

PUBLIC HISTORY IN BRITAIN?

by Dr. Jill Liddington
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On 12 November 2002, over forty people gathered at Armley Mills Industrial Museum on the edge of Leeds to discuss public history issues. The seminar, 'Making History Work: Heritage and its Publics', was jointly organized by Leeds Museums and Galleries Service, plus Leeds University's Centre for Heritage Research and School of Continuing Education.

So where does this leave public history in Britain? The answer may not seem terribly encouraging for NCPH readers.

The seminar came about largely because my own interest in public history had been stimulated by visits to the United States and Australia. I came back from both trips wanting to explore these issues in a British context; and, courtesy of the invaluable Centre for Heritage Research umbrella, we were able to bring together at Armley both academics teaching history with practitioners working in museums and archives, libraries and country houses.

No way is public history a familiar term in Britain. So as opening speaker (on 'What is public history?') I outlined how a public history movement has grown up in the United States since the 1970s, and more recently in Australia. I suggested how at least two different meanings have emerged in Britain. On the one hand, some public historians hold 'everyone their own historian', stressing amateur-activists and community history projects. On the other, some populists judge that, with his *History of Britain* series, Simon Schama – master of the single male

authorial voice, high production values and vast audiences -- is our 'best' public historian'.

Other speakers at Armley were Simon Gunn (Leeds Metropolitan University) who explored 'Re-presenting the local: teaching, research and the publics for history' within a post-industrial West Yorkshire landscape. Daru Rooke (Senior Curator, Armley Mills Industrial Museum) spoke on 'Publics and Audiences: Museums and Television', drawing on his

own curatorial involvement with the television series *The 1900 House*. And Martin Gresswell (Curator of Social

and Industrial History, Leeds Museums) talked about the new Leeds City Museum and Resource Centre opening shortly. Commentators were Malcolm Chase (University of Leeds), who noted the need for more research on exactly how television history – especially Schama – is consumed; Sophie Forgan (University of Teeside & Cook Museum, Whitby) shared her experience of the seemingly unequal partnership between historians and the television teams - who urgently 'consult' them. Finally Jane Walton (Yorkshire Museums' Council) spoke inspiring on the 'community of practice' emerging between historians and practitioners within the Yorkshire region.

So Armley was a stimulating evening, with much buzzy discussion afterwards. And thanks to David Vanderstel's efficiency, a large box of NCPH material arrived in advance, and participants picked up leaflets afterwards.

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NEW MEMBERS

Rachel Ban, College Park, MD
David Benac, Columbia, MO
Kathy Bennett, Nashville, TN
Jenna Berger, Goleta, CA
California State University Center
for Oral and Public History, Fullerton,
CA
Ethan Carr, Amherst, MA
Sarah Case, Santa Barbara, CA
Liora Cobin, Chicago, IL
Paula Cody, Wichita, KS
MaryAnn D'Abramo, Ottawa, ON
Heidi Dodson, New Orleans, LA
Caitlin Donnelly, Champaign, IL
English Heritage Library, London, UK
Jennifer Evans, Greenbelt, MD
Nancy Fetterman, Penasacola, FL
Martha Foley, New York, NY
Jessica Forbes, Sebring, FL
Alex Forist, Grand Rapids, MI
Rick Fought, Conway, AR
Brooke Fox, Silver Spring, MD
Franklin D. Roosevelt Library,
Hyde Park, NY
Tiffany Frost, Houston, TX
Gary Garrett, Houston, TX
Michele Gates-Moresi, Washington DC
Barbara Geiger, Wilmette, IL
Alison Grawitch, Barnhart, MO
J. Green, Somerville, MA
Sally Anne Gutting, Houston, TX
Andrea Hawkes, Arlington, MA
Mary Hayes, Arlington, TX
Dannie Helm, Winter Garden, FL
Matthew Hess, Carlisle, PA
Robert Hlasko, Medina, OH
Pamela Holtman, Jackson, WY
Dona Horowitz-Behrend,
Bryn Mawr, PA
Barry Hutcheson, Austin, TX
Indiana Historical Society,
Indianapolis, IN

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► *Public History in Britain ... continued from page 1*

So where does this leave public history in Britain? The answer may not seem terribly encouraging for NCPH readers.



There have over the last two decades been sporadic attempts to introduce 'public history' into Britain. Long-time readers of *The Public Historian* may recall, for instance, 'The Debut of Public History in Europe' (1984), though little significant survived from these early initiatives. More recently, there has been renewed interest. Ludmilla Jordanova's *History in Practice* (2000) devoted a chapter to public history. The Royal Historical Society ran a very successful conference in 2001 at York University, organized by Connie Schultz's colleague Simon Ditchfield, on 'Historians and their Publics'. And on a more permanent platform, Ruskin College at Oxford runs both an annual conference and an MA programme in Public History. Similarly, *Oral History* journal includes an imaginative public history section – as does *Labour History Review*, with scholarly critiques of museums.

Yet although there is this evidence of thoughtful engagement with public history issues, the activity still retains its sporadic nature. There is a sense in which public history has never really taken root in Britain, and is not part of our vocabulary here. For instance, a month after the Armley seminar, the

Institute for Historical Research (in association with The History Channel) organized a large and ambitious conference in London, 'History and the Media', attracting over 400 people. It brought together a pleasingly rich mix of independent television producers and academics, film archivists and freelancers, college lecturers and BBC staff. Yet the term 'public history' was never aired or at least, not in my hearing.

Why should this be? There are perhaps two main explanations. First, Britain, with its ancient historical identities – whether British or English, Yorkshire or London – seems to feel it has little need of what 'public history' offers newer nation states and newer democracies; it still feels far more comfortable with the notion of 'heritage' and discussion around that. (For instance, in 1983 the government-funded quango English Heritage was created, and continues to play a powerful role in restoring historical sites across the regions. More recently the Heritage Lottery Fund has become a major provider of project-funding.)

Second, and more speculatively, the individual professional organizations – notably the Museums' Association and the Library Association – are strongly organized in Britain. They provide the vocational training and accreditation, and determine the entry and promotion requirements within each profession. Thus, one arm of NCPH activity – graduate courses, curriculum and

employment opportunities – is very differently organized in Britain from the United States and Australia.

Does this lack of public history rootedness in Britain (and possibly elsewhere in Europe) matter? Arguably not. History programmes on British television are often outstanding: Stephen Poliakoff's *Shooting the Past* and his recent *The Lost Prince* (attracting eight million viewers) have quickly become classics. The new Leeds City Museum and Resource Centre is just one example of exciting new history displays opening up across the regions. Indeed, the public history activity and debate that exists here invariably reaches a very high standard. The Armley Mills seminar, and on a larger scale IHR's 'Media and History' conference, both pushed forward an enormously important debate. Those of us in Britain interested in public history will remain in contact with NCPH, and with Australian and Canadian colleagues. We may just do it slightly differently.

(See J Liddington, 'What is Public History? Publics and their Pasts, Meanings and Practices', *Oral History*, 30:1, spring 2002.)

Dr. Jill Liddington is Reader in Gender History for the School of Continuing Education at the University of Leeds.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Marla Miller, assistant professor of history at University of Massachusetts, Amherst, contributes a regular column on public history for the newsletter of the Coordinating Council for Women in History.

Donald Ritchie, historian in the US Senate Historical Office, has appeared in the national media recently, commenting on the release of transcripts from the McCarthy hearings of the 1950s.

Amy Wilson, curator at the Chemung County Historical Society in Elmira, NY, was recently named acting director of the Society.

Thank You!

NCPH thanks the following members who recently completed service as officers and members of the NCPH Board of Directors: Patrick O'Bannon, past president; Sharon Babaian, secretary/treasurer; Cindy Brandimarte, Marie Tyler McGraw, Judith Wellman, board of directors.

NCPH 2003 ELECTION RESULTS

The NCPH Executive Offices is pleased to announce the results of the recent NCPH elections. New officers and board members took on their duties following the recent annual meeting in Houston.

According to NCPH bylaws, Vice President **James B. Gardner** now assumes the presidency of the organization. Gardner completed his Ph.D. in history at Vanderbilt University and then joined the staff of the American Association for State and Local History. He left that position in 1986 to become Deputy Executive Director of the American Historical Association, and later worked as a consultant with LaPaglia & Associates and History Associates Incorporated. He now holds the position of Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. Gardner's recent publications include *Public History: Essays from the Field* (1999) and articles in *The Public Historian*. He also serves as a senior editor of Krieger Publishing Company's public history series. Within NCPH, he has served on the Editorial Board of *The Public Historian*, the Nominating Committee, and as chair of the Awards Committee, the Membership Committee, and the G. Wesley Johnson Award Committee. He is also a past president of the Society for History in the Federal Government, has served as chair of the AASLH Nominating Committee, and serves as chair of the AASLH Professional Standards and Ethics Committee and the Nominating Board of the Organization of American Historians.

Sharon Babaian, historian with the Canada Science and Technology Museum since 1988, is the new NCPH Vice-President. Her primary duties at the museum are researching and writing reports on the history of various technologies in Canada, including electrical and electronic communication (telegraphy, radio communications and broadcasting), cycles (including the history of CCM), marine navigation

(navigational instruments and aids to navigation), and nuclear energy. Prior to that, Babaian worked as a researcher and writer for Alberta Culture at both the Reynolds-Alberta Museum and the Historic Sites Service. She received her B.A. and M.A. in History from the University of Manitoba, and her Master's in Public Administration from Queen's University. Her publications include *Radio Communication in Canada: An Historical and Technological Survey*, (Ottawa: National Museum of Science and Technology, 1992), *The Most Benevolent Machine: An Historical Assessment of Cycles in Canada*, (Ottawa: National Museum of Science and Technology, 1998). She became involved in NCPH in 1993 and has served on the Membership Committee, Program Committee for the 1996 Seattle conference, as Local Arrangements chair for the 2001 Ottawa conference, and most recently as the Secretary-Treasurer of NCPH.

Elected as Secretary/Treasurer is **Harry Klinkhamer**, a program officer for the American Association for State and Local History. Klinkhamer, who graduated in 1997 from the public history program at Loyola University Chicago, serves as editor of AASLH's *History News* and *Dispatch* and oversees other programs such as publications and awards. He previously worked at the Illinois State Historical Society holding several positions in programming and management.

The three Board position winners are **Billie Gaines**, **Alison (Kim) Hoagland**, and **Amy Wilson**.

Billie Gaines has been the Director of the National Museum Fellows Program at the Atlanta History Center since 1994. She has 43 years of teaching, program administration, and consulting experience in the humanities. She possesses an A.B. in English and Russian from Vassar College, an M.A. in English from Ohio State University, and a Ph.D. in Russian Language and Literature from Bryn Mawr College.

Alison (Kim) Hoagland is an Associate Professor of History and Historic Preservation at Michigan Technological University. Prior to that, she was the senior historian at the Historic American Buildings Survey, a division of the National Park Service, for 15 years. Prof. Hoagland received her B.A. from Brown University and her M.A. from George Washington University in American Studies, with a concentration in historic preservation.

Amy Wilson is Curator and Acting Director for the Chemung County Historical Society, a small museum in Elmira, New York. She also serves on the Board of the Upstate History Alliance, a field service agency that administers grants for technical assistance, provides workshops, and gives awards for meritorious service throughout New York State. Wilson received her B.A. in History from the University of Georgia and her M.A. in Public History from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

The two Nominating Committee seats went to **Cindy Brandimarte** and **Juliet Galonska**.

Cindy Brandimarte serves as Senior Advisor for Historic Sites at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Austin. In the past, she has worked as a consultant in environmental and archeological firms, a curator at an urban historical society, at a regional museum on the High Plains, and as a historian for the statewide park system in Texas. She received her Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Texas.

Juliet Galonska has worked as a historian at the National Park Service for the past nine years. During that time, she has served as the park historian for the Fort Smith National Historic Site and currently serves as the interactive operations supervisor at Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ohio. She received her M.A. in History from Oklahoma State University.

NEW MEMBERS

► *New Members ... continued from page 1*

Anna Ippolito, Gainesville, FL
 Robert Jakeman, Auburn University, AL
 Nobuko Krych, Long Beach, CA
 Jennifer Lambert, Phoenix, AZ
 Gilles Lauzon, Montreal, QC
 Mary Amanda Lee, Columbia, SC
 Kathryn Leonard, Tempe, AZ
 Thomas Lewis, Saint Cloud, MN
 Peter Liebhold, Columbia, MD
 Paul Litt, Ottawa, ON
 Cynthia Little, Elkins Park, PA
 Steven Lucht, Xenia, OH
 Tiya Miles, Ann Arbor, MI
 Caureen Miller, Boise, ID
 Clyde Milner II, State University, AR
 Shannon Mitchell, Sacramento, CA
 Beth Moser, Flagstaff, AZ
 James Moyers, Bellevue, NE
 Lisa Neely, Kingsville, TX
 Tony Nightingale, Wellington, NZ
 Jeremi Nobil, Miami Beach, FL
 Kevin Norton, Phoenix, AZ
 Edward O'Donnell, Worcester, MA
 Jill O'Connell, Amherst, MA
 Adele Oltman, New York, NY
 Margaret O'Toole, Chicago, IL
 Shannon Parsley, Elkridge, MD
 Rivier College, Nashua, NH
 Sara Roberson, Roseville, CA
 Leta Schoen, Houston, TX
 Christopher Schroeder, Estero, FL
 State University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA
 James Steely, Phoenix, AZ
 Carlene Stephens, Alexandria, VA
 Laura Stewart, Franklin, TN
 Katherine Sturdevant, Colorado Springs, CO
 Ruth Sullivan, New Braunfels, TX
 Jason Theriot, Houston, TX
 Daniel Vivian, Washington DC
 Sylvia Washington, Winfield, IL
 Washington State University, Richland, WA
 Sarah Weber, Tempe, AZ
 Virginia Westbrook, Crown Point, NY
 Daryl White, Atlanta, GA
 Sarah Williams, Savannah, GA
 Women's Rights NHP, Seneca Falls, NY
 Kathryn Young, Chicago, IL

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



by **Rebecca Conard**
rconard@mtsu.edu

A year ago, I opened with a piece that came to me while I was working in my mother's garden. This year I found myself thinking about my closing column as I was putting in a new ornamental garden near my back porch.

As an occasional gardener, I tend to favor evergreens and perennials that need little tending, but there is always more work than one

bargained for. The carefully crafted list of plants compiled with gardening books open on the table changes gradually as I prowls the nurseries. Somewhere between planning and the assembly of plants in nursery pots, I always find myself wishing that I had majored in botany as an undergraduate. I want the knowledge of plants at my fingertips, like the knowledge of cooking, but it isn't. Thus, I am also an inefficient gardener. I experiment more than I would like, arranging and rearranging plants for height, shade tolerance, color, and texture to see what works—knowing that I can attempt to remedy this year's failures with a new round of experiments next spring. In the interim, gardening successes and failures will have been the subject of countless delightful conversations in hallways, around dinner tables, and across the back fence.

So it is with any system: the planning and experimenting never ceases. Success comes with constant tending and perseverance. Thus, while the euphoria of celebrating success is all well and good, it is better to find satisfaction in the process. It has been a privilege to

serve as chief tender of this particular system for a year. In my first column, I said something about hoping for a few surprises along the way. Indeed, there were. Forming a leadership committee for the new endowment fundraising campaign provided an opportunity to contact all past chairs and presidents of NCPH. Not only are all of them "contactable" via conventional methods, but all of them are still active—mark of NCPH's relative youth as a professional organization. The real surprise, however,

came when every one of them said "yes." Solidarity among past leaders is a true commitment of faith in the future of NCPH and of public history.

Equally surprising was

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 generation is coming
 on strong.

the uniformly high quality of presentations at this year's annual meeting. NCPH programs are always lively and interesting, but something was different about the Houston meeting. Session presenters played to full audiences. Provocative and stimulating presentations were followed by meaty discussions. I came away from the two sessions I managed to attend with a sense that the next generation is coming on strong. The keynote address by civil rights attorney Armand Derfner was a most respectful assessment of the value of history to contemporary society. Public history educators grappled with curriculum standards issues in two well-attended (early morning) breakfast roundtable sessions. And the poster session just keeps getting better and better.

Thanks again to Bob Weyeneth and the Program Committee, to Tom Kelly for local arrangements, to Kathy Corbett in her role as poster-session impresario, to many cosponsors, and to David Vanderstel and Dana Ward for making it all come together. Thanks to all for a memorable, enjoyable, and productive year.

CONSULTANT'S CORNER

The NCPH Consultants' Committee is dedicated to promoting the interests of NCPH members who provide historical services as consultants or contractors. The committee wishes to highlight professional accomplishments among contract historians, contract firms, and other independent researchers. Forward news of finished projects, contract awards, contract report publications, ongoing oral history projects, or anything else that might be of interest to practicing historians. E-mail items to Amy Dase, Consultants' Committee, at adase@paiarch.com. Be sure to include your full name and address.

Kathryn A. Miller, of HaAR -
Historic and Architectural Resources

and the Loudoun County Planning Commissioner for the Leesburg District, Virginia has been recognized by the Town of Leesburg, Virginia in celebrating 2003 Women's History Month, "Women Pioneering the Future" for her work in historic preservation. She has also been appointed to the Citizen Advisory Committee for the Loudoun County Heritage Preservation Plan launched by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors in March 2003. The plan will be a comprehensive land use model for all heritage resource preservation within the county. For further information, contact Kathryn at historic_and_architectural_resources@adelphia.net

Landscape historian **Barbara Geiger** will be leading a seminar for the Newberry Library in Chicago this summer on "Reconsidering the Prairie Style," examining the social and historical roots of this popular landscape and architectural design school. She will be giving two bus tours for the Chicago Botanic Garden, as well as a class in July. Her consulting work includes design and restoration for historic sites, research into historic gardens, golf courses, parks, and towns, and National Register nominations for buildings and landscapes. For further information, contact Barbara at **847-853-1096**, or bgeiger4@earthlink.net

NCPH AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

At the recent annual meeting in Houston, President Rebecca Conard and Awards Committee chair Dick Miller announced the recipients of this year's NCPH awards.

The NCPH Awards committee is pleased to report that the winning entry for the Student Project Award is "A Cooperative Effort to Reinterpret Campbell House Between the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture and Washington State University." Ben Baughman, Steve Biljan, Michael Brown, Matthew Hansbury, Jeffrey Johnson, Jon Middaugh, Caureen Miller, Gwen Pattison, Steve Shay and Bryce Spencer, all graduate students at Washington State University, submitted this project. Supervised by Dr. Janice Rutherford, the project documents the efforts of this student team to create a dynamic new interpretive program for the Campbell House, an 1898 historic house museum restored and operated by the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture.

The HRA New Professional Award for 2003 went to Brian C. Buff, the Executive Director of the Albany County Historical

Association. Prior to being hired by the Association, Buff worked as a Curatorial Assistant and Intern at the Shaker Museum and Library in Old Chatham, New York and also as a teaching assistant for the Department of History at the State University of New York – Albany. Buff received his B.A. in History from St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York and his M.A. in Public History from the State University of New York – Albany.

Kerry Smith, an associate professor of history at Brown University, received the G. Wesley Johnson Prize for the best article in *The Public Historian* for the previous volume year. Smith's article, "The Shōwa Hall: Memorializing Japan's War at Home," explored public memory and methods of memorializing war in Japan's Shōwa Hall. The G. Wesley Johnson Prize Committee, consisting of Missy McDonald, Murney Gerlach and Otis L. Graham, Jr. (chair), chose this article because they felt that it "broadens English language readers' awareness and understanding of the comparative development of international public history, and serves as a valuable

introduction to Japan's multi-layered engagement with its World War II history, in the end not so very different from the memorialization dilemmas of the nation it attacked on September 7, 1941."

NCPH and the Awards Committee wish to thank all of those who submitted nominations for this year's awards and to acknowledge the hard work and dedication shown by all of the participants.

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History, Indiana University Indianapolis.

James Gardner, President
Sharon Babaian, Vice-President
Rebecca Conard, Past President
Harry Klinkhamer, Secretary-Treasurer
David G. Vanderstel, Executive
Director

GUEST COLUMN

Arnita Jones
Executive Director,
American Historical Association

In a recent presidential column in *Public History News*, Rebecca Conard took note of the American Historical Association's current investigation of the master's degree in the field of history. She also expressed some concern about the need for other organizations to collaborate in this important effort. We wholeheartedly agree on the necessity for cooperation, not just with the NCPH, but also with other historical associations that have a stake in the training of historians at the master's level.

Over the past two and a half years, we have engaged in conversations about graduate training with leaders and members of the Organization of American Historians, the Community College Humanities Association, the National Council on History Education, the National Council for the Social Studies, the Society for History in the Federal Government, the Society of American Archivists, and, of course, the National Council on Public History. (For example, the AHA held two open forums to discuss graduate training at the NCPH annual meeting in 2001, and Philip Katz has met with the NCPH board of directors twice since then to share data and exchange ideas. Another session was held at the 2003 annual meeting.) These conversations will continue as we focus our attention more closely on the master's degree.

The AHA project is intended to take a general look at the history master's degree, while recognizing that the degree is called upon to serve many different functions: an entry point for doctoral education, a training ground for K-12 teachers and community college faculty, a preparation for public history careers,

and others. The master's degree in history is a big subject. We know that about four times as many historians earned master's degrees as opposed to doctorates during the past decade. We also know that the holders of master's degrees are the nation's unstudied but ubiquitous

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teachers of history, considering all of the school teachers, community college faculty, and public historians of every sort who have been trained at the master's level. Beyond these basic facts, however, lies an unfortunate paucity of data about the education and training of historians at all levels. Nor do we have much information about the progress of post-degree careers in the discipline. Thus, it would help *all* of us in the history profession if organizations like NCPH, SHFG, SAA, CCHA, et al., did more to gather regular and systematic information about the populations they serve. Indeed, as a new member of the American Council for Learned Societies, NCPH is now well positioned to join in the various data-collection efforts that are being developed within that set of scholarly societies.

The AHA has already made a start, thanks to generous support from the Carnegie Corporation (which funded our recent study of doctoral education) and the Ford Foundation (which has

funded the new master's degree project). Recently we conducted a survey of public history employers to learn what they want from history program graduates. In the months ahead, we will be examining graduate program requirements and consulting with historians across the country to learn more about the master's degree – where it is now, where it might be going in the future. For more details about the project, please visit the AHA website at

<http://www.theaha.org/perspectives/issues/2003/0302/0302aha1.cfm>.

Please send your comments and questions to Phil Katz (pkatz@theaha.org), research director of the AHA's Committee on the Master's Degree in History. NCPH members may also want to contact Pat Mooney-Melvin (pmooney@luc.edu), chair of the NCPH Committee on Curriculum and Training and a member of the AHA committee as well.



The National Council on Public History promotes the application of historical

scholarship outside the university in government, business, historical societies, preservation organizations, archives, libraries, professional associations, and public interest groups.

For details contact NCPH President James Gardner, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, PO Box 37012, MRC 664, Washington, DC 20013, (202) 357-1835; gardnerj@nmah.si.edu; or David G. Vanderstel, NCPH, Cavanaugh 327, IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140; (317) 274-2716; E-mail: ncp@iupui.edu.

Submissions to *Public History News* should be sent to David G. Vanderstel, Editor, at the address above.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



by David G. Vanderstel
dvanders@ncph.org

The past winter brought central Indiana its fourth snowiest winter on record. While the 50+ inches of snow certainly could not approach the precipitation received by friends and colleagues in more northern climes, the wintry weather did contribute to a noticeable increase in “cabin fever” among Hoosiers as well as increased public discussion about the hope for an early thaw and the anticipated arrival of spring.

As the snow accumulated, the staff of the NCPH Executive Offices also anticipated spring, but for other reasons. Winter months are traditionally spent in final preparation for the annual gathering of the public history community. So, the staff was very busy, assisting program and local arrangements chairs in coordinating last minute details on special events and NCPH President Rebecca Conard in preparing for the semi-annual board meeting.

While working to ensure an efficient and productive meeting in Houston, the staff also proceeded with plans for the 2004 and 2005 annual meetings—the first time in NCPH history that we were coordinating three annual meetings simultaneously. Jon Hunner, program

co-chair for the 2004 annual meeting, to be held jointly with the American Society for Environmental History in Victoria, British Columbia, reports a tremendous response from the call for papers, which will highlight the best of public and environmental history. We also began work on a draft agreement for the 2005 annual meeting to be hosted by the Truman Presidential Library in Kansas City, Missouri, and housed at the historic Muehlebach Hotel, one of President Harry S. Truman’s favorite hotels and site of his famous 1948 presidential election victory celebration. Continue to watch the NCPH website and this newsletter for further details on both programs.

Another winter activity awaiting the arrival of spring was the beginning of a new NCPH Endowment Campaign. Following last fall’s notification that NCPH had received an NEH Challenge Grant, the NCPH staff began work with President Conard and Vice President Jim Gardner to plan a new initiative to raise \$90,000 over the next 48 months. Rebecca and Jim recruited past NCPH presidents to serve on a leadership committee that will assist in identifying major donors and soliciting gifts from the membership. As the endowment campaign moves to the next level, we will keep you apprised of the latest developments – including major donations and overall status of the campaign -- in a new section of the newsletter beginning with the summer issue/annual report.

Finally, the winter also brought new attention to the NCPH website. Graduate intern Doug Fivecoat, who has previous experience in web-based banking, spearheaded a redesign of the site (to be unveiled soon) that will provide easier navigation and access to the materials on public history education, resources for the profession, and other items gathered by the Executive Offices. We hope that this updated website will become a regular clearinghouse of information for the public history community, and we welcome your thoughts -- as well as your contributions -- to ensure that the site represents the diverse areas and needs of our profession.

Needless to say, despite the blustery winter in Indianapolis, the past several months proved to be a very productive time for the Executive Offices. Many thanks to Dana Ward, Assistant to the Director, and graduate intern Doug Fivecoat for their hard work on these projects as we seek to improve our services to NCPH members and as we move to address the long-range plans of the organization. And thanks to you, the members of NCPH, for your continued support of the organization and its many initiatives. With many great programs and professional opportunities ahead, I look forward to your continued involvement, advice, and contributions as we seek to move NCPH to the next level of professional development and operations.

Invitation from *Public History News*

The National Council on Public History invites you to submit articles for publication in our quarterly newsletter, *Public History News*. We welcome stories concerning innovative public programs, project updates, important issues concerning public history, interesting collaborations, and new approaches being used to bring history to the public.

Articles for *Public History News* should be approximately 750 to 1000 words in length. Submissions and questions can be sent via email to ncph@iupui.edu or to the National Council on Public History, 327 Cavanaugh Hall-IUPUI, 425 University Boulevard Indianapolis, IN 46202.



**Bruce Craig, Executive Director
National Coalition for History**
rbcraig@historycoalition.org

The Bush Budget for FY2004 – For History, It's Awesome!

On 3 February 2003 President Bush delivered to Congress a \$2.2 trillion federal budget for 2004. It includes both a record deficit of \$307 billion and a record funding level for history-related programs -- \$100 million for the Department of Education's (DOE) "Teaching of Traditional American History" initiative and a \$25 million increase in the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) budget line to fund the "We the People" initiative. The President's budget also allocates \$289 million for the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), including level-funding of \$5 million for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) budget is pegged at \$152 million, which includes level funding for the NEH traditional programs (\$128 million) and a massive influx of \$25 million in new funds for the "We the People" initiative, designed "to promote a broad understanding of the ideas and events that have shaped our nation." To spearhead the implementation of the initiative, a "We the People" office will be established to coordinate diverse activities that cut across virtually every program activity within the NEH.

In an unexpected development, the Bush administration doubled last year's budget request of \$50 million for the DOE "Teaching of Traditional American History" initiative to \$100 million. That is the budget figure that the initiative's champion Senator Robert C Byrd (D-WV) has advocated over the last three years.

The program makes competitive grants to school districts to promote the teaching of "traditional" American history at the elementary and secondary school levels, recognizing "the need to create and expand efforts to raise the level of student knowledge in this core academic area in order to prepare future generations of students to become responsible citizens who vote and fully participate in our democratic institutions."

The National Archives is pegged at \$304.563 million, of which "new obligations" are set at \$289 million. HPRC will receive \$5 million. For the National Park Services, the budget recommends funding of \$2.4 billion; \$1.517 billion for park operations; \$477 million for construction; \$7 million for the Urban Parks and Recreation Fund; \$30 million for the "Save America's Treasures" Program; and \$67 million for the Historic Preservation Fund.

Other budget lines of interest to the historical and archival community include the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars -- \$8.604 million; the Institute of Museum and Library Services -- \$242.024 million (\$201 million for assistance to libraries and \$30 million for museums with \$11 million for general administration); Advisory Council on Historic Preservation -- \$5 million; and for the Smithsonian Institution in discretionary funding -- \$478 million.

McCarthy Era Executive Session Records Released. On 5 May 2003, in the same Senate hearing room that Senator Joseph R. McCarthy (R-WI) used to conduct his investigations into communism, espionage, and internal subversion, the Senate Committee on Government Affairs announced the release of all of the previously closed transcripts of executive session proceedings during McCarthy's embattled tenure as a subcommittee Chair (1953-1954). The transcripts of 161 closed hearings -- some 9,675 pages of testimony given by close to 500 witnesses -- is the largest quantity of

documents related to the McCarthy or his investigations ever to be released.

During his chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, McCarthy shifted emphasis from searching out waste and corruption in the executive branch to conducting sensational inquiries into allegations of communist subversion and espionage. He led investigations of the Department of State, the Voice of America, the U.S. Information Libraries, the Government Printing Office, the Army Signal Corps, and American defense industries. This effort culminated in the nationally televised Army-McCarthy hearings, followed shortly by the Senate's vote to censure McCarthy for conduct contrary to senatorial traditions.

The project, under the direction of Associate Senate Historian Dr. Donald A. Ritchie, took over two years to complete. Ritchie stated that although most records of the Senate remain closed for only 20 years, in this instance, because the records involved personal privacy issues, the Senate ordered them sealed for just under 50 years. McCarthy's personal papers will remain closed until the passing of his adopted daughter.

According to Ritchie, there are no particular blockbuster revelations in the transcripts, but the volumes give new and deeper insights into the operations of the committee. Ritchie stated that the transcripts show that "anybody who stood up to McCarthy in closed session, and did so articulately, tended not to get called up into the public session...McCarthy was only interested in the people he could browbeat publicly."

The complete five-volume set is available on the Government Printing Office website at: www.access.gpo.gov/congress/senate/senate12cp107.html

A link to the McCarthy documents is on the website of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at: http://www.senate.gov/~gov_affairs/psi.htm

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND INTERNSHIPS

The Coordinating Council for Women in History and the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians are pleased to announce the 13th annual competition for two \$500.00 Graduate Student Awards to assist in the completion of dissertation work. The awards are designed to support either a crucial stage of research or the final year of writing. The CCWH/Berkshire award is for a woman graduate student in a history department in a U.S. institution, and the CCWH/Ida B. Wells award is for a woman graduate student in a U.S. institution in any department, who is working on a historical topic. Winners will receive support to attend the CCWH Awards Luncheon at the AHA annual meeting and to participate in the CCWH panel that will feature their work. Application deadline is **October 1, 2003**. Application forms for both awards are available at the CCWH Website:

<http://theccwh.org/awards.htm>.

Questions should be directed via email or telephone to: Professor Ann Le Bar, CCWH Awards Committee Chair, alebar@mail.ewu.edu, phone: 509-359-7952.

BOOKNOTES

The American Society of Civil Engineers has released *America Transformed: Engineering and Technology in the Nineteenth Century*, which explores the history of engineering and technology in nineteenth-century America using the extensive visual record compiled by the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) of the National Park Service. This work, which includes nearly 200 photographs and drawings of civil engineering achievements such as the Brooklyn Bridge and the Erie Canal, presents readers with a broader understanding and appreciation of the history of engineering and technology in the United States. Author Dean Herrin has served as HAER staff historian for ten

years and is currently the National Park Service Coordinator for the Catoctin Center for the Regional Studies at Frederick Community College in Maryland. More information about this book is available at:

<http://www.pubs.asce.org/BOOKdisplay.cgi?9991546>

MISCELLANEOUS

The Patriots of Color Celebration, a program scheduled for Monday **16 June 2003** at Boston's Old South Meeting House, derives from the National Park Service report titled, "Patriots of Color, 'A Peculiar Beauty and Merit' African Americans and Native Americans at Battle Road and Bunker Hill". For this report, Revolutionary War consultant George Quintal Jr. painstakingly uncovered approximately 120 new minority identities, untold stories that literally and figuratively change the faces of the Lexington & Concord and Bunker Hill battles. The report's concept was to revive the neglected historical memory of those men before they were permanently lost.

The evening's event will be moderated by Byron Rushing, former director of the Museum of Afro American History [Boston]. He will be joined by scholar and public historian James Horton of George Washington University, who will speak about the complexities of the patriot of color experience in the Revolutionary War. Boston National Historical Park plans to formally recognize the living descendants of Bunker Hill participants at this event. Currently, the guests of honor include two descendants of Bunker Hill combatant Barzillai Lew. The Lew family's history was featured in a series written by Tatsha Robertson for the Boston Globe in 1999 and also in the book, *Twenty Families of Color in Massachusetts* by local author Franklin A. Dorman.

Performances include a reenactment by the Needham West Militia Company reflecting the diverse heritage of Bunker Hill participants. Historically authentic music from the Revolutionary War period will be performed by Columbia's Musick

and traditional drumming will be performed by members of the Natick Indian clan, whose ancestors participated in the Revolutionary War.

The Patriots of Color Celebration will be preceded by an original theatre performance on Saturday, June 14th, a commissioned piece written by Boston Children's Theatre, utilizing music, historical accounts, and other sources about the Battle of Bunker Hill focusing on the "Patriots of Color" report. The play will be written from a child's perspective and performed by children to be auditioned from Boston elementary schools. This play will be presented outside, in front of the Bunker Hill Monument, free of charge to the public. For more information please contact: e-mail: lisa_thursby@nps.gov, office: (617)-242-5668.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Public Humanities Search. The Department of American Civilization, Brown University, seeks a distinguished senior scholar to initiate and oversee a proposed M.A. program in Public Humanities and to serve as the director of the John Nicholas Brown Center for the Study of American Civilization (JNBC). We seek a leading academician/practitioner to provide vision and energy for an exciting new initiative in the presentation and interpretation of humanities and cultural scholarship.

The new faculty member will shape both parts of this initiative, the proposed M.A. program and the further development of the John Nicholas Brown Center. Offered within the Department of American Civilization, the MA will be a two-year course of study preparing students to explain academic research to the public. The JNBC was established in 1985 with a mission to advance scholarship and education in American Studies and to serve as a center for the active study of art, architecture, literature, history and historic preservation. The Center is housed in the Nightingale-Brown House, a National Historic Landmark located on the Brown campus. The University is fully committed to expanding the JNBC's role as a scholarly

center; to enhancing its integration into the intellectual life of the University; and to exploring the ways in which it can serve as a national laboratory for the public humanities through the new graduate degree program and other activities and programs developed by the new Director.

Qualifications include a PhD in a relevant field of American cultural studies and a record of distinguished scholarly publication. In addition, candidates should possess administrative experience commensurate with oversight of a scholarly center at a leading research university and knowledge of public programming and community outreach. Responsibilities will include the establishment and oversight of the MA program; teaching in the Department of American Civilization; directing the John Nicholas Brown Center; and oversight and continued stewardship of the Nightingale-Brown house. The Director of the JNBC reports directly to the Provost of the University.

The successful candidate will be appointed at the rank of full professor with tenure in the Department of American Civilization. Please send a letter of application, a curriculum vita and a list of references to JNBC Search Committee, Office of the Provost, Box 1862, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912. Review of applications will begin July 1, 2003 and will continue until the position is filled or closed. Further inquiries are encouraged. Please contact Susan Smulyan, Chair of the Search Committee (401-863-1694,

Susan_Smulyan@brown.edu) with questions. Brown University is an EEO/AA Employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply. Visit our website at: www.brown.edu

Executive Director. Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania administers one of the most comprehensive history agencies in the United States under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. As an independent agency under the Governor's jurisdiction, the Commission is represented by a 14-member board and administered under the direction of an Executive Director. The annual operating budget of the Commission exceeds \$43 million, not including capital, fundraising or other donated funds and services. The Commission employs 550 salaried and wage personnel in carrying out the operations of: the State Historic Preservation Office, National Register activities, and a statewide grants program; The State Museum of Pennsylvania and 25 other important thematic museums, historic sites and the Flagship Niagara, that tell the story of the Commonwealth; the State Archives, an advanced documents and records management division, a major publications and sales office, and a comprehensive history program.

The core competencies of the Executive Director must include the ability to organize, plan and lead

professional and other staff in carrying out the mission PA Historical and Museum Commission. The individual should be skilled at working with a board of directors and possess experience in government and public relations. He/She must have a passion for history; the vision and ambition to lead the agency; and the skill to responsibly exploit it for fulfilling cultural, educational, economic and other agendas. The individual should have strong communicative skills in working with the media and collaborative experience in developing alliances with organizations and institutions for planning, promoting and preserving history. He/She should be able to demonstrate a proven ability to create and nurture financial and other support through fundraising, sponsorship and development programs. Since the successful candidate will serve as the principal spokesperson and advisor to the Commission, the Governor and State on matters relating to Pennsylvania's heritage, the individual should also have experience in speaking and engaging the public.

Persons interested in filing a confidential application should forward their resume to: Ms. Nancy Kolb, Chair, Search Committee, c/o PA Historical and Museum Commission, 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0024. (Please, no telephone inquiries)

For more information on the PA Historical and Museum Commission visit our website at:

<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us>

Upcoming NCPH Annual Meetings

31 March – 4 April 2004

Joint Meeting of NCPH and the American Society for Environmental History, Victoria, British Columbia

"Cultural Places and Natural Spaces: Memory, History, and Landscape."

April 2005

Kansas City, Missouri – hosted by the Truman Presidential Library

Watch for 2004 conference information and the 2005 call for papers later this year.

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