1975 ANNUAL MEETING

This year’s meeting will be held in Boston, Massachusetts, April 16-19. The headquarters will be in the Statler Hilton Hotel and rooms will also be available at the Boston Sheraton and Howard Johnson 57 Park Plaza. Information on rates and preregistration will be mailed with the Program.

THE PROGRAM. The 1975 meeting promises to be an exciting one. Almost three-hundred scholars will share their new findings and insights with those attending the fifty sessions. An examination of Thernstrom’s The Other Bostonians opens the meeting on Wednesday night.

Other sessions reflecting new research and interpretations include: Perspective on Progressive Reform; Women in the American Revolution; The Use of the Computer as a Tool in Research and Teaching; Non-Teaching Employment Opportunities for Historians; The Impact of the American Revolution Abroad; The Imperial Presidency; The Communications Media’s Impact on Foreign Policy; Popular Music in America; Native Americans, Chinese and Black Migrants to the City; Crime in Early America; Three Decades of School Desegregation; 19th Century Definitions of the Male Role; European Immigrants, Acculturation and Mobility; Agrarian Philosophy and the Politics of Congressional Farm Legislation in the 1930’s and Slavery and Resistance: A Comparison.

These and other sessions mirror the diversity of current research and teaching interests in the profession and indicate the contributions scholars often make to debates on contemporary public questions and social problems. The participants include archivists, lawyers, sociologists, economists, librarians, television news commentators, film makers, political scientists, editors, and a talented group of historians from throughout the United States and seven foreign countries.

The program will be further enriched by luncheon meetings of Phi Alpha Theta, the Mormon History Association, the North American Society for Sport History and other societies.

Noontime seminars, open to all attending the meeting, will begin at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. The eight seminar topics include: The Film as Social Criticism; The Teaching of American Popular Culture History; Psychohistory and 19th Century America: Theory and Sources; and Myth and Reality: Affirmative Action on Women in the Historical Profession.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE
Mary F. Berry, University of Maryland
John W. Blassingame, Chairman, Yale University
Abraham S. Eisenstadt, Brooklyn College
David Fowler, Carnegie-Mellon University
W. Eugene Hollon, University of Toledo
Gary Nash, University of California, Los Angeles
Elizabeth S. Nathans, Duke University

THE LOCATION. The program will pay attention to the Bicentennial, and so will the city in which the meeting will be held. As the following items indicate, the OAH has chosen a rich time for a Boston meeting.

Boston’s Bicentennial: The City is the Exhibit
The American Revolution Bicentennial begins in Boston, April, 1975 with exhibit openings, parades, festivals, concerts, happenings, a bicycle rally, and the traditional Boston Marathon. From April 16-30 the city will resonate with these celebrative events which have been planned to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Paul Revere’s ride and the Battle of Lexington and Concord. However, Boston’s Bicentennial is more than John Adams envisioned it would be, more than a “Great Anniversary Festival” of pomp and parade, of bells, bonfires, and illuminations.

Because a 200th anniversary is an important milestone in the life of any country, Boston has also developed Bicentennial programs which invite reflections and an evaluation of our heritage, as well as provide the city with permanent benefits that can be enjoyed by future generations of Bostonians. In addition to three “World Fair” style exhibitions, the city’s Bicentennial agency, “Boston 200,” is using the parks, historic sites, streets, libraries, museums, and community centers for its projects. The entire city will be the exhibit.

New and expanded walking trails and exhibits will guide the visitor through Boston’s historic neighborhoods and institutions, tracing both Boston’s growth as a city and as a major contributor to the progress of American life. What better way to appreciate the efforts of man in such fields as science, medicine, literature, religion, and the arts?

Boston will celebrate its rich cultural heritage through special performances by theatre, dance, and concert groups in addition to energetic art collections by the city’s museums.

Boston 200 invites all Americans to return to the “cradle of liberty” to share the glory of our nation’s past, to commemorate the spirit and the meaning of the Bicentennial, and to grasp some sense of the future by learning why and where we are today. BOSTON 200

Paul Revere’s Boston: 1735-1818
To celebrate the 200th birthday of the United States, the Museum of Fine Arts takes its visitors back to 18th and early 19th-century Boston. On the anniversary of Paul
Revere's ride, April 18, 1975, the Museum launches its first major Bicentennial exhibition—Paul Revere's Boston: 1735-1818. This exhibition will assemble paintings, furniture, silver, textiles, rare prints and drawings, and historical documents produced during Revere's lifetime. Shown in their appropriate social and historical context, these objects will combine to illustrate the numerous inter-relationships among political, social and cultural personalities. Social and political figures, craftsmen and prominent citizens will be represented. Objects they owned or might have owned, places they passed every day and the houses they built will be linked with portraits and pertinent quotes from diaries and letters of their contemporaries.

JOB REGISTRY. In Boston the OAH will once again operate a job registry, this time in cooperation with the Massachusetts Division of Employment Security. It is Organization policy to encourage departments to publicize openings, and departments seeking candidates, as well as historians seeking positions, are encouraged to use this registry in addition to the Employment Information Bulletin of the American Historical Association.

Pre-registration for the listing of positions and job applications may be obtained by writing no later than March 30 to Ray E. Hanscom, Employment Service Supervisor-Convention Service, Placement and Employer Service Department, Charles Hurley Building, Government Center, Boston, Massachusetts 02114. Those writing to Mr. Hanscom should include their address and should specify whether they wish an application form or a job listing form. Applications and job opening information from individuals who do not plan to attend the meeting will be accepted and made available for review. There is no charge for use of the placement service.

PLANS FOR 1976 PROGRAM

The Program Committee for the convention to be held in St. Louis in 1976 invites suggestions for papers, workshops, or panels. For the committee to evaluate fairly the expected avalanche of proposals, each project should be described in a two-page resume that summarizes its thesis, methodology, and significance. Proposals should be addressed to the chairman, Alden T. Vaughan, 616 Fayerweather Hall, Columbia University, New York, New York 10027. Deadline for receipt of proposals is April 1, 1975.

1976 CANDIDATES

The Nominating Board has submitted the following slate:

President:
Frank Freidel, Harvard University

Vice President:
Richard W. Leopold, Northwestern University

Executive Board:
Martin Duberman, Lehman College, C.U.N.Y.
Herbert G. Gutman, City College, C.U.N.Y.
Allan G. Bogue, University of Wisconsin
Leonard W. Levy, Claremont Graduate School
Barton J. Bernstein, Stanford University
Betty Fladeland, Southern Illinois University

Nominating Board:
Tamara K. Hareven, Clark University
Joan Hoff Wilson, California State University, Sacramento
Paul A. Carter, University of Arizona
Robert Middlekauff, University of California, Berkeley
Warren I. Susman, Rutgers University
Allen Weinstein, Smith College
Letitia W. Brown, The George Washington University
Jimmie L. Franklin, Eastern Illinois University

The ballots will be mailed with the Program and must be returned to the acting chairman of the Nominating Board by March 20, 1975.

A PLEA FROM THE NOMINATING BOARD

The Nominating Board has traditionally urged members of the Organization to call to its attention those individuals who should be considered for positions in the Organization. Because the present state of the profession and consequently the affairs of the Organization require people of special talent and concern as officers of the Organization, we make this year an additional plea for specific recommendations from the membership. Such recommendations should be sent prior to the convention meeting on April 16 and should be accompanied by a supporting statement indicating for the individual(s) concerned: (1) the area in which he/she has particular knowledge and could work with maximum effectiveness; (2) the field of scholarly concentration; and (3) the institution with which he/she is affiliated.

The vacancies to be filled in 1976 are President-Elect, three positions on the Executive Board and three on the Nominating Board.

Criteria which have been used for selection in the past include: (1) contributions to the Organization; (2) scholarly field and attainment; (3) type of institution and geographical area; and (4) representation for diversity of the profession as to institution, geography, sex, race, and age.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board faced a crowded agenda in its November meeting in Bloomington. As usual, the budget consumed much time. The Board was encouraged by news that the increase in dues had enabled the Organization to avoid deficit financing, but the Board was warned that costs in this inflationary period must be watched very closely. Other subjects of interest included the policies and practices of the Journal of American History, the preparation of a ten-year index, the work of committees, employment problems in the profession, the report of the chairman of the Program Committee, the hotels and regions in which annual meetings should be held, Bicen-
tennial projects, the progress of efforts to establish a National Historic Records Program, cooperation with *The History Teacher*, and the voting on changes in the Constitution.

**PRESIDENTIAL PAPERS.** The recurring issue of presidential papers was perhaps the most significant and controversial subject on the agenda. The Board both passed a general resolution and took stands on specific developments. According to the resolution, "The Executive Board of the Organization of American Historians supports the proposal that the public papers of public officials, including the President of the United States, are subject to government regulation of their ownership, dominion, use and control, and urges the passage of legislation to this effect. We instruct the Executive Secretary to work in conjunction with other scholarly organizations toward the achievement of this goal and to make the views of the Organization known to the appropriate congressional committees by correspondence and/or testimony." As to specific issues, the Board instructed the Executive Secretary to see that the Organization was involved in the law suit seeking to overturn the Nixon-Sampson agreement on the Nixon papers and tapes and to work for the passage of the Brademas bill that would establish a National Study Commission on the Federal Constitution.

Prior to the meeting, the Executive Secretary had been in contact with Congressman John Brademas and had endorsed the bill and the suggestion, first made by Mack Thompson, the Executive Director of the AHA, that the Organization should be represented on the commission. Subsequent to the meeting, he learned that the law suit was too far advanced for parties to be added as plaintiffs or friends of the court but that the bill had been passed with the provision for representation of the Organization on the commission. A very important development, the establishment of the commission should provide the profession with large opportunities to tackle issues of major concern to historians.

**CHANGE IN THE PELZER AWARD.** The Executive Board opened the Pelzer Award competition to all graduate students in American history. Since its establishment in 1947, the competition has been limited to candidates for advanced degrees in North American universities. The Board in November removed the limitation, thereby opening the competition to students in any university. The change is in harmony with the growth in interest in American history throughout the world and a desire to make membership in the OAH more attractive to specialists in American history living outside the United States.

**FREDERICK JACKSON TURNER AWARD.** The Executive Board of the OAH and the University Press of Kentucky have agreed to terminate the arrangement whereby the Press publishes manuscripts recognized by the Organization in the Turner Award competition. The two organizations began their cooperation in 1959; the results have included publication of forty books, and this collaboration will come to an end with the publication of this year's winner and the other manuscripts advanced to the final round. The Organization has benefited significantly from this link with the Press, but both organizations now feel compelled by their needs and plans to bring this collaboration to an end. At the present time, a special committee of the Executive Board is preparing recommendations on the future of the competition with the hope that a decision and an announcement will be made at the April meeting.

**THE MADISON LIBRARY.** The Executive Board discussed the recent efforts by many members of Congress to appropriate areas of the new Library of Congress James Madison Memorial Building for congressional office space. As a result of the discussion, the Executive Secretary contacted the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Carl Albert, to express concern about this and to urge him to act to preserve the space for library purposes. Congressman Albert responded that the House Office Building Commission recognizes the importance and significance of the library but that the commission has the responsibility of obtaining sufficient space for the House of Representatives. He added that the commission was only investigating the possibility of using space in the building while an additional House office building is being constructed. No decision has been made.

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

In July, members were called upon to vote by mail ballot on three issues: (1) competition in the choice of the President-Elect, (2) addition of “Associate” to the membership categories, and (3) reduction in the term of former presidents on the Executive Board from six to three years. Voters endorsed each of the proposals in contests that can be characterized as “low turnout elections” and did so by wide margins in two cases and by a rather narrow margin in one. Voting behavior suggests that the first issue was the one that members found most interesting and significant. Even here, however, only 16% of the members voted. The vote was 708 in favor to 626 opposed. In other words, 53% of those who participated favored the change. Ninety-three percent of those who voted endorsed the addition of Associate to our membership categories, and 87% of the participants favored the proposal to limit the term of former presidents.

The basic Constitution and Bylaws of the Organization of American Historians is available in the September 1970 issue of the *Journal of American History*. Since that time, several changes have been made in addition to those made last summer. The following list includes only those that remain in effect.

**ARTICLE V—ELECTIONS.** Section 4. In case of death, disability, or resignation of the president, the vice president shall succeed to the presidency. In case of the death, disability, or resignation of both the president and the vice president, the most recent past president shall serve as president pro tempore. Adopted by mail ballot and reported at April 1971 Business Meeting.

**BYLAWS.** 5. Committees. a. Deleted “The program for the Annual meeting shall be delivered to the Executive
Secretary by January 1 of each year.”
Adopted at April 1972 Business Meeting.

BYLAWS. 5. Committees. At the April 1973 Business Meeting a motion was adopted that added the Committee on the Status of Women in the Historical Profession to the list of permanent committees. The description of the committee is as follows: The committee is composed of five members. Each member serves a two-year term, two being appointed in even-numbered years and three in odd-numbered years. The committee considers all professional problems bearing upon women in the historical profession.

BYLAWS. 1. Membership. A new dues structure was established: $15, individual, income under $15,000; $20, individual, income $15,000-20,000; $25, individual, income over $20,000; $6, student; $6, emeritus; $300, life membership; $25, institutions.
Adopted at April 1974 Business Meeting.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF HISTORY IN THE SCHOOLS

This committee, which has been developed over the past year, is now preparing its first report. The committee is composed of at least one member in each state and is collecting the facts on the status of history on a state-by-state basis. The first report will deal with the following questions: (1) What are the qualifications required for teachers of history in the secondary schools? (2) Have these qualifications been changed recently? (3) What is the place of history in the curriculum of those schools? Is it an independent subject given heavy emphasis? Is it a part of the social studies or the social sciences? Is it a neglected subject? (4) Has the place of history changed recently? (5) What is the enrollment of history courses in the colleges and universities? (6) How does present enrollment compare with ten years ago? Five years ago? With other years that seem significant? The report will be made and discussed on April 19 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 436 of the Boston Statler Hilton. The names and addresses of the committee members are listed in this year’s Program. Members of the committee will be pleased to receive relevant questions and advice from members of the Organization.

The Executive Board of the OAH and the Council of the AHA have decided that this committee should become a joint committee of the two organizations. The decision reflected a conviction that much more attention should be devoted to the issues in this area and a belief that duplication of effort would be unwise. A joint committee should be much more efficient and effective than two separate committees tackling the same set of problems.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

In its April meeting, the Executive Board authorized the Executive Secretary to survey the employment situation in the profession. Upon learning that the American Historical Association planned to make such a survey and being advised that duplication would be unwise, he concluded that the OAH should rely upon AHA efforts if the questionnaire satisfied us and the results were made available to us. Fortunately, the executive office of the AHA in this case, as in many others, proved to be very cooperative and made the results available for publication in this newsletter.

The AHA questionnaire was sent to 1216 institutions and returned by 818 of them, a response of slightly better than 67%. A similar survey in 1973 went out to 1226 institutions; 941 of them, nearly 77%, responded with statistical data. Approximately 65% of the institutions not offering the Ph.D. responded this time as compared with over 76% of the undergraduate institutions and more than 68% of the institutions with master’s programs a year ago. Better than 88% of those institutions offering the Ph.D. responded while better than 96% did so in 1973.

The major findings are:

(1) 564.5 full-time faculty members were newly hired for 1974-75 while 647.7 were for 1973-74.
(2) Departments expect to hire 266 full-time faculty members for 1975-76. The comparable figure a year ago was 459.3.
(3) 219 staff members, in addition to those scheduled for retirement, have appointments that terminate in June and are not renewable for 1975-76. The comparable figure for 1974-75 was 408.3.
(4) 867 Ph. D. candidates and Ph. D.’s found history-related jobs last year. The figure for the preceding year was 1,036.5.
(5) 395 Ph. D. candidates and Ph. D.’s who were actively seeking jobs failed to find history-related positions while 832 failed to do so the year before.
(6) Of those that found history-related positions, 544 moved into college and university teaching, 61 became teachers in community colleges, 33 moved into secondary schools, 51 were employed by archives and libraries, 14 became editors, and 42 went to work for government agencies.
(7) At the present time, 1341 Ph.D. candidates and Ph.D’s are actively seeking jobs for 1975-76. The number a year ago was 1712.
(8) The 115 departments offering the Ph.D. that supplied information reported 2278 first-year graduate students. The number in 1973-74 was 2504 and the number in 1970-71 was 3177. The information for 1973-74 and 1970-71 was received from 98 departments.

The information suggests several generalizations: (1) the supply of job candidates continues to run far ahead of academic demand; (2) demand seems to be less than last year while supply seems to have declined—but only slightly; (3) colleges and universities continue to be the major employer; and (4) the number entering graduate school continues to decline.

THE ROSTER OF HISTORIANS OF WOMEN

The roster, which was announced in the July issue of the Newsletter, will be available at the April meeting. It will be composed of scholars and teachers of women’s history who are available to write textbooks or sections
of textbooks in the field, to read manuscripts for publishers, to advise publishers on revising textbooks to deal more adequately with the history of women, to lecture on women's history, to develop material on women's history for television programs and filmstrips, to advise secondary schools in integrating materials about women into their curricula, to advise public libraries about augmenting their holdings on women's history and about creating programs relating to women, and to act as consultants on women's history. It will sell for $2, will be published in mimeograph form, and will be advertised widely. Men and women in the field who are not listed in the first edition and wish to be included in subsequent editions should send their name, address, phone, institutional affiliation and rank, degrees and dates, dissertation topic and advisor, areas of specialization, publications, teaching experience, editing experience, and administrative experience to Professor Nancy Weiss, Department of History, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.

THE PROCEDURES OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Last June, Charles Chatfield, President of the Conference on Peace Research in History, and John W. Chambers, the Vice President, expressed to the Executive Secretary their fears that valuable records of the Department of Justice pertaining to the enforcement of selective service laws would soon be destroyed and urged him "to ascertain the truth in the matter and to prevent those records from being destroyed and lost to future historians." The Executive Secretary explored the issue with James E. O'Neill, who was then serving as Acting Archivist of the United States, and learned that valuable historical materials were not scheduled for destruction. Mr. O'Neill forwarded a copy of a letter from Meyer H. Fishbein, Director of the Records Appraisal Staff in NARS, responding to these fears, clarifying the situation, and providing information of value to historians on the procedures of the National Archives. Mr. Fishbein has given us permission to print his letter as follows:

"I assure you that it is a matter of primary concern to the National Archives that no records of significant historical or research value be destroyed. We do not, and cannot, save every record that might conceivably become of interest to researchers. We do try to save records for which we believe there is a reasonable expectation of their use by researchers in the future. The Federal Government each year creates enough records to fill seven buildings each with the capacity of the National Archives. Out of this mass we have to identify the small core worthy of permanent retention. Some of our decisions are, necessarily, difficult. To help us make these decisions we sometimes conduct special studies such as the one of the Justice Department Selective Service records.

"This special study distinguishes between those records that have a permanent value and those that do not. The former will ultimately be accessioned into the National Archives of the United States for the use of future generations of scholars. The latter will ultimately be destroyed, but not until we are satisfied that all legal, administrative, and other research values they may possess have been exhausted, and not before the protection of the rights of individuals has been assured. The actual disposal of records requires the specific written approval of the Archivist of the United States. The Archivist has not given such approval for these records.

"When the Department of Justice does propose these records for disposal we will see to it that everything the special study recommends for retention will be retained permanently in the National Archives, and that everything marked disposable will be kept in the Washington National Records Center for a suitable period. We frequently require the retention of such records for ten, twenty, thirty, or more years.

"I can understand your concern and I assure you that the National Archives and Records Service will not permit anything of value to be destroyed as long as that value exists."

The episode raised several issues. One concerns the role of historians in the appraisal of records. Professor Chatfield suggested that "the decision of which files should be kept should be made in conjunction with representative historians in the field selected for their professional competence." Another issue concerns the roles of the Executive Secretary and the OAH. The Organization exists, according to the constitution, "to promote historical study and research in the field of American history, and to do all things necessary and proper to accomplish this purpose," and historians should call upon the Executive Secretary for help, as Professors Chatfield and Chambers did. Historians can also turn to members of the Executive Board, to committee members, and to representatives of the Organization, The Program each year supplies a list of these people, and the list is also available from the Executive Office.

ETHNIC HERITAGE STUDIES PROGRAM

The Executive Office has been informed that forty-two institutions received awards during the past year under the Ethnic Heritage Studies Program and that some historians are involved in this program. We would be grateful if members would supply us with the names of historians who are participating.

Additional funds for the program have been appropriated for fiscal year 1975. To obtain information, write Ethnic Heritage Studies Branch, Division of International Education, U.S. Office of Education, Room 3907, ROB 3, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202 or call 202-245-8906 or 202-245-2262.

NHPC FELLOWSHIPS

The National Historical Publications Commission has announced a competition for eight Fellowships in Advanced Editing of Documentary Sources for American History. Beginning September 1, 1975, each fellow will train for a full year with a major editorial project sponsored by the commission. Candidates must have the Ph.D. or have completed all requirements for that degree except the dissertation, or they must have equivalent qualifications as shown by writings or edited publications demonstrating
exceptional ability. The amount of each fellowship grant is $11,000. For further information and application forms, write to the Executive Director, National Historical Publications Commission, National Archives Building, Washington, D. C. 20408. The deadline for applications is March 1, 1975, with fellowships to be announced no later than April 15, 1975.

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY FELLOWSHIPS

The American Antiquarian Society will award to qualified scholars a number of short-term Visiting Fellowships during the year June 1, 1975-May 31, 1976. The fellowships may vary in duration from one to three months, depending on the fellow's requirements. Stipends may vary in amount to a maximum of $2,500. Fellowships will be awarded not only on the basis of the applicant's scholarly qualifications and the general interest of his project, but also on the appropriateness of the inquiry to the Society's holdings. Applications, available from the Director, are due before March 1, 1975. The Society is located at 185 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01609. The announcement of the grants will be made by April 30, 1975.

NEWBERRY SUMMER INSTITUTE

The Newberry Library Family and Community History Program is expanding the scope of its summer training institute. The fourth institute (June 9-July 3) will involve two-dozen courses covering a wide range of topics in quantitative methods, research design, teaching strategies, historical demography, political history, computers, etc. The program is designed to help both beginners in quantification and those with some experience who wish to broaden their skills. For further information contact Summer Institute, Family and Community History Program, Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610. Deadline for applications is April 1, 1975.

PEOPLES BICENTENNIAL STUDY GUIDE

The Peoples Bicentennial Commission has produced a complete Bicentennial display package of books on the American Revolution, “In the Minds and Hearts of the People.” The display is especially suited to library and school use. It contains eight large posters based on quotes from the founding fathers and mothers, 30 reproductions of the Revolutionary era, engravings, captions, and headlines describing the major events and themes of the American Revolution, and a syllabus and study guide developed by Dr. Page Smith, Senior Staff Historian and a Bancroft Award-winning author. The display package can be ordered from the Peoples Bicentennial Commission, 1346 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 for $20.

A BICENTENNIAL FILM

Peter Ustinov’s brilliant characterization of George III, which was produced for national television in 1973, is now available to teachers on a free loan basis. Entitled “The Last King of America,” the film is divided into three parts—an interview about the Revolution in December 1776, an interview about the Constitution in 1789, and a depiction of the King’s madness in his last years. In the first two parts, George III is interviewed by an American newsmen portrayed by Eric Sevareid.

Those interested in using the film should contact West Glen Communications, Inc., 565 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10017.

FIFTY-YEAR INDEX

A valuable research tool, the Fifty-Year Index to the Mississippi Valley Historical Review (1914-1964) is now available. The volume is priced at $25 for individuals and $35 for institutions. Purchasers may send orders directly to the Executive Secretary, Organization of American Historians, 112 North Bryan Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

SALE OF BACK ISSUES

With the exception of Volume 56, No. 1 (June 1969), back issues of the JAH have been cut from $4 to $2 each for a limited time. Send orders with payment to the Office of the Executive Secretary. Overseas mailing 25¢ per copy.