

The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

Volume XVIII, No. 1

Spring 1997

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The wisdom of our nine founding directors continues to inspire the Institute's annual programs. Workshops and seminars, plus the presentations at annual dinners and meetings, identify new research sources, foster member participation, and literally extend history beyond the traditional classroom setting. Long before any website existed, the founders established an intellectual network. Moreover, the Work-in-Progress series by Institute members guarantees a sharper, better focused final history product.

This year's Program Committee addresses the need for independent scholarship to compile, publish, and preserve diverse and separate cultural histories as building blocks for a possible synthesis on national culture. Separately, the Work-in-Progress coordinator will continue to schedule the third Sunday of each month for presentations of independent scholarship.

I have graduated (if that's the right word) from vice president to president of the Institute. The other new and not new—but *not* old—Institute officers are: **Anne MacLachlan**, vice president; **Catherine Ann Curry**, secretary; **Jules Becker**, treasurer; and **Nancy Zinn**, membership chair.

Rose Scherini and **Bogna Lorence-Kot** are joint program chairs of the Program Committee. Items for the Calendar of Events should also be sent to Rose. **Fred Isaac** will be handling Works-in-Progress. Those who wish to give a Work-in-Progress or to make their home available for holding one should contact Fred.

The Program Committee is exploring several ideas for a program to be presented to the public next year: WPA projects in the Bay Area; representing diversity in U.S. history; and the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold in California. Anyone who wishes to comment on these programs or to suggest others should contact one of the committee members—Rose, Bogna, Georgia Wright, or Jody Offer. Another member is needed for the committee, since Jody Offer will be moving to southern California in July. If interested, please call Bogna or Rose.

—Bill Strobridge

ANNUAL MEETING

Morning Session

More than fifty people attended the Institute's 1997 Membership Meeting at the new Rockridge branch library in Oakland. President Georgia Wright called the meeting to order at 10:42 a.m. Membership Chair Nancy Zinn reported that twenty-two people inquired about Institute membership in 1996, and eight new members joined, bringing total membership to only 127. Nancy stressed that member referrals are the key to building membership and that larger membership offers diversity of fields of study and more Works-in-Progress, as well as financial stability for the Institute.

Lorrie O'Dell orchestrated the program report. Highlights of 1996 included the membership picnic in July (with prizes for all at the third annual History Bee), the membership potluck dinner at Ruth Willard's house in September, and the "History's a Mystery" dinner in November. Ann MacLachlan reported on October's program on Immigration, which she coordinated. Patricia Swenson described 1996 Works-in-Progress, the core of Institute programming, reminding members of the value of receiving supportive feedback for solving problems in scholarship, writing, and presentation.

Continuing groups include the Play Reading group and Readers of Early Historians, whose 1996 diet of Josephus, Apollodorus, Pausanias, and Eusebius generated both enthusiasm and ennui. Bill Strobridge reported on the California History Roundtable, whose members take turns presenting "show and tell" on their work and exchanging research suggestions. Oscar Berland urged members who are ignorant of Chinese history, but would like to learn, to join him in a new group studying the Essays of Ssu-ma Ch'ien (or Szuma Chien).

The program report concluded with advance notice of a probable 18 October joint conference by the Institute and the National Coalition of Independent Scholars on "Independent Scholars, Why We Do What We Do."

New members Alfred Büchler, Kim Conner, and

Hollace Ungerleider were introduced, and described their interests. In her Treasurer's report Daniele Le Croy thanked Georgia Wright and bookkeeper Marian Kassovic for recognizing early on that falling income required immediate economizing. The Institute is breaking even, but further ideas for reducing costs are needed. Besides paying your own dues and contributing extra if you can, the most important thing members can do is recruit new Institute members. Elaine Rosenthal urged members to send books for review in the *Newsletter* to Joanne Lafler and membership news to Oscar Berland.

Georgia concluded the meeting with a wonderfully witty President's report. At seventeen years of age, the IHS is the oldest independent scholars' group. At this ripe age, we have gotten control of expenses, Works in Progress continue to flourish, and we have learned that "immigration has happened before." Georgia presented personalized ceramic tiles to Elaine Rosenthal and Peter Browning (for the *Newsletter*), Marian Kassovic (for bookkeeping and office work), and Lorrie O'Dell (for the mailing list, roster, and good deeds too numerous to list).

While the Nominating Committee counted election ballots, the membership discussed library access, especially at UC Berkeley, a subject guaranteed to raise anyone's blood pressure. To no one's surprise, Jules Becker, Bogna Lorence-Kot, Jody Offer, Bill Strobebridge, and George Wright were elected to the Board of Directors, and everyone adjourned for lunch.

—Deborah Frangquist

Afternoon Session

The afternoon session presented by the IHS History Play Reading Group. Joanne Lafler introduced a lively "Staging History" review of the result of six years of delving into drama. "Because history sometimes needs a little help," she said, "fidelity to historical fact has not been a principal criterion in the selection of the group's thirty-odd titles read so far—ranging from Classical Greece to post-World War Two. The next play to be tackled is Schiller's *Mary Stuart*. Joanne explained the group's continuing interest in the author's ideas, use of historical sources, treatment of key events, and success in making history come alive.

Members of the group read the roles aloud, taking about four meetings to do an entire play—always interspersed with lively discussion. IHS members are invited to join the group by contacting Lorrie O'Dell to request a notice of the play group's next meeting.

The first presenter was Jody Offer, who talked about researching the background of, and then writing, her own play, *Breaking Free*, which dramatizes Biddy Mason, a black Los Angeles midwife in the 1850s. A scene in which Biddy discusses a planned

family move back to Texas with her friend Hannah was read by Georgia Wright and Joanne Lafler, after which Jody told us that her aim was to achieve authentic re-creations in her own dramatizations for schools, trying to write "what probably *did* happen." Jody's play deals with the important subject of staying free by remaining in a free state or returning home to a slave state. Biddy Mason Park in downtown Los Angeles memorializes this woman, one of the few blacks among only about 5,000 inhabitants at that time in southern California.

"I didn't make up any of this," Jody said. She has already published *California History Plays for Young People*, and intends to do a drama on Julia Morgan.

Next up was Bonda Lewis, in full period costume as Jane Austen, in Bonda's version of *Tea and Sensibility*, re-creating Austen, in an extended monologue, to give us new insights into her character. Bonda's make-up, gestures, mannerisms, posture, and diction were authentic and charming. She explained that her productions are created so that anything in the play has to be spoken, and with costumes, gestures, and period furniture, she enhances the audience's appreciation.

She told us that in her broad research, as an actor, "I have to choose things that 'play'." She said that "all these things fall into place when a project is 'just right' for you." Bonda also talked about other women whom she had played or wanted to dramatize in this fashion, including Louisa May Alcott, Isabella Bird, and Amelia Jenks Bloomer.

The next offerings of the History Play Reading Group were readings from three dramas recently studied and discussed. The first was Bertolt Brecht's *Galileo*, from which a participating cast of seven gave us a scene in which Galileo made a mock confession of his heresy. Georgia Wright, Joanne Lafler, Ellen Huppert, Marian Kassovic, Lorrie O'Dell, Jody Offer, and Edith Piness were the actors. The "stage" was full.

Then came Robert Bolt's *A Man for All Seasons*—the ex post facto view of Sir Thomas More's refusal to bend to the will of Henry VIII during 1534–35. Widely produced, and made into a major film in the 1950s post-McCarthy era, it was as much a play reflecting the then-current concerns with witch-hunts as with what actually happened in the 16th century. A cast of five, including Anne Richardson and four actors from the prior scene, did the reading.

The finale was from Alan Bennett's *The Madness of George III*, set in 1788 and made into a very popular film. Six readers from the group presented the scene in which the king's dramatic restoration to sanity is described and interpreted, with quaint references to 18th century medical knowledge about the color analysis of the king's urine.

A delighted audience immediately responded to

an informal poll, indicating that this was one of the best annual meeting presentations ever held. Joanne, asking others to join the group, emphasized that "there's no homework—we just read aloud," and Lorrie added that "although every play is a historical document, we want to dig into the playwright's thinking about an actual historical event." Participation in the group inevitably stimulates reading in the period covered.

With the buzz of conversation found in most after-theater crowds, the newest IHS historical drama fans adjourned for a social hour at outgoing-president Georgia Wright's rebuilt Berkeley Hills home.

—Wolfgang Rosenberg

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

Joan Murray

Joan Murray spoke on the topic of Russian immigrants from Manchuria on 19 January at the home of Masha Zakheim. In her audience was Alfred Büchler who, until 1947, lived in Shanghai, where Russians from Manchuria and European Jews had fled during the Japanese invasion of China and German persecutions. Also present was Maria Sakovich, who works with Russian immigrants as well as studies them. Joan, assigned the task of writing a paper for a course in ethnography, settled upon interviewing a group of Russian native informants—all members of the Russian Orthodox Church—whom she met through a college friend. She recorded extensive interviews with four people, asking them to relate their life stories and those of their parents. Her informants were people born in Manchuria in the area ceded by China to Russia along the routes of the Central Eastern Railroad, built by Russia between 1898 and 1903. The area, in fact, became a Russian settlement—what had been a wide space in the road became the bustling city of Harbin. Russians continued to be drawn to the region after the Revolution. They established museums, libraries, professional schools, churches, synagogues, and social clubs.

Early in the 1930s the Japanese occupied Manchuria. Life became intolerable for the Russians, who emigrated to Shanghai, the Philippines, and a few to the United States. Shanghai was divided into concessions—German, American, French. The nationals were eventually interned, but the emigrés from Manchuria were considered to be stateless and were left alone, if rather severely restricted. Jews were under curfew at the insistence of the Germans. (Alfred Büchler had to scamper back to his quarter from school by a 2 p.m. curfew.)

This was the historical background of Joan's native informants. She began the study looking for

signs of the preservation of cultural identity. What she found difficult to understand was how some people who were forced to emigrate—once from Russia and then from Manchuria to Shanghai—arrived with little, and managed to accumulate fortunes. One of her advisers pointed her to a study by George Marcus, *Elites, Ethnographic Issues* (Albuquerque: 1983). According to this non-Marxist definition, an elite person "creates agency," that is, accepts responsibility for his or her own actions rather than looking to official institutions. In the case of the Russians, she found that the successful ones did not despair, but recognized the necessity to acquire languages, and to form networks and use them, thus creating agency with others. These Russians had been raised to make business connections and alliances and to accumulate capital. Some had academic backgrounds. They had been among those who wished to modernize Russia. While "looking to the West" they had moved east, in the first instance for the opportunities along the railroad frontier, later because they were forced out of Russia by the Bolsheviks. Some believed that if they could hold on, they could return to help the USSR into the modern world. Those who did return "disappeared." Those whom Joan interviewed, of course, had given up the idea of returning and had come to the United States. This was another example of seizing a rare opportunity—in this case the chance, sponsored by Senator Knowland, for a few stateless Russians to immigrate.

—Georgia Wright

Bonda Lewis

On 16 February Sara Bard Field visited the home of Bogna Lorence-Kot in Oakland. However, she arrived in the guise of Bonda Lewis who, in one of her *Performances off the Shelf*, presented a portrait of this 'American Feminist and Poet' to a most appreciative audience.

Sara Bard Field was born in 1882 and raised in Detroit, Michigan, but spent most of her life in Los Altos, California, where she died in 1977. She married at age eighteen and had two children, but left her husband and caused great scandal by living 'out-of-wedlock' with Colonel Charles Erskine Scott Wood. She was a journalist and a published poet; her most famous work was an epic poem (a form now out of style) entitled *Barabbas*, published in 1932. Earlier in the century, she had become an activist in the national campaign for women's suffrage.

California had granted women the right to vote in 1911, and this right was recognized in most of the Western states. However, states in the East and South had not followed suit. The Congressional Union Party began a campaign for an amendment to the United States Constitution, called the Susan B.

Anthony Amendment. At the Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco in 1915, California suffragists gathered over 500,000 signatures for a petition to Congress and the president to approve the amendment. Two immigrant Swedish suffragists, Maria Kindberg and Ingeborg Kinstedt, offered to carry the petition to Washington, D. C. in their 1915 Willys Overland Touring Car, stopping along the way for rallies and speeches and to gather more signatures. Sara was asked to accompany them, and the three women drove from San Francisco across the United States to Boston, New York City, and finally to Washington, where, to the cheers of the crowd, they joined a parade down Pennsylvania Avenue.

'Sara' told us this story from her bedroom as she prepared for a party on her birthday. She reminisced about this journey, describing a touring car without adequate cover or windows to keep out the wind or the rain, tires that required frequent patching, driving along inadequate dirt roads, and stopping at farm houses for a meal and a night's rest. Even with a hired guide they got lost in the Rocky Mountains. Although another activist in the campaign had preceded them by train, arranging accommodations in the larger towns and planning rallies at which Sara would speak, these respites were short and crowded with activities, leaving too little time even get a good night's sleep. Since space in the automobile was limited, Sara had only two changes of clothes, and would often have to wait in a hotel room, without apparel, while her suit and her one blouse were being cleaned. In Hutchinson, Kansas, this circumstance led to the experience of being interviewed by a newspaper reporter while in bed, blankets pulled up to her chin. The reporter was a young William Allen White, who became a life-long friend. Then it was on to Chicago, Detroit, upstate New York, Boston, New York City and a parade down Fifth Avenue, and then to Philadelphia and the wonderful public welcome in Washington. The final petition contained over one million signatures. However, President Woodrow Wilson would not receive them, even though his daughters were active in the suffragist cause. Nor did many members of Congress take the time to meet with the delegation and discuss their request to support the passage of the voting rights amendment. The amendment eventually succeeded (1920), but Sara Bard Field's contribution to the success of this campaign was soon forgotten.

One of the most pleasing things Bonda did in her performance was to set an authentic scene. The props were from the period—everything from a small dressing table, a mirror, pictures of Sara's family, and a copy of *Barabbas*, as well as appropriate clothing and accessories. All of them gave life to the character Bonda was portraying. The dramatic technique of using a visit by Sara's sister, who is writing a maga-

zine article about her, to allow Sara this period of reminiscence as well as to bring in details of her character and her personal life, gave the audience the feeling of being in the room with Sara, and of hearing these stories and comments as part of a conversation. Care for the accuracy of historical detail was evident throughout, and the placement of these facts in the script often added just the right touch without sounding like a textbook recitation.

Since this was a Work-in-Progress, the audience contributed suggestions for sharpening the presentation by clarifying certain points. A better description of road conditions was requested, since today's audiences might not understand life before the paved roads. There was also a discussion of how much information about the suffrage campaign was needed in the presentation. Yet those of us who saw and heard this production came away most impressed with Bonda's talents as writer, director, and producer as well as stage hand, set designer, and costumer shown throughout the hour we visited with 'Sara Bard Field'.

—Lorrie O'Dell

BOOK REVIEWS

Martin Tarcher. *Escape from Avarice*. Novato, CA: Chandler and Sharp, 1996. 196 pp. \$14.95 (10% discount to IHS members).

Escape From Avarice begins with a heretofore woefully neglected lesson in Euro-American economic history. With this, Martin Tarcher surveys material that ought to be required reading. Condensing an immense amount of substance into a few passages, he skillfully combines theory with events and sequences that characterize the gradual development of a technological age. Tarcher thus grounds his analysis in European backgrounds of early colonists, and while he does not include in this work any material about later Asian immigration, he does distill information essential to understanding a major phenomenon of our time, the multinational corporation.

Tarcher sees obsession with "the bottom line" as an impediment to civilized living. More than that, he sees "the bottom line" obsession as an impediment to any solution for urgent common problems. He shows that it is the antithesis of what we like to call human values—concern for neighbors, the poor, the sick, the disadvantaged, the environment. He believes that unless we alter the relationships of governments and industrial giants with society, unless we revise the value systems with which we imbue our children, unless we remake the institutions that guard and embody our customs, we are headed for social disasters of titanic proportions.

This book is not just another wringing-of-the-

hands. Tarcher brings a sophisticated, searching light to play upon possibilities for change (hence his title *Escape From Avarice*). He devotes a whole section to "The Consequences of War." There is a spinoff from the innovations we have to achieve during a war, he notes. Not only do we create new products, even new industries, we create new forms of social organization, and we revise relations—however temporarily—between whole segments of our population. During World War II, labor and management, business and government, government and citizens began to see each other in new ways. As for Rosie the Riveter, Tarcher writes, "Rosie left the kitchen and unwittingly drilled the first rivet into the bridge to Bella Abzug and Betty Friedan." Even age and race discriminations faded. Previously intractable bosses could be brought to consider pension plans, health and seniority benefits and, sometimes, recreational facilities, child care, and coffee breaks.

This process continued into the postwar period because the changes met pressing needs. One change was that the Cold War authoritatively prescribed that "the U.S. . . . was to remain forever prepared for battle." Therefore, a vast military-industrial complex would be needed forever. The nature of family life changed profoundly—for some, extended families became survival necessities—for others, unattainable luxuries. Families could no longer function only as places of love, companionship, procreation, and child-rearing. Service fields expanded. Competitive areas became increasingly harsher and more pervasive. Corporate structures underwent changes, dictated by the swelling technological competence that got jump starts from the wars of our century.

Tarcher's concept connects with that of William Greider. In *One World: Ready or Not*, Greider describes a completely robotized automobile plant in Japan. Tarcher has grasped and contributed to an idea that falls within this spectrum, and that characterizes the intellectual climate of our time, which is that we are indeed dealing with a "supply-side" economy that bids fair to become the undoing of ordinary people. They will become unnecessary.

Overproduction has become the *bête noir* of the modern age. Tarcher also sees a growing incestuous relationship between government and the multinational corporations, a polarization of society, and a philosophy of "capitalism for the poor and socialism for the rich."

I noted above that Tarcher does present remedies. For this, and for his insightful analyses, his book is worth purchasing, reading, and understanding.

—William W. Keller, Monterey Institute of International Studies

[Editors' note: The reviewer, although not a member of the Institute, is a son of member Frances Richardson Keller.]

Doris H. Linder. *Crusader for Sex Education: Elise Ottesen-Jensen (1886–1973) in Scandinavia and on the International Scene*. New York: University Press of America, 1996, v, 319 pp., illustrated, \$43.50.

Doris Linder's biography of Elise Ottesen-Jensen is a thoroughly researched and lively account of a fascinating life. Ottesen-Jensen played a critical role in developing sex education and family planning in Scandinavia and in the entire world, while she formed strong and lasting friendships with many of the people with whom she worked—a tribute to the warmth of her personality.

Born in Norway in 1886, the seventeenth of eighteen children, Elise grew up in a parson's family in rural southern Norway. (Of that large number of children, only eleven survived infancy.) From an early age, Elise questioned her father's traditional religious and social beliefs. The critical event in the formation of her thinking was the exile from the family of a beloved younger sister who had become pregnant out of wedlock. Elise's anger over her father's lack of compassion for his youngest child, in order to maintain the family's reputation, spurred her to attack the problems faced by women and the poor.

As an adult, she found that labor groups and liberal reformers were working on solutions to those problems. Beginning a twenty-five year career as a journalist in Trondheim, she learned about social issues as a reporter for the Labor Party newspaper. She took a pen name, "Ottar," after a ninth century Viking figure, the nickname by which she was known publicly and privately throughout her life.

In 1913 she moved to the larger city of Bergen, and worked for the Labor Party paper. There she met Albert Jensen, a Swedish syndicalist living in Norway to avoid a jail sentence for his antimilitary speeches. Jensen, with his working class background, was an important influence on Elise. Another influence was Hinke Bergegren, who was addressing questions of sexual morality and behavior, urging smaller working-class families through birth control and, if necessary, abortion. These views were far in advance of general opinion, as exemplified by the Norwegian Parliament's passage in 1910 of a measure to outlaw contraceptives.

Married to Jensen, Elise spent World War I in Denmark, working as the foreign news correspondent for the Norwegian labor press. A difficult pregnancy resulted in the birth of a baby boy who died after two days. Puerperal fever left her unable to have more children, much to her sorrow. Moving to Stockholm in 1919, Elise and her husband worked to pass a series of reforms for the improvement of the position of women. She paid special attention to family planning, learned of the work of physicians and researchers on sex issues, and shared her knowledge with her newspaper readers.

In 1925 she began traveling throughout Sweden, lecturing on sex and family planning. She spoke directly to workers and farmers, sympathetically exploring their fears of poverty and large families, and then worked with individual women on limiting their families, mostly by fitting them with diaphragms. She also answered questions people had about sexual issues, and encouraged frank discussion about sexuality. By traveling in rural areas and staying in workers' homes, Elise became very close to the people she was serving and grounded in the realities of life for ordinary families. One of the photos reproduced in Linder's book shows Elise and a client retiring to a woodshed for a contraceptive consultation!

She supported the goals adopted at the meeting of the World League for Sexual Reform in 1928, where she was one of very few lay people in attendance. These goals included: birth control for responsible parenthood; race betterment through application of eugenics knowledge (eugenics earned a negative reputation in the Nazi era; Elise Ottesen-Jensen was not the only person to disavow eugenics after 1933); protection of the unwed mother and her child; prevention of prostitution and venereal disease; acceptance of the view that only sexual acts that infringe on the sexual rights of another person are criminal, and that all such acts between responsible adults should be their private concern; and systematic sex education.

In late 1932, Ottesen-Jensen began to develop a Swedish national organization for sex education (RSFU). Her unique approach was to emphasize the right to individual happiness and fulfillment. She believed that sex education and family planning would contribute to the achievement of these goals. Her attention then turned to the international arena, where she was active in forming the International Planned Parenthood Federation, working with such leaders as Margaret Sanger of the U.S., Dhanvanthi Rama Rau of India, Shidzue Kato of Japan, and Constance Goh Kok Kee of Singapore. Relations with Sanger were not always smooth, but in the interests of the international cause, Elise kept most of her vexations to herself.

Elise Ottesen-Jensen emerges from the pages of her biography as a woman of enormous energy and intelligence who was also easy to like. Her awards were numerous, but perhaps most indicative of the position she held in Scandinavian life were the stories told about her. One reporter described her as "a Norwegian who had become a beloved figure in Sweden by traveling to all parts of that country in an auto purchased with twenty-five *ore* contributions from workers so that she might spread her educational message." Linder's fondness and respect for her subject are evident in her descriptions of Elise, her work,

and the reception she received from both noted and everyday people.

The book has some small faults—the map of Scandinavia does not include all of the places mentioned in the text, especially the smaller towns. The index is not always accurate and does not list all terms, such as *statare* (sharecropper), so that one can find a definition after its initial use in the text.

In this most valuable study, Linder brings to English-speaking readers a compendium of information about the sex education movement throughout the world and about progressive politics in Scandinavia, as well as documenting the life and work of a remarkable woman. The book and its author were honored in Oslo upon its Norwegian publication, and earned honorable mention in the 1997 book awards of the Women's Heritage Museum.

—Ellen Huppert

CONFERENCES

A reminder that the Western Association of Women Historians will be meeting at Asilomar in Pacific Grove 30 May–1 June.

The 90th annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians will be held at the San Francisco Hilton during 17–20 April 1997. More than 130 sessions on the theme "The Meanings of Citizenship" are scheduled. For details, contact Sheri Sherill, OAH, 112 N. Bryan St., Bloomington, IN 47408-4199. (812) 855-9853.

The 55th annual meeting of the Polish Institute will be held 20–21 June 1997 in New York City. For details, contact T. V. Gromada, Chair, 1997 Annual Meeting, 208 E. 30th St., New York, NY 10016. Fax (212) 545-1130.

"The Problem of Identity in History" is the theme of the 22nd annual Great Lakes History Conference to be held 26–27 September 1997 in Grand Rapids, MI. For details, contact Carolyn Shapiro-Shapin, Dept. of History, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI 49401. (616) 895-3445. Fax (616) 895-3285. E-mail: shapiro@gvsu.edu.

Announcements

Thanks to Peter Mellini for the information that Institute members who would like to write or rewrite short biographies for the *New Dictionary of National Biography* should contact the editor of the *NDNB*: Colin Matthew, Oxford University Press, Walton St., Oxford OX2 6DB, United Kingdom.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Alfred Büchler's illustrated drum-and-trumpet paper, "Music Both High and Low: Tancred of Lecce Enters Palermo, 1190," has just been published in *Imago Musicae*. The manuscript provided the starting point for much of his current work—most recently a paper on drums in the Byzantine army, presented in October 1996 at the Byzantine Studies Conference at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Paula Gillett's essay "Art Audiences at the Grosvenor Gallery" was published in April by Yale University Press in *The Grosvenor Gallery: A Palace of Art in Victorian England*.

Paula spent last November as an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow at the Harry Ransom Research Center in Austin, Texas. During her year of sabbatical leave from San Jose State University she is a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at Stanford, where she recently gave a seminar presentation, "Music and 'Woman's Mission' in Late Victorian England." In January she participated in the AHA's annual meeting in New York with a presentation entitled "Teaching History with Mozart and Melodrama," on a panel *Imagination and History: Key Ideas to Inspire Students and Illuminate the Past*, cosponsored by the Teaching Division of the AHA and the Committee on History in the Classroom.

Irena Narell's latest book, *History's Choice: A Writer's Journey From Poland to America*, was nominated for the Jeanne Farr McDonnell Book Award by the Women's Heritage Museum of San Francisco. *History's Choice* was reviewed in the Summer 1996 issue of the *Newsletter*.

Judith Offer's portfolio of poems will have its first reading at 3:00 p.m. 20 April 1997 in the amphitheatre of College Preparatory School, 6100 Broadway, Oakland. Called *Gardening Out Loud*, the work consists of twenty poems, with about ten linoprints by artist Margo Bors, presented in a green folder, "suitable for reading, framing, notes to your sister, or placemats." If you plan to attend, please phone Jody at (510) 465-8775.

Peter Stansky's book *On or About December 1910: Early Bloomsbury and Its Intimate World* has been published by Harvard University Press. Peter is also involved in three current exhibitions at Stanford: "Bloomsbury Art in Northern California Collections," at the Stanford Art Gallery 1-27 April and 20 May-15 June; "British Posters of the First and Second World Wars," and "Sir James Bazellgette, Building of the London Sewers," both at the Hoover Pavilion 14 March-15 June.

Kyle K. Wyatt's review of *Steel Rails and Territorial Tales: Forty Months Building the Oregon Short Line Railroad through Idaho*, by Edward Pierce Coleman, was published in the January 1997 issue of *Journal of the*

West. His article "The First Diesel Locomotive" appeared in the Fall 1996 issue of *The Railway and Locomotive Historical Society Newsletter*.

NEW MEMBERS

Laurette Goldberg teaches at UC Berkeley and at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she began and still chairs the Baroque program. She wrote her own edition of Bach's preludes and fugues, and founded and directs *MusicSources*, a Center for Historically Informed Performance, in Berkeley.

Kim S. Connor received her BA in Theatre Arts, magna cum laude, from UCLA, and an MA and a PhD in in Dramatic Art from UC Berkeley. She has taught at Mills College and at UC Berkeley, where she directed numerous plays. Her current interests include research for a history of *The Medea Project*, a San Francisco-based program of theater for incarcerated women, and tracing the idea of science (as magic, as alchemy, as technology) down through western civilization as it appears in dramatic productions of different ages and countries.

Elizabeth A. Kern is a graduate of Stanford's Master of Liberal Arts Program. Her thesis was "The Minister, the Mother, the Midwife and the Physician: Childbearing in Colonial and Revolutionary New England, 1620-1820." She also received a BS in Mass Communications from the University of Illinois. She has held positions in communications at Control Data Corporation, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, and most recently at Apple Computer, Inc. She is continuing to develop her interest in women's history during the colonial and revolutionary period.

Linda Morey Papanicolaou received her BS in Art from Skidmore College, and an MA in Art Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. She has held positions in the Department of Medieval Art and the Cloisters of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and currently teaches children's art classes at Palo Alto Junior Museum and after-school programs. She is the recipient of several NEH summer grants, and has published numerous articles on the history of stained glass, the focus of her ongoing historical research.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| May | 18 | Work-in-Progress—Ethel Herr, "Passion Under Pressure: In search of the Sixteenth Century's hidden Jewish painters." |
| June | 18 | Cathy O'Connor will conduct a tour of the regional center of the National Archives in San Bruno. |

- (This is tentative. Also note that the date is a Wednesday.)
- July 13 The annual picnic at Tilden Park. You will receive an announcement in the mail. Mike Griffith is coordinating the event.
- July 20 Work-in-Progress—Autumn Stanley, topic to be announced.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Deadline for the summer *Newsletter* is 25 June. Peter Browning and Elaine Rosenthal will continue as co-editors of the *Newsletter*. Please send all your reports, reviews, and other information to Peter. (For book reviews, contact Joanne Lafler.) Material can be sent on either size floppy disk in Word Perfect 4.1, 4.2, or 5.0. If you have WP 5.1 or 6.0, the file should be saved in 5.0 before you exit. Note that our new Membership News person is Oscar Berland—you'll notice the form inserted in the *Newsletter*. I wish to thank Monica Clyde for her wonderful work in this post over the past several years.

Elaine Rosenthal

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wm. F. Strobebridge, President
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