

The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

Volume XIX, No. 4

Winter 1998-1999

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled as usual on the last Saturday of February, and I hope that if you are thinking about whether to attend, you will choose to be there. [See CALENDAR, Page 6.]

It is difficult to imagine that we are in our nineteenth year, with the twentieth year and the millennium approaching at the same dazzling speed. Back in 1980, when the Institute began, one could have received very high odds against our still being in existence in 1999, or 1989, or even 1985. But through perseverance and, perhaps, dumb luck, we have managed to become what I believe is the oldest organization of independent historian-scholars in the country. We are obviously filling a need, since we still manage to attract new members who are doing interesting things and who seek the association and the collegiality that the Institute provides.

You can encounter some of these new faces (and wasn't that a smooth segue) at the Annual Meeting, because we are giving a few of our newer Institute members the opportunity to show off as part of the program. I, for one, am looking forward to meeting, or meeting again, these Institute "rookies," and I hope that those of you who have been around for a while will show up to enjoy this latest effort to bring our members together. You who attend the Annual Meeting regularly know how enjoyable it can be both socially and intellectually.

If there is a problem about transportation, give me a call at my office (415) 458-1788 or home (415) 453-5587, and I'll do my best to arrange a ride. Our membership demographics are such that there may very well be a ride, or at least company, from all directions of the compass. If you are a member from the Farallon Islands, you will have to arrange your own transportation.

One more point: The Institute has received a notice from a head-hunting organization in Philadelphia that the Historical Society of Pennsylvania is looking for an Executive Director/President, someone "expected to possess and articulate a clear vision of the opportunities the Historical Society has to

build its reputation and impact on both Philadelphia and scholarly communities."

According to the notice, the position requires skills in three primary areas: administration, development, and management of historical research. There is much more. If any member is interested in applying, he or she should let me know, and I'll provide the name of the contact. Oh yes, the position requires residence in Philadelphia or environs.

See you at the Annual Meeting!

—Jules Becker

THE ANNUAL DINNER

On 5 December, a Saturday evening, about forty Institute members gathered at ZZZA's in Oakland for the Annual Dinner. A blustery rain pelted most of us as we stepped into a disappointingly chilly meeting room, but generous platters of antipasti and carafes of Chianti provided solace if not heat. Noisy conversation and an Italian dinner were followed by a talk by Julie Scholz, an Alameda journalist and public relations specialist. Julie has made a study of millennial predictions and experiences around the world, and expounded at some length on the results of her research. Included in Ms. Scholz's remarks were historical insights and the results of an informal survey on current attitudes toward the impending millennial change.

While the company managed to overcome the tepid temperature and slow service—the entire group was served by one waitress—with our usual informed and eager conversation, and while we *were* well fed, consensus was easily made that a repeat performance at ZZZA's would not be recommended. Institute members are urged to bring to the program committee's attention locales that: 1) serve tasty food; 2) have the acoustics to handle the conversation of forty or fifty people, so that we are not obliged to scream; 3) allow alcoholic beverages; and 4) aren't too expensive. Ideas, anyone?

—Jody Offer

IN MEMORIAM

Loretta Hawley had not been a member of the Institute for very long, but she will always be remembered by those of us who knew her and delighted in her intelligence, curiosity, and quick wit, as well as her luminous smile. A celebration of her life took place in the living room of her home in Albany on Sunday, 11 October 1998. In addition to her daughter Susie, her son Jim, and his wife Anne, the room was crowded with friends, some new and some of many years standing. Several rose and shared their memories of Loretta with the rest of us.

Loretta put herself through college and graduated from UC Berkeley in 1960 with a degree in English, the first person in her family to do so. Much later, as a single parent raising her two children, she returned for graduate courses. She worked for the University for eleven years. Her diverse interests encompassed literature and genealogy, outdoor camping and music, women's studies and community service.

A memorial scholarship fund has been established in her name by her family and friends, with monies earmarked for those humanities students who have overcome major obstacles in order to attend college. Loretta will be loved and remembered by all of us whose lives she touched.

—Elaine Rosenthal

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

Lisa Taft

On Saturday, 24 October, in an illustrated talk at my home, Lisa Taft laid out for us some of the fruits of her fifteen years of research into a California firm engaged in the design and manufacture of decorative ceramic tile. The Davies and McDonald (D & M) company had a short life, from 1929 to 1939, producing tile of Tunisian, Spanish, and Mexican inspiration in its quarters near Los Angeles. While the son of Mr. Davies could tell her that he had helped install his father's tile at the Mission Inn in Riverside, other sites proved problematic or elusive. The Davies family has preserved some memorabilia, including glazed pots evidently done for family use, tile incorporated into the family furniture, a very few business records, two pages of a design catalogue, some renderings, and a stamped design with color notes. Lisa has found one tile that matched one of the drawings. These are the basic resources for her detective work.

To find a D & M tile on its site is not a matter of checking an invoice sheet and finding an address, because almost all the tile was sold to the contractors who installed it. One historian of tiles believed that

he had seen D & M tile in San Francisco; such a sighting was made more likely when records showed that a large Bay Area tile contractor, Rigny, had purchased large quantities of tile from D & M. But in order to attribute a tile to D & M, it ought to be matched to a pattern on the two catalogue sheets, as well as having beveled edges and a particular transparent glaze. These factors are unfortunately insufficient, because other companies adopted the same glazing techniques and even the same patterns.

Lisa introduced us to other complexities in the identification process in both the documentation and technical aspects. Some of those who were conversant with glazes carried the discussion into realms where others could not follow, but the visual material was colorful and charming. We will look more closely at the rich heritage of the tile all around us.

—Georgia Wright

Fred Isaac

On Sunday, 17 January, at Judy Offer's home, Fred Isaac presented his Work-in-Progress, "Out of the War, Into the Twenties: Snapshots of a World in Chaos, 1919–21." This topic grew out of Fred's master's thesis, which was a study of the post-World War I period as reflected in the pages of *Harper's Weekly*.

Fred explained that he had selected about forty events from this three-year period to characterize American society in the immediate postwar era. Some were perhaps considered mundane at the time, but in fact had a long-lasting impact on the domestic culture. He is looking at these events retrospectively; i.e., how they were considered in major contemporary publications.

For the discussion, he prepared a list of the major events in chronological order. Some of the more critical events were the death of ex-President Theodore Roosevelt, the 1920 Chicago race riots, denationalization of the railroads, the youth culture, the Sacco and Vanzetti case, and other examples of the fear of communism and anarchism. He has written essays on each event, and plans to integrate them into a book representing the 1920s as a time of chaos and rapid change, which found the population unprepared and confused.

Fred discussed several events: Teddy Roosevelt's death created a vacuum in the Republican Party; the Chicago race riots resulted in more personal mayhem than any similar event since then; the postwar fear of Reds and anarchists was a continuation of the war hysteria; and the permissive youth culture led to Prohibition.

Those attending had many suggestions for Fred, including the need for a unifying theme—with varying ideas as to what the theme should be—while some thought that the idea of chaos was sufficient.

Others wanted to know how the events were chosen; it was suggested that women's suffrage should be included. One of Fred's theses is that a retrospective look at these events will reveal that some of them—not deemed important at the time—did, in fact, have a great impact on American society. Another is a consideration of these post-war events by themselves—without trying to relate them to the First World War.

—Rose Scherini

CONFERENCE REPORT

NCIS National Conference in St. Paul

The fourth national conference of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars, whose theme was "The Future of Scholarship. . . . Independent?" was held at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul on 2–4 October 1998. To judge from this impressive building, which stands midway between the State Capital and the cathedral for the diocese of Minneapolis-St. Paul, and which houses the state archives as well as exhibits and meeting rooms, local history is greatly prized in Minnesota.

The conference was kicked off on Friday by a dinner and keynote address, "The Stars of Independence," by NCIS board member Anne Lowenthal, which set the tone for the feisty discussions, in the following days, of the state of independent scholarship and what it means to be an independent scholar.

After a plenary session on Saturday morning, with presentations by Toni Vogel Carey: "The Noble Legacy (and Present Eclipse) of Independent Scholarship," Jean Cameron: "Do Independent Scholars Know Something the Rest of Higher Education Doesn't?" and Alice Goldfarb Marquis: "Scholarship: Navigating a World in Chaos," participants attended concurrent sessions before and after lunch.

Several panels highlighted the current research of a multidisciplinary membership. The wide-ranging subjects included poetry by scientists, a pamphleteer in the French Revolution (Georgia Wright), the life of a middle-class matron in late Victorian London, spiritual aspects of E. M. Forster's disbelief, and Jewish councils in Vienna during the Nazi era.

Other panels were devoted to subjects relating to the central theme of the conference. In "Transitions and Balancing Acts" there were papers on juggling scholarship with full-time nonscholarly work, declaring one's scholarly independence, and the problem of maintaining perspective while writing the life of one's husband's father (Joanne Lafler). The session on "Virtual World Interactions" featured papers on scholarship in the information age, globalization and violence, and putting together the NCIS web page (Margaret DeLacy). The well-named panel on "Schol-

arly Publishing and the Tiger Traps Along the Way" included an account of finding a publisher for a Holocaust memoir, a paper on "The Good, Bad and Indifferent of Getting Published," and some encouraging words—"If It Is Good, It Will Be Published."

In the afternoon, for those who needed some relaxation, the Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum (a brand-new affiliate of NCIS) offered one of their popular activities, "Mind Games"—a multidisciplinary version of the Institute's annual History Bee. Enthusiastic conversation continued over dinner at a popular steak house in St. Paul.

The conference ended with two plenary sessions on Sunday morning. "Constraints and Realities" offered papers on independent scholarship and academic freedom, on the challenges of gaining access to archival materials, and on the scholarly journal in the digital age. At the final session, new president Ellen Huppert led a discussion by all conference participants on the present operation and future development of NCIS. Many helpful suggestions were made.

Thanks are due to the program committee, headed by Diane Calabrese; to Neala Schleuning, who handled the local arrangements; to outgoing president Patricia Farrant, who produced the attractive program; and to office manager Marian Kassovic (injured in the line of duty), who took care of preregistration and the financial side of the conference. Although attendance was not as high as at earlier conferences, due in part to the strike at Northwest Airlines in the preceding weeks, spirits were, as always, buoyant. The NCIS board is already looking forward to the next national conference, to be held in Raleigh/Durham in 2000.

—Joanne Lafler

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Institute for Historical Study seeks short essays and reports for its quarterly *Newsletter*; submissions should be sent to Elaine Rosenthal at 400 Davey Glen Road, No. 4801, Belmont, CA 94002. These may be: reviews of historical films or plays; reports of research trips and conference adventures; essays that relate to history or "doing" history; or other items that you think might interest or benefit your fellow members. In other words, let's make our publication more lively and distinctive, especially since it's going online at our new website! **DEADLINES; end of January, April, July, and October annually.**

As announced in the President's message of the last *Newsletter*, the Institute now has a web site and an accompanying e-mail address. However, the web address that was given was in error. The correct address is: www.tihs.org. E-mail can be sent to: information@tihs.org. Our site is still being developed, but

the web-site committee hopes to soon have a variety of features on-line: membership information and an application that can be printed and submitted; quarterly issues of the *Newsletter*; announcements of upcoming programs; descriptions of the various Institute study groups; links to other history organizations, such as the AHA and NCIS, as well as various local history departments.

The committee, consisting of Fred Isaac, Lorrie O'Dell, John Rusk, Hollace Ungerleider, and Nancy Zinn, welcome all suggestions and submissions for inclusion as our presence on the internet grows. Just send an e-mail to us at information@tihs.org, and we will be happy to reply. If, as a member, you have an e-mail address but are not now receiving announcements from the Institute, please send that information to the site. You will be added to our growing list of members on-line.

The AHA's web site is <http://www.theaha.org>. It is continually updated and includes several free, downloadable publications and information about other publications by the AHA. It also offers a calendar of events of interest to historians, a directory of affiliated societies (IHS is one of these), and many more useful features.

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

The 24th annual meeting of the Economic and Business Historical Society will be held in San Antonio, Texas on **8-11 April 1999**. Contact: Douglas Steeples, Dean of the College of Arts and Professor of History, Mercer University, 1400 Coleman Ave., Macon GA 31207-0001. Fax: (912) 752-4120. E-mail: Steeples_dw@mercer.edu.

"Anne Frank and the Holocaust: The Uses and Misuses of the Person and the Diary," the 19th annual Conference on the Holocaust, will take place in Millersville, PA on **18-19 April 1999**. Contact: Jack Fischel, Dept. of History, Millersville University, Millersville, PA 17551-0302. Fax: (717) 871-2485.

The annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians will be in Toronto **22-25 April**. The theme is "State and Society in North America: Processes of Social Power and Social Change." Contact: Sheri Sherill, OAS, 112 N. Bryan Ave., Bloomington, IN 47408-4199. E-mail: sheri@oas.org.

The Western chapter of the American Italian Historical Association is sponsoring a two-day program on the history of Italian fishermen in north-central California to be held in Monterey **30 April-1 May**. Members of current and former fishing families will speak about fishing along the coast, especially prior to World War II. Representatives of the Italian fishing communities of San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Pittsburg will speak about life and experiences in

those communities. The program's locale is the Monterey Conference Center, adjacent to the Doubletree Motel at Fisherman's Wharf. This is a great way to combine a Monterey-Carmel weekend with a rare opportunity for a firsthand look at some California history. For more information, call (510) 526-2238 or (408) 641-9762.

An interdisciplinary conference, "American Women and Classical Myth," will be held at the University of Maryland, College Park on **24-25 September 1999**. Contact: Judith P. Hallett, Dept. of Classics, University of Maryland, College park, MD 20742. (301) 405-2024. Fax: (301) 314-9084. E-mail: jh10@umail.umd.edu.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Research papers and panel proposals are being sought for the annual meeting of the American Journalism Historians Association to be held in Portland, Oregon **7-9 October 1999**. These may deal with any facet of media history. Papers should not exceed 25 typewritten, double-spaced pages including references. A cover sheet should be attached, with author's name, address, institutional affiliation, and position. Five copies of the paper and five one-page abstracts should be submitted, together with a stamped self-addressed postcard. Panel proposals should include a brief description of the topic, names of the moderator and participants, and a brief summary of each participant's presentation.

Papers should be sent to: Patrick S. Washburn, E. W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701-2979. Panel proposals should be sent to: Ann Colbert, Journalism Program Coordinator, Indiana University-Purdue University, Neff Hall, Room 343, Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1499. **DEADLINE: 1 May 1999.**

The Southern Association for Women Historians will hold its fifth Southern Conference on Women's History in Richmond, VA on **15-17 June 2000**. Call for proposals **DEADLINE: 30 June 1999**. Contact: Cynthia A. Kiemer, SAWH Program Committee Chair, Dept. of History, University of North Carolina, 9201 University City Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28223.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Gray Brechin earned his PhD in geography from UC Berkeley this past spring, and "proceeded to clean the house for the first time in six years."

His book (with photographer Robert Dawson) is being published as *Farewell, Promised Land* by the University of California Press to coincide with the **20**

February opening of an Oakland Museum exhibit of Dawson's photographs. The exhibit, "Awakening from the California Dream: An Environmental History," will last until 12 September 1999. Both the book and the exhibit deal with the accelerating destruction of our environment.

Another new book by Gray (a shortened version of his doctoral dissertation), *Imperial San Francisco: Urban Power, Earthly Ruin*, will be published by the University of California Press in June. Based on the ideas of Lewis Mumford, the book examines, in a series of interlocked stories, the environmental impact of San Francisco's leading families on the Pacific Basin. The core section, "The Thought Shapers," deals with the vested interests of those who control the flow of information, thereby determining both reality and mythology.

With the benefit of a post-doctoral fellowship, Gray is now continuing his research into the history of mining as a primary cause of "imperial" city-building. He also reports his continuing focus—"which should be of great concern to all historians"—on the little-noticed degradation and destruction of libraries as attention and capital shift to digitization.

Alfred Buechler was awarded the John F. Benton Award for "Naming the Narrative Image: Tradition, Invention, Theology," a paper about the "labels" of Byzantine feast icons that he presented at the 22nd Annual Byzantine Studies Conference, held last November at the University of Kentucky.

At next summer's "Historic Brass Festival" at UC Berkeley, he will be lecturing on early trumpets—another sequel to his December 1997 IHS Work-in-Progress report.

In October 1998 his "Psalter and Chronology in Wolfram's 'Parzival'" was published (in German) in the *Amsterdamer Beitrage zur aelteren Germanistik*, a delayed sequel to his earlier work on German illustrated psalters.

Richard Herr reported in January that he had just sent in the page proofs for "An American Family in the Mexican Revolution," written primarily by his 92-year-old brother Robert, but to which Richard "contributed extensively."

This is the story of their father, a mining engineer, his wife, and their three sons during the Mexican Revolution and its aftermath (1910–1952). It is based on the parents' letters, the mother's diaries, and on Robert's memories of his childhood and youth in Mexico.

Alison Klairmont-Lingo, who was a visiting assistant professor of history at Mills College during the fall, has had her paper, "The Fate of Popular Terms for Female Anatomy in the Age of Print," accepted for summer 1999 publication in *French Historical Studies*.

Peter Mellini has been awarded a special fellow-

ship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to do a history of *Punch* from 1906 to 1992, and thus he will be in London during the upcoming academic year.

In October, at the North American Conference on British Studies, in Colorado Springs, he presented a study based on his IHS Work-in-Progress presentation earlier in 1998: "From Indian Princess to Liberty to Wonder Woman to Rosie the Riveter—the Evolution of the Female American National Symbol."

During the past year he reviewed two books for *Albion*, and also completed biographical sketches for the *New Dictionary of National Biography*, and for three other publications, on Sir Eldon Gorst (1861–1911), Owen Seaman (1861–1936), C. Kenneth Bird (1887–1965), Sir Leslie Ward (1851–1922), and Carlo Pellegrini (1839–1889).

Karen Offen's studies published in 1998 include "Contextualizing the Theory and Practice of Feminism in Nineteenth-Century Europe (1789–1914)," in *Becoming Visible: Women in European History*, third edition; "Reclaiming the European Enlightenment for Feminism: Or, Prologomena to any Future History of Eighteenth-Century Europe," in *Perspectives on Feminist Thought in European History: From the Middle Ages to the Present*; and "Feminist Historiography and the French Welfare State: A Comparative Perspective," in "Frauen und Staat/Les Femmes et l'Etat," a special issue of *Itinera*.

Karen's latest book, *European Feminism(s), 1700–1950: A Political History*, will be published this year by Stanford University Press.

Karen Paget has been awarded a Soros Open Society Institute Fellowship to complete her book, "In the Name of Freedom: Students as Secret Agents," which is the story of the CIA's covert relationship with the US National Student Association. Although the relationship was exposed in 1967, the full story has never been told. Karen's project was sponsored by the Institute.

Bill Strobidge contributed an essay to a special compendium of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, published as "Duty & Honor. A Tribute to Chinese American World War II Veterans of Southern California."

INSTITUTE MEMBERSHIP

We rely on continuing members to help maintain and increase Institute membership. Please send names and addresses of prospective members to Nancy Zinn, the Membership Chair, at the address on the back page of this *Newsletter*, or E-mail to: zinn@itsa.ucsf.edu. All of us profit from a large and diverse group of scholars and their activities.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 21 Work-in-Progress, by Ellen Huppert, "Foreign Observers of the US in the 19th Century," at Deborah Franquist's, San Francisco.
- February 27 ANNUAL MEETING, Rockridge Library, Oakland, 10 to 3:30.
- March 21 Work-in-Progress, by Joanne Lafler.
- April 28 Work-in-Progress, by David Rosen.
- April 28 Deadline for the Spring Newsletter.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Peter Browning and Elaine Rosenthal continue as co-editors of the *Newsletter*. Please send all your reports, reviews, and other information to Peter. Material can be sent on either size floppy disk in Word Perfect 4.1, 4.2, or 5.0—or as an ASCII file.

Send **Membership News** to Wolfgang H. Rosenberg on the inserted form.

The various website and e-mail addresses that appear in the *Newsletter* are printed exactly as received, including upper-case and lower-case letters.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jukes Becker, President
Joan Murray, Vice President
Fred Isaac, Secretary
John Rusk, Treasurer
Nancy Zinn, Membership Chair
Bogna Lorence-Kot, Judith Offer,
Edith Piness, Rose Scherini,
Hollace Ungerleider, Georgia Wright
Editors, Peter Browning and Elaine Rosenthal
Editorial Committee:
Oscar Berland, 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 Institute is affiliated with the National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS) and with the American Historical Association (AHA).

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
P.O. Box 5743
Berkeley, CA 94705
(510) 540-8415

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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Send in an item for the *Newsletter* (members only) to:

Wolfgang H. Rosenberg
413 Western Drive, #6
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 427-1318

Put down your name, address, and phone number, and tell us about your new publications, conference papers, promotions, grants, awards, new jobs, or Theories of History!

Thank you in advance.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____