do find, though, that my business associates appear to have abandoned their postage meters. If they cannot fax me, they seem to be at a loss as to what to do.

The Minigrants Committee—Masha Zakheim, chair, and Grace Larsen, Myrna Smith, and Patricia Swensen—has awarded three Minigrants this time around. Rose Scherini will receive support for travel to the FDR Library in Hyde Park in New York state for her project, "When Italian-Americans Were Enemy Aliens." Amy Kinsel will use her grant to purchase photographs for her book, *From These Honored Dead: Gettysburg in American Culture, 1863–1938*. Judith Albert will travel to do research for her project on Margaret Fuller. The next Minigrant deadline will be 1 NOVEMBER 1995!

—Georgia Wright

NEW INSTITUTE ADDRESS

Effective now, the new address for the Institute for Historical Study is: P. O. Box 5743, Berkeley, CA 94705. The new telephone number is (510) 540-8415. Mark these down somewhere in your roster of members!

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

John Lafler

John Lafler's presentation, "Depictions of War, Politics, and Propaganda on Playing Cards, 1679–1994," was a visualization of three centuries of political history. Using slides of face cards illustrating wars, political figures, campaigns, and propaganda, John's program on 21 May at Georgia Wright's home was unusual and fascinating.

The first playing cards in Europe date from the latter half of the 14th century; in the 17th century, they began to be used to depict issues related to war or politics and to disseminate propaganda. British Protestant-Catholic strife was the source for the 1679 deck, "The Horrid Popish Plot," containing black and white illustrations of clandestine meetings, trials, executions, and the murder of Sir E. B. Godfree, "strangled and stabbed on the nine of spades."

The French Revolution spawned a series of cards, even now "politically correct" on issues of the day: freedom of worship, divorce rights for women, and racial equality. By this period, the cards were in color, either hand-painted or formed with lead stencils, usually only in two colors.

John showed cards on the American Civil War, Spanish-American War, Crimean War, World War I (a German deck with Kaiser Wilhelm on the king of clubs and a zeppelin over the white cliffs of Dover), and a Belgian World War II deck with Churchill as the *Roi* of hearts and Hitler as the joker.

Political caricatures appeared in the late 19th century and are, perhaps, the most amusing. An Anheuser-Busch deck commemorating the Spanish-American War has Uncle Sam as the joker raising a

glass of beer; the caption reads: "Uncle Sam fortifies with original BUDWEISER and conquers the world." A French pack shows Giscard D'Estaing as fifty-two historical figures: the most outrageous is his portrayal as a woman (Agnes Sorel) in décolletage with one bare, elongated breast supported by a crutch! The 1963 Kennedy Kards present images of the family with characteristic items: Robert with a football, Ethel with baby bottles, Jack with a microphone, and Ted trying to pull a sword out of a stone. Other U. S. "politicards" show Eugene McCarthy as Hamlet and Goldwater riding a bomb.

Propaganda cards promoted repeal of prohibition, caricatured Hitler and Mussolini, taught French phrases to U. S. soldiers, urged the Viet Cong to "choose freedom or death," and cautioned that "Pot makes blooming idiots." Many questions and a lively discussion followed John's paper, which he will present at a conference of card collectors.

—Rose Scherini

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership Drive

A Membership Drive Committee has been formed by Wolfgang Rosenberg and Board members Frances Richardson Keller and Daniele Le Croy. The goal of the Committee is to recruit new members from the pool of graduate students. The rationale is that graduate students have demonstrated their interest in history by pursuing a degree, and as such are qualified prospective members eager to find a forum to express their ideas. (Please note that we remain committed to the notion that membership should be open to anyone engaged in serious historical study.)

We invite anyone interested in our efforts to increase Institute membership to join our Committee. We welcome suggestions and ideas. Please call Frances Keller (510) 339-2765; Daniele Le Croy (415) 759-5353, or Wolfgang Rosenberg (415) 282-3741.

Calls for Papers

Submissions are invited for a forthcoming volume of essays on "Motherhood and Sexuality in Britain Between 1880 and 1929." Deadline: **1 November 1995**. Contact Ann Sumner Holmes, Dept. of History, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

The Encyclopedia of Historians and Historical Writings, due to be published in early 1997, is seeking authors for articles that will include historians and thematic surveys and approaches. Contact: Dr. Kelly Boyd, editor, University of London, 31 Store Street, London WC1E 7BS, United Kingdom or by e-mail: kkboyd@sas.ac.uk. Stipend is \$50 per 1,000 words.

An international conference on the anniversary of World War II, "World War II: A Dual Perspective," will be held 30–31 May 1996 at Siena College in Loudonville, NY. The focus will be "1946, World War II: The Aftermath" and "1936, World War II: The Preliminary Period." Deadline is **1 December 1995**. Contact: Thomas O. Kelly II, Dept. of History, Siena College, 515 Loudon Rd., Loudonville, NY 12211.

Conferences

The Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association will hold its 88th Annual Meeting 4–7 **August 1995** in Kihei, Maui, Hawaii.

The annual Great Lakes History Conference, "History and the Telling of It," will be held 6–7 **October 1995** in Grand Rapids, Michigan. For information, contact James Smither, Dept. of History, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI 49401.

"The North American West: New Boundaries," is the theme for the 1995 Western History Association Conference, which will be held in Denver 11–14 **October 1995**. Contact: Western History Association, University of New Mexico, 1080 Mesa Vista Hall, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1181.

The annual meeting of the Northwest Conference on British Studies will be held in Spokane, WA 19–21 **October 1995**. Contact: Martin F. Seedorf, Northwest Conference on British Studies, Dept. of History, MS-27, Eastern Washington University, 526 5th St., Cheney, WA 99004-2431.

"Everybody's Business: Linking the Americas," the annual conference of the North Central Council of Latin Americanists, will be held in Ripon, WI 26–28 **October 1995**. Contact: Elane Granger-Carrasco, Dept. of Foreign Languages/Literatures, Marquette University, 526 N. 14th., Milwaukee, WI 53233.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Mary R. Anderson is included in the 13th edition of *World's Who's Who of Women*, and her biography is also in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

In April, Lucia Birnbaum was one of five female scholars who gave lectures as part of a course titled "Women's Sacred Texts: Ancient Expressions of Feminine Spirituality" at the C. G. Jung Institute in San Francisco. With Luisah Teish, Lucia will present a workshop, "Black Madonnas and Other Dark Women Divinities of the Earth," at the International Women's Conference to be held at Beijing, China in September.

Gray Brechin has received a Bancroft Fellowship to spend the year working in the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley, finishing his book/dissertation, "Imperial San Francisco." Gray has signed a contract with U. C. Press for his book, "Farewell, Promised Land,"

on the present state of California's environment. Gray also gave a paper on transportation as a means of spatial conquest at a conference on transportation at the University of the Pacific.

Bob Cherny is Co-Chair of the Program Committee for the 1995 annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA, and will preside at the breakfast meeting sponsored by the Committee. In addition, **Carl Guarneri** will present a paper at the meeting.

Last fall, the K-12 Committee (including IHS members **Frances Richardson Keller**, **Karen Offen**, and **Lyn Reese**) of the Western Association of Women Historians attended the meeting of the California Curriculum Commission and its subcommittee on History/Social Science Subject Matter to argue that additional material on women's and gender history should be included in school curricula.

Some of **Gretta Mitchell's** photographic work and a brief biography of her has been included in *A History of Women Photographers*, by Naomi Rosenblum, which is now in a second printing.

On 25 May, **Irena Narell** was honored at a reception for members of the American Jewish Historical Society, held at the World Trade Center in San Francisco. She received the honor for her bicentennial exhibit, "Old Traditions on a New Frontier: The Jews of San Francisco," at the Judah L. Magnes Museum. At the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the U. N. Charter, lectures were presented giving the Jewish perspective on the U. N. Irena's father was scheduled to become the first representative to the U. N. of the new Polish government, but died unexpectedly before his appointment was made public. On 26 May, Irena delivered a paper on "Florence Prag Kahn: The First Jewish Congresswoman." It was the only paper on women's history presented during the week-long conference held by the AJHS.

Karen Offen just received a fellowship for 1995-1996 from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation to complete her two-volume book, "The Woman Question in Modern France." Congratulations!

Judith Offer's children's operetta, "It Could Always Be Worse," was presented in May at the Julia Morgan Theater in Berkeley as part of a U. N. 50th-anniversary concert given by the Kairos Youth Choir. In June, her one-act play, "The EBFF Wants You," was presented six times at a festival of one-act plays.

Peter Palmquist has published a newly revised and enlarged 2nd edition of his *Bibliography of Writings by and About Women in Photography, 1850-1990*, as well as *Camera Fiends and Kodak Girls II: 60 Selections By and About Women in Photography, 1855-1965*, just published by Midmarch Arts Press. His archive, initiated in 1971, is "Women in Photography International Archive." Resources include 11,000 files, nearly 900 books, 3,000 articles, and about 5,000 original photographs taken by women, beginning with a

daguerreotype from the 1850s, and other miscellaneous material. The archive is available to serious researchers; Peter can also do small searches by mail.

As President of the California Historical Society, **Edith Piness** was also a member of its Event Committee to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the U. N. Charter. The Society has moved to 678 Mission Street in San Francisco, near Yerba Buena Gardens. The new location includes exhibition galleries and new technology for the library.

A reprint edition was due in June of *I'm On My Way Running: Women Speak on Coming of Age*, editors: **Lyn Reese**, **Jean Wilkinson**, and **Phyllis Koppelman**.

Mae Silver has published "Hastings' Stars of Liberty" in *Hastings Alumni Magazine*, 1995, and has been commissioned to write the centennial history of the Columbia Park Boys' Club. She has also presented a talk on the Stars of Liberty (early California suffragettes) to the Clara Foltz Feminist Society of Hastings Law School, and has given a slide show about 19th-century San Francisco women artists at the San Francisco Women Artists Gallery. Mae is working on a book about 19th-century San Francisco women.

Ruth Hendricks Willard has been appointed associate editor for North America for the British quarterly, *Equilibrium*.

Masha Zakheim gave a lecture in March to docents of the De Young Museum on "The Influence of Japanese Ukiyo-e Prints on the French Impressionists and French Influence on Nihonga." She also led two tours on three Diego Rivera frescoes in San Francisco.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to one new member and to two former members who have rejoined the Institute.

Judith Offer received her BA in English with a History minor from Nazareth College in Rochester, NY, and her MA in English (playwriting) from San Francisco State University. She writes plays, usually with historical settings, and gets them produced! She is currently working on a musical play about the 1909 shirtwaist-makers strike in New York City. She has joined the Institute to increase her familiarity with and access to research materials, as well as to have the opportunity to talk over similar problems and possible sources with other history-oriented playwrights. Judith learned about the Institute from Ruth Willard.

Phyllis Peet received her BA in Art with a minor in Social and Intellectual History from California State University, Northridge, and her MA and PhD in American Art and Architecture from UCLA. At present, she is serving as a lecturer at UC Santa Cruz, giving a Seminar on Women and Art, and concurrently is Director of the Women's Studies Programs at Monterey Peninsula College in Monterey, CA, teach-

ing courses on women, women in history, and images of women in Western culture. As a former member of the Institute, Phyllis knows the contacts and benefits that affiliation with IHS brings to its members.

Brenda Reed's biography will appear in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 16 Work-in-Progress: Kathleen Casey, "Filoncia's Vineyard," an historical novel set in fourteenth-century Umbria. 'What are the Uses of Historical Fiction for the Historian?'
- July 23 Membership Picnic with the second annual IHS History Bee. Fun and food at Redwood Regional Park.
- September 24 Membership Potluck Dinner

EDITOR'S NOTE

Final deadline for the Fall Issue of the *Newsletter* is 22 SEPTEMBER 1995.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Georgia Wright, President
Bill Strobridge, Vice President
Catherine Ann Curry, Secretary
Daniele Le Croy, Treasurer
Nancy Zinn, Membership Chair
Al Baxter, Jack Boas,
Frances Richardson Keller, Martin Tarcher,
Marsha Vande Berg, Masha Zakheim

Editor, Elaine Rosenthal
Editorial Committee:
Peter Browning, Monica Clyde, Joanne Lafler

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: 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.

The Institute for Historical Study
2237 Chestnut Street
San Francisco, California 94123
(415) 441-3759

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oakland, CA
Permit No. 498