THE BOSTON MEETING

The Organization of American Historians met in Boston in April and the meeting was very successful from several points of view. More than 2400 historians registered for the meeting, only 227 fewer than the record-setting registration in New Orleans in 1971 and more than 700 higher than registration in Denver in 1974. The Boston location was a contributing factor. Approximately 35% of the members live within five hundred miles of that city. The Bicentennial activities also got underway there during the week of the meeting. The program, organized by a committee chaired by John Blasingame, Yale University, was very attractive and great efforts were made to call attention to it. The Publicity Committee was chaired by Patricia King of Radcliffe College and also included Robert Davenport of Lexington Senior High School, Katherine Preyer of Wellesley College, James W. Reed of Radcliffe College, and Sylvia Turner of the John F. Kennedy Library. A list of the sessions focused on teaching was widely circulated by Robert B. Evans of The History Teacher.

We regret the overcrowded conditions in many session rooms, and we regret even more than the job registry was not more successful. Three-hundred and two candidates applied for the fifty-five positions that were listed. Last year, the registry listed fifty-seven positions and two-hundred and twelve applicants.

THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION

The following members were elected to offices in the March election: President, Frank Freidel, Harvard University; Vice President, Richard W. Leopold, Northwestern University; Executive Board, Allan Bogue of the University of Wisconsin, Betty Fladeland of Southern Illinois University, and Herbert Gutman of City College, C.U.N.Y.; Nominating Board, Joan Hoff Wilson of California State University at Sacramento; Paul A. Carter of the University of Arizona; Warren I. Susman of Rutgers University; and Letitia W. Brown of The George Washington University.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board met for a full day on April 16th. Members received rather encouraging reports on the budget, including the response to the dues increase, on membership, and on the Journal. They discussed ways of increasing membership and some of the policies and procedures of the JAH, including the selection of members for the Editorial Board and the printing of obituaries. Considerable attention was paid to the failure to obtain support from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the newspaper project and to steps that should now be taken to obtain support. The Board reaffirmed its endorsement of the project and of the work of Gale Peterson on it. Members also expressed their gratitude for the work of the project's Advisory Panel, chaired by David Kaser of Indiana University. Discussion ranged over a variety of other subjects, including the National Study Commission on Federal Records and Documents of Federal Officials, cooperation with The History Teacher, the OAH Newsletter, location of the 1980 meeting, and plans for contacts by American historians with the People's Republic of China. The Board received and discussed reports from the Nominating Board, the Frederick Jackson Turner Award Committee, the Committee on History in the Schools and Colleges, the Committee on Non-Teaching Opportunities for Historians, the Committee on Bibliographical and Research Needs, the Historic Sites Committee, the Committee on the Status of Women in the Historical Profession, the Program Committee for 1975 and 1976 and the Publicity Committee. Written reports from several other committees were received, but time did not permit discussion of them.

REAPPOINTMENT OF THE EDITOR

A major item on the Board's agenda was the question of the reappointment of Martin Ridge as Editor of the Journal of American History. The OAH Constitution calls for periodic review of the work of appointed officers (the Executive Secretary, the Editor, and the Treasurer), and the Board decided sometime ago that each office should be reviewed every five years. In accord with these provisions, President John Hope Franklin appointed a special committee last summer composed of Edgar Toppin, chairman, Harold Woodman and Richard Erney. The committee submitted a written report recommending that Ridge be heartily commended for his superb editorship that makes the Journal one of the truly outstanding scholarly journals and that he be reappointed with a strong vote of appreciation for the high plane on which the Journal's affairs are conducted. The Board approved the recommendations enthusiastically and unanimously. Thus, the Organization can look forward to further service of a very high quality from Martin Ridge.
THE TURNER AWARD

The Board discussed the future of the Turner Award but failed to reach a decision. The need for a decision resulted from an agreement between the Organization and the University Press of Kentucky to end their cooperation. A special committee will give further consideration to the award and make a recommendation to the Board in its November meeting. The only certainty now is that the competition will not be conducted this year.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Action by the Executive Board and the Business Meeting changed the name of the Historic Sites Committee to the Historic Preservation Committee. The change reflects the tremendous growth in interest and activity in the field of historic preservation and the hope that OAH members will not only become better informed about the historic preservation movement in the United States but also more actively involved in agencies and organizations that control the projects.

THE STATUS OF HISTORY

The Board approved publication and distribution of the report of the ad hoc Committee on the Status of History in the Schools, and the Editor and the Executive Secretary subsequently agreed that it will be published in the September issue of the Journal of American History. The document indicates that history is in crisis and that history’s crisis is not merely a part of the large difficulties of academic life at the present time. History’s crisis has proportions of its own. Confidence and interest in history are not nearly as widespread and strong among students, educational administrators, and politicians as they were only a few years ago. Doubts about its usefulness for the individual and for society now exert a large influence on attitudes and decisions.

The situation is not grim in all places, and that fact provides a basis for hope. Our attention has been called to a document entitled, "The Kansas Plan: The Department of History at the University of Kansas," prepared by that department’s chairman, Charles F. Sidman. It indicates that while history enrollments across the country were declining, “history enrollments at the University of Kansas were reaching new heights and departmental morale was high,” and the document goes on to explain the progress that has been made. Members interested in this useful item should write to Professor Sidman. His attitude toward the general situation, he informed the Executive Secretary, "is neither one of resignation nor one of despair.” The Kansas experience persuades him that “much can be accomplished by individual initiative on the basis of local conditions.'

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE AND RESOLUTIONS

Actions by the Executive Board and the Business Meeting called for votes by the membership at large. Thus, a ballot is enclosed in copies of the Newsletter mailed to members. (Only individuals are members; institutions are not.) The proposed constitutional changes, which reflect printing schedules, concern nomination by petition, and the resolutions relate to the preservation of Ellis Island and the Union Station of New London, Connecticut, research in and teaching of the history of sexual minorities, research problems of unemployed professionals and references to parenthood and religious affiliation in applications for positions. Ballots must be mailed by October 1.

PROGRAMS FOR 1976 and 1977

The Program Committee for the 1975 St. Louis meeting, chaired by Alden T. Vaughan of Columbia University, has completed its work and the Program Committee for the 1977 meeting in Atlanta is taking shape. The chairman for 1977 is Otis L. Graham, Jr. of the University of California, Santa Barbara. Future meetings will be held in New York (1978) and New Orleans (1979).

1975 AWARD WINNERS

At the Boston meeting the following awards were conferred: Louis Pelzer Memorial Award, Theodore M. Hammett of Brandeis University; Binkley Stephenson Award, Albro Martin of American University; and Frederick Jackson Turner Award, William Graebner of State University of New York at Fredonia.

ROSTER OF HISTORIANS OF WOMEN

The OAH roster is now available from the executive office at a price of $1.50. It contains the names and credentials of more than one hundred thirty scholars who teach and write about the history of women in America. Organized geographically by state and alphabetically by surname within each state, the roster provides the following information for each historian listed: name, address, institutional affiliation and rank, degrees and dates, dissertation topic, areas of specialization, and publications. The criteria for inclusion are teaching experience in women’s history and/or publications in the field. Graduate students writing dissertations in women’s history are also included.

We hope that the publication of this roster will serve to make generally known the names of men and women who might qualify by training and expertise to write textbooks or sections of textbooks on women’s history, advise publishers on revisions in their textbooks, read manuscripts for publishers, lecture on women’s history, develop material on women’s history for television programs and filmstrips, advise secondary schools on integrating materials about women into their curricula, advise libraries interested in augmenting their holdings on women’s history and creating programs relating to women, and act as consultants on women’s history. We hope, too, that the dissemination of the roster will encourage attention to the history of women, and the engagement of knowledgeable professionals in such affairs.

To secure a copy of the roster, send $1.50 with your name and address to: Organization of American Historians, 112 North Bryan St., Bloomington, Indiana 47401.
UPDATE ON OAH NEWSPAPER PROJECT

In April the National Endowment for the Humanities informed the OAH that it would not fund the Organization’s proposal for a comprehensive effort to obtain bibliographical and locational information on newspapers and to construct a national data base to be maintained by the Library of Congress. Subsequent consultations revealed, however, that the Endowment would consider a revised proposal if it were both less expensive to the NEH’s Research Tools program and also based on the more active participation of the Library of Congress. As the Newsletter goes to press, it appears that the Library will be able to join the OAH in the midsummer submission to the NEH for a co-sponsored newspaper project.

FORMER PRESIDENT DIES

Edward Chase Kirkland, president of the OAH in 1955-56, died in Hanover, New Hampshire, on May 24, his 81st birthday. He had served on the faculty of Bowdoin College for 29 years. An internationally known economic historian, his books included A History of American Economic Life; Industry Comes of Age; Men, Cities, and Transportation, and a biography of Charles Francis Adams, Jr. Dr. Kirkland was Commonwealth Lecturer at University College in London in 1952 and Pitt Professor of American History at Cambridge University in 1956-7. He also served as visiting professor at Cornell University and the University of Wisconsin. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1955, was a former president of the American Association of University Professors and the Economic History Association, a member of the national senate of Phi Beta Kappa, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Kirkland received the A.B. degree from Dartmouth, A.M. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard and the M.A. from Cambridge. He served three years in the Army during World War I and was decorated with the Croix de Guerre. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, and a son, Edward S. Kirkland of New York.

SALE OF BACK ISSUES

The price of back issues of the JAH, Volume 51, No. 2 (Sept. 1964) through Volume 59, No. 4 (March 1973), has been cut from $4 to $2 for a limited time. This was done in hopes of reducing the size of a very costly inventory. The issues are available from the Office of the Executive Secretary and will be mailed postpaid upon receipt of $2 for each copy ordered and an additional 25¢ per copy for overseas mailing. With the exception of Volume 56, No. 1 (June 1969), all issues are available. Orders will be filled as they are received.

LARGER BINDERS FOR THE JOURNAL

Persons who ordered binders for Volumes 60 and 61 of the Journal of American History will be pleased to learn that larger binders which will more easily accommodate these volumes are now available. Please specify the larger binder when mailing a check for $3. If preferred, the present binder may be returned for replacement at no additional cost.

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.

ASCE GUIDE

The American Society of Civil Engineers has published a Guide to History and Heritage Programs that is available at no cost from Herbert R. Hands, Manager, Public Information Service, ASCE, 345 East 47th Street, New York 10017. Mr. Hands hopes that “the information will help further interest on the part of professional historians in the history of civil engineering.” A well-illustrated publication, the guide describes the historical activities in which the Society is involved, the historic civil engineering landmarks program, oral history recordings and other programs and includes a reading list on the history of civil engineering.

NEWSLETTER OF AMERICAN CATHOLIC STUDIES

The University of Notre Dame is now publishing a newsletter in the field of American Catholic studies. Its purpose is to promote the study of American Catholicism by furnishing information on research, meetings, and publications in this field. Those interested in receiving the newsletter should write to Dr. Jay P. Dolan, Department of History, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556.

SOME MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Our attention has been called to the following meetings: The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, Washington, D.C., August 15 and 16. Sessions will be on the campus of Georgetown University with special rates for dormitory rooms and food. Further details and a printed program are available from SHAFR, Department of History, University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325.
The Association for Preservation Technology, Williamsburg, Va., September 24-28. For information write or call Mrs. Ann Falkner, Sec./Treas., APT, Box 2487, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario KIP 5W6. Tel. 613-993-2125; or Hugh C. Miller, AIA, Membership Chairman, 5619 Southampton Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22151. Tel. 202-343-3454.


Conscientious Objection in World War II: The Mennonite Experience, Bethel College, October 10-11. The schedule will include papers by Frederick Luebke, Elmer Sunderman, and Allan Teichroew, as well as the performance of a musical drama on the theme. For further information contact James Juhnke, Bethel College, Kansas 67117.


GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Housing and Urban Development Dissertation Grants in Housing and Urban Studies. Universities offering doctoral degrees in studies that relate to problem areas of concern to HUD may apply for grants to support the dissertation research of graduate students who have completed all requirements for the doctoral degree except the dissertation. Grants are made to universities in the names of the doctoral candidates supported. The maximum amount of any one grant is $10,000 for a period not to exceed one year, although time extensions may be granted under unusual circumstances. Support for doctoral candidates is on a stipend basis with an additional allowance for dependents.

In addition to the candidate’s stipend, a grant could in unusual circumstances include support for major direct project costs in a unique area of research. Under OMB Circular A-100, the grantee institution must also share in the total cost of the project. There are two closing dates during the academic year for the submission of grant applications: October 1 and March 1. Each year, in advance of proposal submission deadlines, HUD will send to all universities belonging to the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education an announcement and copies of Guidelines for the Submission of Proposals and problem areas of current interest to HUD.

Woodrow Wilson International Center Fellowships. Post-doctoral fellowships are available for historians and others. The stipends can meet but not exceed an individual’s income rate of the preceding year and can be supplemented by certain travel expenses for a fellow, accompanying spouse and young children. Fellows are expected to devote full time to research and writing. Fellowships normally extend from four months to a year. The deadline is October 1 and applicants will be notified of results in mid-December. For application materials, applicants should contact the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, Tel. 202-381-6247, Cable: WILCEN.

Immigration History Research Center grants. Grants-in-aid up to $3,000 for travel and living expenses are available to doctoral candidates, recent Ph.D.s and established scholars. Deadline for 1976 applications is November 15, 1975. Research assistantships for graduate students enrolled at the University of Minnesota and engaged in studies relating to American immigration and ethnic history are available for the academic year 1976-1977. Candidates should be proficient in one or more languages of Eastern, Central or Southern Europe, or the Middle East. Deadline for 1976-1977 applications is February 15, 1976. Contact the Immigration History Research Center, 826 Berry Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55114.

USIA VOLUNTEER SPEAKERS PROGRAM

The Executive Secretary has been asked to make the following request for volunteers:

“If, as an American scholar or other specialist, you are traveling abroad (e.g., on sabbatical leave or vacation) and have time for USIS programming on your itinerary or in nearby countries, you are invited to send us as far in advance as possible, biographic information, lecture topics, and your itinerary. If interested and able to program you, our posts will inform you through the Overseas Speakers Division. The posts make the ultimate decision on whether they can use available speakers.

“They may ask you to deliver lectures at a university or before other audiences or professionals or students, to conduct or participate in a seminar or panel discussion, or to meet informally with specialists in your field. Many speakers have considered this last a particularly rewarding experience.

“If a program can be arranged, USIS posts will reimburse you for the cost of travel involved in departing from your original itinerary. They can also offer you the U.S. government per diem for the cities in which you are programmed and a modest honorarium of $50 a program day. They are authorized to pay for travel within a host country and to

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another country for programs there, but neither they nor USIA can pay for travel between the United States and an overseas post.

“If you should wish to participate in this program to improve cultural understanding, feel free to write us, outlining briefly your travel plans and returning a completed biographic data sheet. If the time of your intended travel is near, you may prefer to call (202) 632-6712, 632-5328, or 632-9828. Our posts welcome the earliest possible notice of a speaker’s availability. They require some time to determine their program needs and commitments and, often, for finding a suitable local sponsor.” Contact Overseas Speakers Division, U.S. Information Agency-ICS/S, Washington, D.C. 20547.