update

November, 1987

THE NEXT ISSUE of the Newsletter will be coming out at the end of December. Announcements, articles, etc. should be sent to Monica Clyde, 1940 Cortereal Avenue, Oakland, CA 94611 by the end of November. Send items for Membership News to Kathleen Casey, 1130 Delaware Street, Berkeley, CA 94702.

INSTITUTE BUSINESS

At the three "town meetings" held in October and November, and at the Board Retreat in October, a number of important suggestions were made concerning program, member services and public services. Despite the fact that almost everyone who talked to Bill Strobridge on the telephone thought the town meetings were a fine idea, attendance was small. In order to elicit a broader response, a large portion of this issue of UPDATE will be devoted to a discussion of some of the ideas proposed.

Under the general topic of member services there was considerable interest in establishing self-help groups of members who would read and comment upon one another's written work. The groups could be organized according to common interests, on a geographical basis, or perhaps both. (Ethel Herr has volunteered to organize a first meeting for Institute members who are writing historical fiction. If enough people are interested, the group would continue for a finite period on a self-sustaining basis.) A "writers' roundtable," at which Institute members who have published books would discuss a wide range of issues was suggested. Other recommendations included: 1) encouraging members to use the Newsletter to publish requests for help of various kinds (research problems, finding a reader for one's work, etc.), 2) publishing more information about grants and fellowships in the Newsletter, and 3) holding workshops on media projects and computers.

Concern was expressed about a proposal to offer the services of Institute members as consultants to local non-profit organizations. It was made clear, however, that volunteer services would be limited to a brief needs assessment survey of no more than four hours, whose purpose would be to make (next page)

Questionnaire

1. I would attend meetings if they were: a) related to my interests (please specify)_____ b) closer to where I live ____
c) held at other times (please specify) _____
2. I would be interested in attending or participating in a workshop on ___
_____
3. I would like to present a work-in-progress on (topic) _____
4. I would like to host a work-in-progress _____
5. I would be interested in a writers' group on _____
6. I can volunteer time on a needs assessment survey _____
7. I would be interested in contract work arising from a needs assessment survey ____ My skills are _____

recommendations about ways in which organizations can preserve and use their historical materials. Any work on archival or other material, if requested by an organization, would be done on a contract basis by Institute members who are looking for such work. Some of the advantages of a program of this sort include bringing the Institute and its work to the attention of the community, and bringing hitherto untouched archival materials to the attention of scholars. (A pilot project with the San Francisco League of Women Voters has been approved by the Board.)

If you were not able to attend one of the town meetings, please take a few minutes to answer the questionnaire on page 1 and return it to Joanne Lafler, 43 Abbott Drive, Oakland, CA 94611.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Readers' Round Table, sponsored by the Institute and the Hoover Institution has resumed after a brief summer vacation. Visiting scholar Dr. Bert Patenaude is the speaker on Thursday, November 19, from 12-1 o'clock in Room 250 of the Herbert Hoover Memorial Building. His address has the provocative title: "Say It Ain't So, Comrade! Hoover's A.R.A. in N.E.P. Russia." You are welcome to attend and to bring your brown bag lunch. For announcements of future meetings, contact Agnes Peterson at the Hoover Library.

All interested scholars are invited to attend the weekly colloquia sponsored by the History Department at UC Berkeley. On November 24 Alice Kelikian of Brandeis University will speak on "Catholic Welfare and the Italian State, 1890-1940." On December 2 Philip Sellew of the University of Minnesota will speak on "Living Like Angels, Dying Like Christ: Martyrdom, Sex and Salvation in Early Christianity." Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings will take place in the Sather Room, 3205 Dwinelle Hall on the UC Campus. If you have any questions, or would like to receive regular announcements of these meetings, call (415) 642-0016.

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