

The Institute for Historical Study Newsletter

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Winter 1999–2000

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my swan song President's Message, and I want to leave by thanking all of the members who combine to make our Institute the active, energetic, responsive organization that it is. I do not intend to start naming names, because I did that once and forgot someone—inadvertently, I assure you—and it took a while to convince that person's spouse that it was not deliberate. Once burned, twice shy.

I have another year to serve on the Board, but it's time to give someone else the opportunity to lead the Institute as we wend our way into the twenty-first century as the oldest public history group in the country—perhaps the world—maybe even the universe. We have our twentieth anniversary coming up. Planning for that fête has already started under the direction of the indefatigable Joanne Lafler, one of the Founding Directors who have all played a major role in steering the Institute through the shoals of organization and continuing development.

In my Fall 1999 message I provided advance notice of our end-of-year solicitation for donations to erase the difference between our annual income and our annual expenses. It was not my message so much as it was the pride that you, the members, have in the IHS, and the appreciation you have for the services you receive that produced a twenty-five percent increase in donations and more than a one-third increase in the number of contributors this past season. As of the latest figures that I've seen, in response to Treasurer John Rusk's great letter, the Institute received a total of \$1,250 from thirty contributors—which means that we can once again maintain the dues structure at the same level.

For an organization of volunteers in an environment where all costs go up, some faster than others, you all deserve a rousing round of applause.

On a final note, as some of you are aware, after Elaine Rosenthal and Peter Browning finish their editorial efforts, and Marian Kassovic handles the printing and mailing chores, the distribution of the *Newsletter* is at the whim of the post office. Non-profit Org. items are always delivered, but not with shocking speed.

Our Annual Meeting is on 26 February 2000. If you are a newer member, come and meet some of us old seasoned folks. If you have been a member for a while, come and meet your new colleagues. Members who haven't seen each other in a long time get a chance to renew acquaintances—and this year's program, on Old San Francisco, will be a joy.

If you get this too late for the Annual Meeting, too bad, but you can plan on attending the gathering in 2001, on the last Saturday in February, the 24th. See you sooner or later, and have a great twenty-first century (when we get to it.)

—Jules Becker

DO YOU WANT YOUR BOOK REVIEWED?

Don't keep your work a secret! Wouldn't you enjoy having your book reviewed in the *Newsletter*? It does take at least some modest effort on your part. Please contact Autumn Stanley, the book-review editor, and offer to submit a copy of your book for review. If you know of another Institute member who would like to review it, so much the better. If you are interested in reviewing another member's book, contact Autumn for information on deadlines for submitting a review.

ANNUAL DINNER

On Sunday, 7 November 1999, the Institute held its Annual Dinner at the Golden Dragon Restaurant in San Francisco. It was well attended despite the first November rainstorm. The setting in the heart of Chinatown was very suitable to the subject of the panel discussion, "China and the United States: An Enigma Engaged with a Mystery?"

The program started with a get-together of old friends and acquaintances, followed by an excellent dinner in a lavishly decorated red and gold dining room. President Jules Becker thanked the program

committee of Hollace Ungerleider, Nancy Zinn, Perri Hale, and Bogna Lorence-Kot for making the splendid arrangements. Bogna was also responsible for choosing the trio of knowledgeable speakers and introducing them.

Brian George, who has taught at several universities and has worked at the UC Press in Berkeley and at the Foreign Language Press in Beijing, started the program by giving the historical background of Sino-American relations over the last fifty years. He pointed out that over the last two centuries, Great Power rivalries revolved around issues connected with gaining access to the fabled China Market. Threats came from Tsarist Russia, France, Germany, Great Britain, the United States, and Japan. Because China itself became immersed in war and revolution, the American desire to preserve the "open door" policy toward China could not be maintained. The end came with the start of the Pacific War.

George pointed out that Sino-American relations between the end of the war and the present can be divided into three periods. From 1950 to 1972, the newly emergent revolutionary and communist China was seen by the United States as a client of the Soviet Union threatening to gain hegemony over East Asia. The American containment policy led to the wars in Korea and Vietnam. This policy was changed dramatically in 1972 by Nixon, leading to the Shanghai Accords and eventually to mutual recognition in 1979. The status of Taiwan has been glossed over, but it did and does present a very dangerous and contentious issue. Conditions changed again in 1989 with the disaster of Tiananmen Square, and in 1992, with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Relations since then have lurched along from one crisis to another, from human rights violations to the suppressions in Tibet, from armaments trade to nuclear spying. On the American side was the unbelievable accident of bombing the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, and the lack of cooperation in letting the People's Republic join the World Trade Organization.

In Brian George's words, the Sino-American relationship over the years can be summarized: "That such intense disappointment, misunderstanding, confrontation, high drama and tragedy have been attendant to their relationship is because each has acted with remarkable fidelity to its historical and cultural traditions in its behavior towards the other."

The next speaker was Ning Chen, who was born in Nanjing, received his Master's degree from Beijing Normal University, and who completed his PhD in history at the University of Pittsburgh in the field of Ancient Chinese History. He taught for four years at the National University of Singapore and is currently lecturing on Traditional Chinese History and Modern East Asia at Cal State University, Hayward.

Ning Chen started his talk by emphasizing the

ideas of nationalism, Chinese cultural superiority, and a different concept of law. He explained that the Chinese often fight among themselves, but as soon as there is an outside attack, they pull together to defend themselves. Cultural superiority is enormously important to them and they resent that the admission of this superiority has not been forthcoming from the Americans. Ning Chen also explained that Chinese law is essentially punitive and does not stress the concepts of natural law or civil law. The idea of human rights violations is strange and unfamiliar to them, and they find it difficult to understand the importance Americans place on this subject. Because of the significance of cultural superiority to them, they see slights where possibly none were intended, such as not being chosen as the Olympic host country for the year 2000, or the accidental bombing of their embassy.

The third speaker was David Fraser, a specialist in modern Chinese history, who has just received his doctorate from UC Berkeley, and who is now an adjunct instructor at both Santa Clara University and the University of San Francisco. David Fraser's interest in modern-day China began with Nixon's historic trip to China in 1973, and he was drawn to the study of Chinese language and culture. His first career was in journalism, and he worked as an editor and correspondent in Taiwan and Hong Kong before returning to graduate school in 1989. At present, he is interested in nationalism, commercial culture, and advertising in Shanghai.

He stressed the tension between regionalism and centralization in that immense country. He also pointed out the fear and hostility towards foreigners and strangers. For him, this attitude was most notable among students. It was common to see attacks on African students, who were perceived as inferior, but who had certain privileges. For the Chinese, their unhappy relationship with foreigners goes back to the unequal extraterritorial treaties of the beginning of the century, when the Chinese were being taken advantage of by the western powers, including the United States. They have a long historical memory of not being accorded their rightful place in negotiations and of not having their cultural superiority recognized. Today, the Chinese know that they are on the way to becoming a superpower and they deplore what they feel is still discrimination against them by America. It will take a long time to make Sino-American relations a two-way street.

The three speakers provided different approaches to the problems of Sino-American relations, but they all emphasized the misperceptions on both sides and, in particular, pointed out Chinese sensitivity to what they see as being accorded inferior status. A lively question-and-answer period followed.

—Agnes F. Peterson

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

Sherman Levine

On 5 December 1999, Sherman Levine gave a Work-in-Progress at the home of Bill Strobridge. His illustrated presentation was titled "Leander Sherman and the San Francisco he lived in and contributed to." Leander S. Sherman (1860–1900) was a founder of Sherman, Clay and Co., the prominent music company. Sherman Levine, no relation, became interested in the subject while he was working at the Sherman House, a luxury hotel located in Leander Sherman's former home. His house, located at 2160 Green Street, was built in 1876.

Leander had been born in Boston and was fourteen years old when he came to San Francisco with his family in 1861. Sherman presented historical slides he has collected that reveal unusual aspects of the delightful city Leander had settled in and helped to build. Among them were views of the Golden Gate, street scenes, early music stores, the Tivoli Opera House, and other long-vanished settings. Many were unusual photographs. The audience enjoyed the presentation and encouraged Sherman to focus it more and make it shorter. We are looking forward to another program.

—Catherine Ann Curry

Eleanor Alexander

[Editors' note: There is no better way to report on a Work-in-Progress than to report on one's own. Eleanor Alexander does this out of necessity; she lives in New Hampshire; thus can't attend meetings; thus might be snowbound; thus might be frozen stiff. We commiserate—somewhat.]

One day I found by chance a letter from Fritz Mauthner to his brother Ernst, my husband's grandfather, written in May 1910. In the letter, Fritz dedicated his book to his brother and then went on to recall an episode of long ago. One evening, while copying his school work for the next day, he had overturned his inkpot and ruined his work. He began to cry bitterly, but Ernst told him that he would re-copy it—and had sent Fritz to bed, where he slept peacefully all night.

I translated the letter for family and friends and re-read the letters that we had received when we were married in June 1938; many of them were from Paul's Austrian family. They came from all over the old Austrian Empire, and also some from Great Britain—a last word before the onset of the Second World War. I translated these letters and wrote about the correspondents' lives in "A Bit of Family History," illustrating it with all the photographs I could find.

I learned more about the Mauthners from an article, "The Rise and Fall of a Family," written by my

brother-in-law, Henry Alexander, a journalist in London for the German-Jewish newspaper *Aufbau*. He also prepared a family tree.

I sent my essay to the Leo Baeck Institute in New York, which collects documents of German-speaking Jews from before the Second World War. The director of research at the Leo Baeck Institute, acknowledging my essay, told me that they had the papers of Fritz Mauthner in their archives and would be interested in my comments. They sent me the inventory—164 pages. It was all quite exciting.

I ordered copies of many family letters and of several others that were of special interest to me: the Roman historian Theodore Mommsen, the Foreign Minister Walter Rathenau, the writer Hermann Hesse, and the philosopher Martin Buber. It was astonishing to see the number of his intellectual Central European correspondents. He seems to have kept all his letters, and a Roman Catholic priest preserved them after his death in 1923. In 1966, the priest sent them to the Leo Baeck Institute.

I also acquired a great deal of information about Fritz Mauthner from my daughter-in-law, Jean, a librarian. She discovered that several books had been written about him, both in English and German, and that there was an active Mauthner Society in Germany.

The family prospered when Jews were allowed to move freely and could enter the professions they preferred. When Ernst took over the weaving factory in Prague, he introduced weaving machines and also built housing for his workers. A third brother, Gustav, became the director of the Oesterreichische Kreditanstalt. After his death, his widow, Helene, bought a castle in Bohemia, in 1904. Fritz was never wealthy, but he was held in high esteem by his many readers.

I spent a great deal of time reading letters and articles, and decided to translate some of the family letters. I chose the letters between Helene and her brother-in-law Fritz. She was obviously very fond of him and wrote him charming letters about her life and her family. The later letters show very clearly the devastating impact that the First World War had on everyone's lives. The letters were written between 1887 and 1920. I also added a few letters from other members of the family—the last written in 1927.

By now I know a lot about Fritz Mauthner and his world, and the research has made my life richer. Fritz Mauthner was born in Horice, Bohemia, in 1849. In 1855 the family moved to Prague, where Fritz attended the gymnasium and, later law school. He worked for a while in a law office, but then moved to Berlin in 1876, where he became the theater critic of the *Berliner Tageblatt*, a liberal newspaper with a large circulation. He wrote a great deal during these years aside from his newspaper articles: stories, novels, essays, and a very successful satire, "After Famous

Models." He also published his memoirs, which were republished in 1964 as "Prager Jugendjahre," showing the enormous tension between Czech- and German-speaking citizens.

He moved to Freiburg in 1905, and to Meersburg on Lake Constance in 1907. From then on he devoted himself to writing. He wrote a book on language, *Die Sprache*, which Martin Buber published in his series "Die Gesellschaft," probably Fritz's most important scholarly contribution. In later years he wrote a four-volume history of Atheism in the West.

He married Dr. Hedwig Straub in 1910, after his first wife had died. Hedwig was most understanding about his work. As a medical doctor she had worked in the Sahara among Bedouins for ten years, and had carried with her across the desert on camel back Mauthner's "Contributions Toward a Critique of Language."

I am just about ready to put the letters and my comments together, but much work remains. My next project will be Mauthner's correspondence with Edmond de Goncourt, whose play "Henriette Maréchal" Mauthner translated. It was performed in Berlin on November 17, 1889. My professor in the French Department at the University of Michigan, now retired and living in Florida, deciphered the difficult handwriting for me and gave me the important background information. He urged me to find out more about the performance of the play in Berlin. I was able to get an excellent review of the play written by Theodor Fontane, the critic of the *Vossische Zeitung*.

I also hope to translate some delightful letters by the mother-in-law of Thomas Mann, who knew Fritz Mauthner when they were both "young and gay."
—Eleanor Alexander

ARCHITECTURAL PILGRIMAGE

In recent years, my husband Peter and I have made a number of trips of Italy to visit our daughter Ann, who has been studying architectural history, and her husband Rob Corser, an architect and

INSTITUTE MEMBERSHIP

We rely on continuing members to help maintain and increase Institute membership. Please send names and addresses of prospective members to Rose Scherini, the Membership Chair, at the address on the back page of the *Newsletter*. All of us profit from a large and diverse group of scholars and their activities.

teacher. Naturally, we've seen many buildings in their company, some part of any tourist's itinerary, some not. Of course, we have also enjoyed the many pleasures of present-day life in Italy, including its food and wine.

Most of our viewing has been of Renaissance-era buildings, since that is Ann's primary interest. For example, we were able to have a private visit to the Villa Madama in Rome, now used by the Italian Foreign Ministry to host visitors, but built during 1516–1517 by Cardinal Giuliano de Medici (later Pope Clement VII, 1523–34). While looking closely at the Medici symbols found throughout the magnificently decorated interior, we spotted some writing on one ceiling panel. With our binoculars, we were able to read three names and the date of 1808. One of the scholars in our group identified one of the names as that of a French engraver who was at the French Academy in Rome at that time. Apparently, some of the artists left their marks on the ceiling during restoration of the Villa.

Baldassare Peruzzi (1481–1537) is the subject of Ann's dissertation, so we have looked at some of the few buildings of his design which were actually built. One of these, a chapel in the church of San Domenico in Bologna, does not appear in English/American guidebooks, since it is now used as a storage room. Most visitors come to see the tomb of San Domenico, who died in Bologna in 1221. The cloister attached to the church is a charming refuge from the bustle of the city; on the sunny day we were there, a turtle was making his way around the periphery.

In Carpi, a small city north of Modena, Peruzzi designed the cathedral and worked on other churches. This city illustrates the way in which historic buildings and modern life are intertwined in Italian towns. One Sunday morning we found the center of the city filled with activity. As families arrived at the cathedral to celebrate the first communion of a bevy of well-dressed children, others were laying out a track for bicycle races in the sixteenth-century cathedral square. In an adjacent *piazza*, facing the tiny ninth-century first cathedral of Carpi, booths to promote recycling and ecological awareness were opening, and there was a wedding reception in the City Hall.

This area of Italy, near "Red Bologna," has a reputation of dissent, first to papal rule which lasted from the sixteenth century to the mid-nineteenth century, and to fascist and German authority from the 1920s to 1944. Two monuments in Carpi, neither of which are listed in the Blue Guide for Northern Italy, attest to the city's radical tradition. On the side of the City Hall, originally the palace of the ruling family and dating to the fourteenth century, is a plaque commemorating the liberation of Carpi from the control of the Papacy in 1859.

A second monument is a museum and memorial to those deported during World War II. Only five kilometers away was the camp at Fossoli, the site from which the largest number of Jews was deported from Italy, including the writer Primo Levi. The memorial is a courtyard filled with upright stones, like a tightly packed cemetery, each incised with the name of a transit or extermination camp. The museum is in the vaulted cellar of the City Hall. Display cases hold photographs and artifacts attesting to the arrest, imprisonment, and deportation of Jews and political dissidents. In the interior rooms, the vaulted ceilings and the columns which support them are completely covered by the names of victims. The names were incised into fresh white plaster to reveal a blood-red undercoat, a perhaps ironic echo of the frescoes found in so many Italian buildings. Included in the written explanations of the photos and artifacts is the story of the efforts of local gentiles to resist the deportation of their Jewish fellow citizens.

Because Ann's research is on Peruzzi's drawings of ancient buildings, we visited two Roman sites that Peruzzi had drawn. The first was a Roman gate on the edge of Spello, a charming hill town just south of Assisi in Umbria. While Ann and Rob photographed the gate, Peter and I took refuge in the shade of nearby buildings and enjoyed the view over the valley. We could see traffic on the highways below us, but no one came near us on foot, by bicycle, or by auto.

We also visited the ruins of the theater at Ferentium, near Viterbo, north of Rome. Unlike most Roman remains, this was in open countryside without any other signs of the Roman town of which this would have been the centerpiece, or of the later Italian town that had been there. The Blue Guide explains that the city of Ferento had been destroyed by Viterbo in 1172, "for heretically representing Christ on the cross with open eyes."¹ This explanation seems to be a pretext. It is most likely that Ferento had become too much of a rival for its neighboring city, and in imitation of ancient Rome, Viterbo had simply eliminated it (*Ferentium delenda est?*). So on an isolated bluff, the remains of a Roman theater can be seen, along with the foundations of some adjoining, unidentified buildings. The road past the ruins ends at a farmstead. The valley below was wonderfully green, marked only by the tracks used by the farmers, whose homes could be seen on either side of the valley.

On our most recent trip, in May 1999, we departed from our earlier historical emphasis and saw some thoroughly modern buildings. One was the church of San Giovanni Battista dell' Autostrada on the outskirts of Florence. Built in the early 1960s to the design of Giovanni Michelucci (1891-1990), it is in striking contrast to traditional basilicas. Its free-form

exterior features a great diagonal buttress with the church bells hung from the bottom rather than the top. The interior is supported by concrete columns that slant and branch like tree trunks. The ceiling swoops down from one side, then up higher to the long transverse wall behind the altar. Michelucci wanted to capture his vision of a tent caught in tree-tops, and the heavy concrete does indeed emulate the fluidity of fabric. The concrete has a warm tone, and the wood-grain pattern of the forms is very evident, softening what in other hands could be a cold, hard medium. Light comes from the great glass wall behind the altar and from numerous glazed openings. The only adornment is the figure of Saint John the Baptist in the window behind the main altar. Unfortunately, few visitors to Florence see this stunning building, since there is bus service from Florence only for Sunday mass. With a car it is only a short trip, however, and well worth it, and its architect, Michelucci, deserves to be better known.

Rob suggested that he could not in conscience teach aspiring architects unless he had seen some of the classics of modern architecture, particularly those of Le Corbusier. We leapt at that excuse to go to France. We spent our first night in the outskirts of Lyon at the monastery of La Tourette, making our trip a true pilgrimage. A Dominican community, La Tourette was designed by Le Corbusier (1887-1965) and built in the 1950s. While containing cells sufficient for a community of 100, now there are fewer than twenty brothers. The rest of the cells are usually occupied by visitors on religious retreat or interested in visiting one of the seminal works of modern architecture.

Like San Giovanni, outside Florence, La Tourette is an ecclesiastical structure that seemingly owes nothing to ancient traditions. Set on a hillside with a magnificent view of surrounding meadows and villages, it makes no concessions to its location. It is a hollow concrete cube perched on columns leaving the underside open to view. Three sides of the square are taken up by cells, meeting rooms, and a library. The fourth side is the chapel. From the exterior, the individual balconies of the cells create a checkerboard of open and closed spaces.

Long corridors pass on the inside of the cells, with high window slits providing light from the open central court. The windows at the ends of the corridors offer light but no views, since concrete barriers slant outside the glass. The view can be enjoyed only from the refectory and meeting rooms, with their glass walls. In place of a traditional cloister, a roof terrace is accessible by a staircase, but only to members of the community.

The chapel is equally untraditional—a great hollow rectangle with a cross-topped corner tower that holds the church bells. Light is admitted through sky-

lights and narrow glazed slits at corners of the building. The altar is placed on a low platform about one-third of the way from the exterior entrance, which is used by lay visitors (the members of the community enter through a door connected to an interior corridor). In the larger space are choir stalls arranged on either side of the long walls, and an organ at the end. Other than a red altar cloth, the only color in the room comes from spaces painted in bright red, yellow, green, and black. Despite the completely unadorned concrete—or perhaps because of it—the acoustics were superb.

After a filling but simple meal and a night's sleep in narrow cots in individual cells at La Tourette, we treated ourselves to a bistro lunch, a three-star dinner, and a night in an elegant hotel in the center of Lyon. Then we drove down the Rhône valley for four days in Provence. Southern France has some of the most remarkable Roman ruins to be found anywhere. We had time to see only a few: in Orange the triumphal arch and the great theater, both from the era of Augustus; the Pont du Gard outside Nîmes; and, in the center of Nîmes, the Maison Carrée and the arena.²

Embedded in the pavements of Nîmes are brass emblems of the city, a crocodile chained to a palm tree. This is the symbol of the Roman legion that had helped Augustus triumph at the battle of Actium in Egypt and that was given the territory around Nîmes to colonize as its reward.

We were in Nîmes during the Pentecost holiday, which is celebrated there with a great street festival and bullfights in the arena. Our visit showed us how a city with ancient roots functions at the end of the twentieth century.

The Maison Carrée is a wonderfully preserved miniature Roman temple, usually surrounded by heavy auto traffic, but for the festival the streets were reserved for pedestrians. On one side of the temple, a bandstand with all the paraphernalia of modern music and lighting stretched along the wall.

Alongside that space is the very new (1993) Carré d'Art, a museum designed by Sir Norman Foster. The side of the building facing the temple is essentially a series of wide steps, which were filled with people enjoying the sun and the music. The museum is a cube of aluminum and glass. The interior consists of galleries around a beautiful open space. A ceremonial stairway moves up from the lobby floor, with treads of greenish glass. The contrast between the tiny temple opposite and the grand, light-filled modern museum is great, but the day we were there the entire area, including the interiors of both buildings, provided festive spaces for holiday visitors.

Altogether, these trips have not only taught me a great deal about the history of architecture and the history of the areas we visited, but also something

about myself. No amount of reading could have begun to make clear to me how the past and the present overlaid and influence each other in these places. Living in California, where the past is constantly being obliterated by new development and new cities pop up seemingly overnight, having many layers of the past still visible and in use shows that there is a different way to live.

1. Alta Macadam, *Northern Italy from the Alps to Rome*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1985, p. 556.

2. I highly recommend James Bromwich, *The Roman Remains of Southern France: A Guidebook*. (London: Routledge, 1993.) Bromwich provides detailed information about each of the sites. His discussion of the Pont du Gard is especially interesting.

—Ellen Huppert

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

The 20th annual Millersville University Conference on the Holocaust, "Looking Back: The Holocaust in the context of the Twentieth Century," will be held 2-3 April 2000 in Millersville, PA. For information, contact: Prof. Tanya Kevorkian, Dept. of History, Millersville University, P.O. Box 1002, Millersville, PA 17551. (717) 871-2338 or tkevorki@marauder.millersv.edu.

The Council on America's Military Past will hold its 34 annual Military History Conference in Burlington, Vermont on 11-14 May 2000. Contact: CAMP '00 Conference, P.O. Box 1151, Fort Meyer, VA 22211-1151. (703) 912-6124.

The 24th annual conference of the German Studies Association will be held in Houston, Texas 5-8 October 2000. For details, contact: Keith Bullivant, Dept. of Germanic and Slavic Studies, University of Florida. Fax: (352)392-1067; e-mail: kbulli@germslav.ufl.edu.

A conference, "Labor and the Millennium," will be held in Detroit, Michigan 19-21 October 2000. Contact: Elizabeth Faue, Coordinator, North American Labor History Conference, Dept. of History, Wayne State University, 3094 Faculty Admin. Bldg., Detroit, MI 48202. (313) 577-2525; Fax (313) 577-6987.

CALL FOR PAPERS

"Memory and Identity: Present and Past," a joint meeting of the Canadian Society for 18th-Century Studies and the 18th-Century Scottish Studies Society, will be held in Toronto 19-21 October 2000. **DEADLINE FOR PAPER PROPOSALS: 1 APRIL 2000.** Send proposals to: John Baird, Victoria College,

University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1K7, Canada. E-mail: john.baird@utoronto.ca.

The *New England Journal of History* requests submissions on the subject of the pre-industrial economy in America, dealing with any aspect or category in the individual states or their antecedents (from settlement to 1861). The journal favors local or regional studies drawing on particular records or collections, or studies with a focus on relevant legal environments. **DEADLINE: 1 MAY 2000.** Reply by e-mail: relevance@mail.mdc.net.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Part One of Oscar Berland's article, "The Emergence of the Communist Perspective on the 'Negro Question' in America: 1919-1931," appears in the Winter 1999-2000 number of *Science & Society*. Part Two, which deals with the sources and immediate consequences of the Comintern's instruction to the American Communist Party to regard the Negro in the Black Belt as an oppressed nation, will appear in the Summer 2000 number of that journal.

A Polite Request

OKAY, LADIES AND GENTS — WE KNOW YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING IN YOUR LIVES, YOUR WORK. WE HAVE WAYS OF KNOWING—WHAT WE NEED ARE WAYS OF MAKING YOU TALK! SEND IN YOUR NEWS: JOBS, ARTICLES PUBLISHED, PAPERS PRESENTED, HONORS, DISHONORS, WHATEVER! WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU BY THE NEXT ISSUE, SO GET WITH THE PROGRAM! [You don't want to hear impolite.]
—YOUR FRENZIED (BUT CALM) EDITORS

ONLINE NEWS

The February 2000 issue of the AHA's *Perspectives* has a bibliography of select electronic journals that specialize in history. The author's criteria for selection were: no print counterparts; peer-review and/or affiliation with an educational or scholarly organization; history as the main focus; and available free (at present!). He discussed the advantages and the drawbacks associated with these journals. What follows is a list of journals chosen to serve the interests of our members. The Editor hopes that you will find it useful; cut and keep this page, since World Wide Web addresses are often difficult to find. If any member wants share other WWW sites of interest to historians, please send information to Elaine Rosenthal.

49th Parallel: An Interdisciplinary Journal of North American Studies

<http://artsweb.bham.ac.uk/49thParallel>. Graduate students at the University of Birmingham, UK, publish this quarterly. Filled with news, essays, reviews, and hypertext links to other web sites for historians of American history, such as Library of Congress, CIA, FBI, National Archives, and selected presidential libraries. E-mail: 49thparallel@bham.ac.uk.

Essays in History

<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/journals/EH/>. Published annually by graduate students in the Corcoran Dept. of History at the University of Virginia. Refereed. Searchable archive of articles starting in 1990. E-mail: mattozzi@virginia.edu.

H-Net Reviews

<http://www.h-net.msu.edu/reviews/>. Under the umbrella of the H-Net, Humanities & Social Sciences OnLine network. Collects published reviews from the other H-Net discussion networks; all reviews back to 1993 are archived here. Questions to hbooks@mail.h-net.msu.edu.

History Reviews On-Line

<http://www.depauw.edu/~dtrinkle/hrol.html>. Has published eight issues since 1995. Reviews history books, CD-ROMS, and WWW sites. Editor: Dtrinkle@DePauw.edu.

Intermarium

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/sipa/REGIONAL/ECE/intermar.html>. Focus is on central European history since World War II. Published jointly by the Institute for Political Studies (Polish Academy of Sciences) and the Institute on East Central Europe (Columbia University). Articles, reviews, links to related web sites. Many articles are English translations of articles that first appeared in overseas peer-reviewed journals. Back issues available for browsing.

Reviews in History

<http://ihr.sas.ac.uk/ihr/reviews/revmnu.html>. Published by the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London. Focus on British and European history from medieval period to the present. Authors comments are published with reviews. To date, eighty-seven reviews and responses have been published. Available by e-mail as well as on WWW. For an e-mail subscription, contact the editor at: ashepherd@ihr.sas.ac.uk or reviews@ihr.ac.uk.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 26 IHS Annual Meeting at the Rockridge Public Library.
- March 19 Paul Trimble, *Work-in-Progress*, on the Newspapermen's Unions in San Francisco.
- April 16 John Rusk, *Work-in-Progress*. Searching for the ship *Harriet Lane* at sea and on the computer.
- April 30 **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 any PC word-processing format—or as a PC-ASCII file if you use a Macintosh.**

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

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The Institute for Historical Study
P.O. Box 5743
Berkeley, CA 94705
(510) 540-8415

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