Historians and Material Culture

Thomas J. Schlereth

Kitchen utensils. The Farm Family, New Castle County, Delaware.

National Museum of American History
History Over the Years
Politics and the OAH
Mary Young

A number of long-time members of the OAH have complained that the organization has become "politiciized" in recent years that it no longer attends properly to its strictly professional functions. I think this complaint derives from serious misconceptions both of politics and of the history of the OAH. In fact, I would contend that many of the most significant changes in the character of both the OAH and AHA over the past few years have been bureaucratic rather than "political" in character and have resulted in improving the efficiency with which the organizations pursue quite traditional goals.

No organization that wields significant power or confers significant prestige is apolitical. The OAH was just as "political" in its functioning when it was an organization run almost wholly by white males from major universities, for white males from major universities, as it has become after broadening its constituency and conferring at least some power and prestige on public historians, secondary school teachers, minorities, and women. It is now somewhat more egalitarian and democratic than it was thirty years ago, but neither more nor less political.

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When I first sought an academic job, in 1954, the "job market" was pretty grim for everyone, and especially daunting for women. After the University of Texas and Grinnell College had explicitly declined to consider me as a serious job candidate because I was not male, my adviser, Paul Wallace Gates of Cornell, undertook his own affirmative action campaign on my behalf. He succeeded in obtaining several interviews for me, but I discovered my first full-time job through a chance encounter with Harvey Ostaff (formerly my professor at Oberlin) in the corridors of an AHA convention. Ohio State previously had not hired a woman as a full-time member of the faculty, but fortunately for me, they did not choose to erect that practice into a principle. I was glad to have the job, and thought it a good one, but it seemed to me that the combination of patronage and chance that ruled the job market was a pretty inefficient way to run a ball game.

More efficient organization of the job market was the gift of the civil rights and the women's movements to the historical profession.

During the sixties, when I participated in a number of search committees, I discovered that this haphazard system was also quite unsatisfactory from the point of view of the buyer. Organizational logic should have dictated that the Employment Information Bulletin (EIB), and other agencies for publicly advertising available jobs in advance of the various annual conventions, should have been the product of the proliferation of jobs and job-seekers in the early and middle 1960s. Such was not the case. Not until affirmative action legislation and guidelines mandated such advertising in the early seventies did the EIB emerge. More efficient organization of the job market was the gift of the civil rights and the women's movements to the historical profession. Insofar as publicly advertising jobs supplements the work of patronage and chance, the job market has become more openly competitive and hence less "political" in its working.

It is true that resolutions addressed to large political issues have been debated and voted upon in the business meetings of several historical conventions. Some have feared that these pronouncements on Vietnam, disarmament, and gay rights would "polarize" the profession and distract our attention from properly professional issues. I see no evidence of either effect. Candidates for office in the OAH or AHA do not normally disclose their foreign policy preferences, and (unfortunately, in my view) the national government has proved
singly unresponsive to the advice of historians in conclave. More importantly, perhaps, our legislative representatives lobby exclusively on behalf of measures that would not have seemed foreign to those founders of the OAH who were concerned with the public promotion of history.

Page Miller of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History quite sensibly does not lobby in the congressional corridors to keep the marines out of Nicaragua or to decry homophobia. She works for the better organization and preservation of our national archives, for improved access for appropriations to agencies by historians of material culture's projects of the past are a means to an end. As Brooke Hindle has suggested recently, we prefer the latter term "artifacts" as a synonym for material. In our attempt to understand past human culture, objects of the past are a means to an end.

We define material culture as that segment of humankind's biosocial environment that has been shaped purposely by people according to culturally dictated plans. While we often use the term "artifacts" or "synonym material culture, we prefer the latter label since it expresses more forcefully a symbiotic relationship between physical objects and human behavior. Material culture implies human agency, stressing that there is always a culture behind the material. In our attempt to understand past human culture, objects of the past are a means to an end.

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At its 1984 Annual Meeting, the OAH sponsored a special session ("Interdisciplinary Perspectives: Material Culture and History") devoted to material culture research of special interest to academic historians. A two-year symposium (1985-86), sponsored by Indiana University (Indianapolis), similarly recognized a growing awareness by historians of material culture's value in historical explanation. So will international conferences on history and material culture to be held at Memorial University in Newfoundland, Canada (1986) and the University of Leicester in Great Britain (1987).

Two American scholarly journals, Material Culture and Winterthur Portfolio, now publish object research and the label "material culture" frequently appears in the titles of scholarly monographs, conference papers, and various academic courses in different disciplines.

In the Department of American Studies at the University of Notre Dame, material culture research has become a part of historical study in both the undergraduate and graduate curricula. We have attempted to integrate a material culture perspective into relevant historical courses as well as to develop advanced seminars designed to probe the explanatory potential of physical data in historical interpretation.

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Some researchers view material culture as a new academic discipline. I, who teach American cultural history within the context of American Studies, see it as a type of evidence and a teaching/research strategy useful in various disciplines. Thus, instead of thinking of material culture as a separate discipline, I prefer to view it as a cross-disciplinary or multi-disciplinary enterprise, one that must be called "material culture studies."

Material culture studies, much like American Studies, is deliberately plural because it comprises several disciplines, among them the triad of art, architectural, and decorative arts history; cultural geography; the history of technology; folkloristics; historical archeology; cultural anthropology; as well as cultural and social history.

Eschewing any single orthodoxy in methodology, material culture studies can be defined as the researching, teaching, museum exhibiting, and publishing done by individuals who work in museums, historical societies, and cultural agencies, as well as in academic departments in colleges and universities and who are intrigued by the desire of studying the (possibly unique) explanatory potential of material evidence as cultural meaning. Most, as their disciplinary names (history of technology, historical geography) imply, use a historical approach. In their attempts to know what can be known about from the past and present creations of humankind, the majority of these scholars seek to measure and understand change over time.

With a few exceptions (for example,
the work of Roger Burlingame or Thomas Wertenbaker), American historians only recently have joined this cadre. Understandably, those historians most interested to date in exploring the potential of material culture evidence in their teaching and research have been students of technological, cultural, and social history.

It is within the framework of American cultural history that we explore material culture. One approach is taken in general survey courses with titles such as "Colonial Experiments" and "Democratic Vistas." In the first course, students are exposed to the historical import of artifacts such as New England meeting houses, American historical painting, David Rittenhouse's orrery, and the technology of early industrialization and mass production. In the nineteenth-century course, the material culture of expanding electrification, the chautauqua and urban park movements, railroads, city planning, popular photography, and settlement houses figure in the historical interpretation of the period.

Several of our upper-level courses use material culture data in their focus on specific time periods or regions ("Chicago: 1871-1933") or on particular artifact genres ("Topics in American Technology"). The former course treats Chicago's history as archetypical of American urban history for a sixty-year period, using skyscrapers, department stores, bungalow and apartment housing, World's Fairs (1893 and 1933), industrial and transportation sites, as well as the extant physical city as primary historical evidence. The technology course, subtitled "Creativity and Diffusion," takes a student through a number of significant American scientific, technological, and cultural changes from the eighteenth until the mid-twentieth century. Representative case studies investigated are: Thomas Jefferson and the Federal Land Survey; Thomas A. Edison and the Incandescent Lamp; Frederick Winslow Taylor and Scientific Management; George Coit and the Panama Canal. Here the issues of invention, innovation, and creativity and the cultural impact, and social diffusion of technology are explored.

In this topical approach to American technological history as cultural history, we incorporate some of the methodological emphasis that characterizes our two specific material culture course offerings. These are American Material Culture and Advanced Material Culture Studies.

American Material Culture focuses each year's work on a particular era of American history. This spring semester will examine the material culture of the Gilded Age. Students will read works such as: Goethe Barth, City People; Harvey Green, The Light of the Home; Lewis Mumford, The Brown Decades; Lewis Atherton, Main Street on the Middle Border; David Reynolds, From the American System to Mass Production; and Daniel Boorstin, The Americans. Topics such as domestic life, consumerism, working, and leisure receive special emphasis. This introductory course also acquaints students with several basic research issues—formal, stylistic, and typological analyses; diffusion mapping; use of analogy and modeling—commonly used in material culture studies. Such techniques are demonstrated for their applicability to historical studies.

Our principal interest in the upper-level seminars is testing the scope and significance, limits and liabilities, of artifacts as historical evidence. Since historians and other investigators of past human behavior have long argued that words, rather than things, are better resources for understanding the past and present, we ask: Can any particular claims be made for material culture as a distinctive type of data, in comparison with documentary, oral, or statistical evidence commonly used by historians?

In answer, we attempt to review several evidential qualities that scholars have argued may be more prominent in material culture data than in other historical evidence. These, traits, which I have elaborated upon in The Public Historian (November 1985), include: (a) evidential precedence; (b) temporality; (c) representativeness; (d) three-dimensionality; and (e) affective understanding.

Material culture, it is argued, possesses an evidential precedence in that it is humankind's oldest legacy of cultural expression. Human beings were making things long before they were speaking or writing about such things. Material culture is not only the most accessible to modern researchers, it is also the most tangible form of past time persisting in a present time. This tenacious, although not indestructible, durability of the artifact affords researchers a temporal range of data that enables them to explore human behavior over a much wider pattern of cultural change than if they consulted only written records. Moreover, such an extant nonverbal data can provide a distinctive way of understanding the past cultural activities of nonliterate people whose existence would otherwise remain inaccessible or unknown since they produced no literary legacy.

Three-dimensionality is common to all material culture, including objects such as maps, photographs, and graphics; but it is, of course, more characteristic of some artifacts than of others. A Bessemer poster, for example, conveys greater three-dimensionality than a Kodak snapshot. Individuals in the past experienced reality in three dimensions just as we do in the present. Yet we frequently use only two-dimensional resources to document that experience. Scale, proportion, and mass, not to mention spatial relations, are often neglected in historical interpretation. Recent work by Rhys Isaac (Transformation of Virginia, 1740-1790) and John Stilgoe (Common Landscapes of America, 1598-1845) are encouraging signs that historians may be beginning to acknowledge the tactile and spatial dimensions of human history.

Such an expanded historical understanding may require a mode of knowing that entails a degree of nonverbal comprehension that art historian Jules Prown, writing on "Intelligence in Matter: An Introduction to Material Culture Theory and Method" (Winterthur Portfolio, 1982), called "an affective mode of apprehension" of the past. By understanding artifacts, suggested Prown, we can engage another culture in the first instant not with our minds, the seat of our cultural biases, but with our senses. As Prown further explained, "this affective mode of apprehension through the senses allows us to put ourselves, figuratively speaking, inside Nineteenth-century house, Queen Anne style
the skins of individuals who commissioned, made, used, or enjoyed those objects. To see with their eyes and touch with their hands, to identify with them emphatically, is clearly a different way of engaging with past items and abstracting through the written word.

Despite these arguments for material culture's usefulness in historical explanation, there are methodological difficulties in using such data in teaching and research. Our advanced seminars examine at least five such common errors in material culture studies. These problems, which are detailed in an essay of the same name in Material Culture (Fall 1985), include: (a) recklessness of data survival; (b) difficulty of access and verification; (c) exaggeration of human efficacy; (d) penchant toward progressive determinism; and (e) proclivity for synchronic interpretation.

Much more research needs to be done on the inscrutable processes of selection by which some artifacts survive and others do not. In the cache of objects now in our museum storehouses, we simply have little quantitative sense of what has been lost. We must also find appropriate methods of analyzing and verifying artifacts—methods comparable to those currently used with manuscripts and printed sources. Unlike most documentary or statistical data, material culture evidence cannot be duplicated easily, microfilmed, published, and made widely available to other scholars for further interpretation and verification. There is some hope, however, that the computer will help overcome this difficulty.

The existence of things still tangibly present centuries after their actual making can result in another methodological fallacy to which material culture is vulnerable. This problem might be called the exaggeration of human efficacy. Here the researcher tends to overemphasize the self-defining or self-assertive activities of the makers of these past objects. The history that is written from such data might, therefore, champion only the activities of doers and achievement, movers and shakers of the past. We must remember that perhaps more triumphs than tragedies survive in the extant physical record.

A belief in progress has been enormously influential in both American history writing and material culture research. The latter often seems the American past as one material success after another in an ever upward flow of increased goods and services. Opposite this tendency of progressive determinism is a prescriptive synchronic method. Synchronic analysis takes to mean simply a descriptive study of objects without reference to time duration or cultural change. The synchronic syndrome expressed itself often in a perennial quest for aesthetic uniqueness and Procrustean stylistic periodizations.

In all of our material culture teaching and research, we try to keep aware of these problems. We are concerned continually with testing the veracity and persuasiveness of material culture evidence in historical inquiry.

Students confront such challenges in other departmental courses. For example, Advanced Material Culture Studies is a seminar proseminar that assesses both classic statements in American material culture theory and method and also examines some of the most recent scholarship being done with artifacts. Among classics studied are: George Kubler, The Shape of Time, Remarks on the History of Things; Henry Glassie, Folk Housing in Middle Virginia: A Structural Analysis of Historical Artifacts; and James Deets, In Small Things Forgotten: The Archeology of Early American Life.

Recent works analyzed include: Ivor Neol Hume, Martin's Hundred: The Discovery of a Lost Colonial Virginia Settlement; Simon Bronner, American Material Culture and Folklore; Brooke Hindle, Emulation and Invention; and J. B. Jackson, Discovering the Vernacular Landscape. In addition, participants will tailor several book review essays and a comprehensive historiographical assessment of an American material culture topic, medium, region, or period pertinent to each individual's thesis or research interests.

Such independent research interests also can be pursued within Special Studies Courses. Students working with individual faculty members in directed tutorials, investigate more specific problems in the applicability of material culture to historical scholarship. In the past, such topics have included: the county fair in American history, nineteenth-century agriculture in New England, and photography as a research tool in urban history.

A six-hour thesis serves as the capstone to our master's degree in American Studies. Students specializing in material culture can present a research thesis where artifacts figure as part of its methodological strategy and evidential base. Topics for past theses include subjects such as the impact of the automobile on early Chicago city planning, a reconstruction of early nineteenth-century community history in Bertrand, Michigan, and an analysis of ethnic and occupational segregation in workers' neighborhoods in Calumet City, Illinois. A sampler of material culture theses currently being researched includes the diffusion of Free Will Baptist church architecture and liturgical practice from New England to the Midwest, an analysis of South Bend working-class culture, 1880-1930 through vernacular housing and interior furnishings, and an analysis of special clothing as an index to gender differentiation in Victorian America.

Why should historians employ artifactual evidence in their efforts to research, document, and interpret the past? We offer three answers in response to this fundamental question.

First, material culture evidence obviously should be used in historical research when it is the only evidence available. For example, in the case of Dutch barns in America and the cultural history surrounding them, no significant documentary, statistical, or oral data survives; only material culture evidence remains extant for the historian to interpret.

A second argument to be made for the general historian's use of facts would be as supplementary evidence in research case studies when the available documentary and statistical data for a topic is limited or seriously flawed. In such instances, material culture evidence verifies the historian's interpretations based initially upon other data.

Finally, the third major research strategy in which material culture evidence can be deployed would be to test already established interpretations or newly argued hypotheses about the past based strictly on documentary and statistical data. This revisionist perspective is common practice in general historiography, subjects long-accepted historical generalizations, such as the importance of the fall line in American historical geography or the superiority of nineteenth-century American agricultural machinery, to close scrutiny from another angle and with aid of different evidence.

Hence, we see the value of material culture studies as one way of testing, enriching, and expanding both the evidential base and the explanatory power of traditional historical research and teaching.

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Material culture research has the potential of becoming one of the exciting (and challenging) approaches to cultural inquiry in modern scholarship. For historians, "the mission," noted Brooke Hindle is Material Culture and the Study of American Life, "is a great one, even if the results so far are exciting. They point to the fulfillment of the deep-running need of this generation and those to come for a better history of their past which is both true and useful."
Frank Capra: The American Dream on Film, 1930-1950

Peter C. Rollins

Frank Capra (1897- ) was the Horatio Alger, Jr. of motion pictures. For a generation of Americans struggling to survive depression and war, Capra's cinematic depiction of America's values and possibilities stemmed from his espousal of the myths of his day, myths assimilated by a young Sicilian immigrant who was determined to celebrate the virtues of a land that had allowed him to prosper. Despite the obstacles placed in his way, Capra explained in his autobiography, The Name Above the Title, his strategy of hope and thrift inevitably led to success in one of America's most volatile industries. When the Great Depression hit, Capra and his movie audience remained faithful to the American Dream; when “war came to America,” Capra pondered over the myth and then explained why America fought.

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An anecdote about how Mr. Smith Goes to Washington took shape reveals in brief compass the kind of dream that Frank Capra shared with his viewers. During pre-production research for the film, Capra made a spontaneous visit to the Lincoln Memorial. While there, he heard a little boy reading Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address to his grandfather. It was the American Dream crystallized in a living moment:

I left the Lincoln Memorial with this growing conviction about our film: the more uncertain are the people, of the world, the more their hard-won freedoms scattered and lost in the winds of chance the more they need a ringing statement of America’s democratic ideals. The soul of our film will be anchored in Lincoln. Our Jefferson Smith would be a young Abe Lincoln, tailored to the rail-splitter’s simplicity, compassion, ideals, humor, and unswerving moral courage under pressure. And back we went to Hollywood to get to work on Mr. Smith Goes to Washington. The national institution was ours. It is never untimely to yank the rope of Freedom’s bell. (The Name Above the Title, New York, 1971, 261)

A close examination of this passage, and of Capra’s classic films from the 1930s and 1940s, reveals the strengths and limitations of the prevailing American self-image.

Capra’s Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939) taps classic American beliefs about the differences between country and city and reinforces our belief that national institutions can be cleansed periodically by throwing out the crooks and putting honest men into office. The protagonist, Jefferson Smith (Jimmy Stewart), arrives in Washington by a quirk of fate. He soon discovers that

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the “big boys” often pervert the responsibilities of office to promote their personal good. With the help of country folk, Smith eventually prevails over the obstacles. Drawing on the image of the frontier—as old as James Fenimore Cooper—Capra reassured Americans that the problem with the Depression was that a good system was simply not functioning properly. Renewal of existing options—not social and political revolution—was the way to deal with our troubles.

I have used It Happened One Night (1934) in my classroom with great success. The film is of the “screwball comedy” genre in which a rich girl (Claudette Colbert) is thrown into an innocent adventure on the road with a gruffy newsman of plebian origins (Clark Gable). In the convention of screwball comedies, these apparently opposite types discover that they have much in common: a contempt for pompousness, a basic human goodness, and a sense of humor that helps them through times of trouble. In other words, they discover that, despite increasing polarization of American society during the Great Depression, Americans are still good folk who can respect—and love—one another. To countless millions, the film taught that class conflict was irrelevant to the American situation even in the worst of times.

As represented by the dark film, Meet John Doe (1941), the Capra vision of hope for America suffered a temporary eclipse immediately prior to World War II. The typical Capra hero (Gary Cooper) retains his innocence, but the forces of reaction are far stronger than Capra’s crusading spokesman for the American dream. In addition, average Americans are shown to be duped easily by fascist rhetoric. In particular, the era of mass communications has made them vulnerable to persuasion; the omniscient citizen, as Walter Lippmann had warned in Public Opinion (New York, 1922), was an eclipse. Capra and his scriptwriter, Robert Riskin, wrote four different endings to the film—a clear indication that they had difficulty extricating their hero from his dilemma. In the end, John Doe is a Christ figure unconvincingly redeemed by the compassion of the little people. Meet John Doe has been compared with Mark Twain’s A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court as a work that attempts to convey a statement about society, but ends with an reassuring vision of official corruption, popular credulity, and weakness. Placed within the context of popular movements led by Huey Long, Father Coughlin, and Dr. Frances Townsend to the rescue with the “big boys” often pervert the responsibilities of office to promote their personal good. With the help of country folk, Smith eventually prevails over the obstacles. Drawing on the image of the frontier—as old as James Fenimore Cooper—Capra reassured Americans that the problem with the Depression was that a good system was simply not functioning properly. Renewal of existing options—not social and political revolution—was the way to deal with our troubles.

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Because these films so successfully crystallized American attitudes of the era, they offer the historian/teacher vivid classroom materials from our last "good" war. In addition, their melodramatic treatment of political issues provides those teaching the Cold War era with an excellent springboard for examination of the temper of the 1950s. In celebrating the "promise of American life," Capra helped Americans to ignore the flaws of their society. His portrayal of America's enemies, his division of the world into a Manichean conflict between political good and political evil would bear a bitter vintage in the post-war era.

In fact, the complicated world that greeted Americans in the 1950s led to the decline of box office interest in Frank Capra's vision. Bosley Crowther of the New York Times was representative in describing Capra's first major post-war film, It's a Wonderful Life, as a "fignome of simple Pollyanna platitudes." Capra's religiosity, his longing for small-town values, and his bleak sentimentality were simply out of tune with the Age of Anxiety.

**Preservation Project Funded by NHPRC**

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) has approved a grant to The Associated Natural Sciences Institutions (TANSI). The project will promote the recognition of archival management in research and education at five member institutions: The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, The American Museum of Natural History, The Field Museum of Natural History, The California Academy of Science, and The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

The goals of the project are the preservation of the records of these five institutions and the accessibility of the information they contain to the researcher. Toward these ends, the project will create a model for cooperative archival management. The establishment of standard archival procedures and conservation practices will permit access to a national network of natural history materials with greater ease and speed than had previously been possible.

The TANSI project grant will be administered by the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia with Sylva S. Baker, vice president of Library Services, as Project Director. William Deiss, deputy archivist of the Smithsonian, will serve as Coordinating Consultant to the consortium. He will visit each of the TANSI member institutions within the one-year-long span of the project, slated for completion and final reporting to the Commission in the summer of 1986.

**New Book Traces Chinese Experience in California**

The history of the United States is replete with stories of ethnic groups that moved to this country and were denied credit for important contributions to the region they settled. In the Monterey Bay area of central California, the Chinese who arrived in the last half of the nineteenth century helped immeasurably in the economic and social growth of the community. Yet, the contributions they made in agriculture, fishing, food processing, manufacturing, and railroad construction long have been overlooked.

**Chinese Gold: The Chinese in the Monterey Bay Region**, written by Sandy Lydon, is an attempt to integrate the Chinese into the history of the region. In its 288 black and white photos and twenty-two maps. Prices are $29.95, for hardbound and $18.95 for paperback.

Peter C. Rollins is a professor of English and American Studies at Oklahoma State University and editor of Hollywood As History (Kentucky, 1983.) He is the producer/director of the forthcoming sequel, "Television's Vietnam: The Impact of Media." He is currently director of Television Criticism and Research at Accuracy in Media, Inc.

Stanley Kubrick. Jefferson Smith would be replaced by Major King Kong (Slim Pickens) as a symbol of American innocence.

**Bibliography and Filmography**

The Films of Frank Capra

Capra's major films are available from Films Incorporated, but also from cheaper—albeit sometimes cheaper in quality—outlets such as Budget Films. The video revolution has also made these classics readily available (the feature films of the 1930s are often screened by commercial television.) The Why We Fight series has passed from general interest, but the individual episodes are available from a host of university film libraries. When all else fails, the National Audio-Visual Center (Washington, D.C.) rents and sells Why We Fight in both film and video formats.

Books on Capra and His Work

Capra tells his own success story in The Name Above the Title (Macmillan, 1971) Like all autobiographies, the book provides as many rationalizations as insights. It should be approached as a test that needs interpretation. The best critical biography is Frank Capra (Twayne, 1980) by Charles Maland. Building on his previous survey titled American Visions: The Films of Chaplin, Ford, Capra, and Welles, 1936-41 (Arno Press, 1977), Maland puts Capra into a cultural context, examining the filmmaker's art without losing contact with political and social influences. Historians should take an interest in Maland's approach to film as a model for future work; his is a fine example of study in popular culture. Maland's mentor, John Raeburn, is one of the editors of Frank Capra: The Man and His Films (University of Michigan, 1975), an anthology that collects a variety of perspectives. The most succinct study of the Why We Fight series is by William T. Murphy ("The Method of Why We Fight," Journal of Popular Culture, 1972: 185-196). A more complete examination is Thomas Bohn's An Historical and Descriptive Analysis of the "Why We Fight" Series (Arno Press, 1977), a book that explores both aesthetic and historical dimensions of the series.

A short, but insightful, evocation of Capra as mythmaker can be found in Robert Sklar's American Folktales: Cultural History of American Movies (Random House, 1975). An equally brief (but unflattering) analysis of the Capra vision is offered by Morris Dickstein in his biography The Man and His Political Vision (Transaction Books, 1982). Each teacher with each generation of students will have to determine how much the Capra oeuvre speaks to his or her times. On the other hand, I propose that there will be no disagreement about the pertinence of the films for gaining access to the American ethos, 1930-45.
Computer Software Reviews:
A Scholar's Text Processing Machine
Blaine A. Brownell

NOTA BENE, v. 1.1. For IBM-PC, XT, AT, and close compatibles. Requires two disk drives or hard disk, and 256K. Dragonfly Software, 409 Fulton Street, Suite 202, Brooklyn, New York, 11201. (718) 624-0127. List price, $495.00

Microcomputer software is described as powerful if it contains myriad features and can accomplish large complex tasks. But if elegance is simplicity, such programs are rarely elegant. Nota Bene is a genuinely powerful software package, designed specifically to meet the needs of scholars. Word processor, and writer: new code from scratch, of two machines.
The manual is well-written (by Steven Siebert's brother, Loren) and illustrated with numerous diagrams. The thick documentation comes boxed in a ring binder, with a good index and table of contents, and an eighty-page tutorial booklet. Individual sections are tabbed for quick reference. While the manual is offset-printed on decent stock and is much improved over the initial version, it seems just as readable as the better commercial package manuals, with colors, darker print, and slicker paper.

Version 1.1 of Nota Bene is not copy-protected and can be duplicated easily. But it is "copy traceable," that is, the user's name is etched on the original copy and also appears on the opening screen of all copies. Thus, if Dragonfly discovers eighty-four illicit copies scattered over four states, they know whom to call. This scheme is eminently sensible, makes the program much easier to install and use, respects the rights of the user, and adequately protects the company. Dragonfly has set a good example for others and is to be congratulated.

No program is perfect, including Nota Bene. While the word processor works on documents in RAM and is lightning quick, loading the program, the default parameters, and the help files (which are basically "documents") from disk is not so fast. I ran the program on an IBM-PC AT with 512K and a 20MB fixed disk, and if you have this sort of equipment you will be quite satisfied. Also, though the original program clearly was developed with two floppy drives in mind, the latest version is loaded easily onto a hard disk, and I strongly recommend this configuration. Otherwise, you will be doing a good deal of disk swapping, particularly when using textbase. (The same problem exists with most other high-capability products.)

The lack of a built-in spelling checker is a serious deficiency for an otherwise full-featured program such as this. But since Nota Bene produces ASCII files easily readable by excellent stand-alone spelling checkers like WordStar and Write, and if everything XWrite II does, and has the best footnoteing capabilities on the market, a built-in 100,000 word spelling checker, and an easier to follow implementation of the function keys. In combination with an even more advanced stand-alone, free-form text manager, like TyTeX Professional (which reads WordPerfect documents), it would serve almost every imaginable need. (In fairness, it should be noted that all these text and "data" processing capabilities are fully integrated in Nota Bene, and can be achieved otherwise only by using two separate programs.) Microsoft Word is another powerful alternative, with excellent formatting capabilities. Both these word processors are available through many mail-order houses for around $250 and have a very large "installed base."

But we cannot sell Nota Bene short. It has been designed by a scholar to suit scholars, contains a wealth of features and many special touches, is likely to be updated and improved continually (the version 2.0, with many new features is already in use), and when mastered can measurably improve productivity and ease greatly the burden of conducting historical research and producing long manuscripts with all the necessary citations, bibliographies, and other paraphernalia. If you are stuck with something neanderthal like WordStar, you had better switch to something more useful in any case. And, Nota Bene contains a utility to translate WordPerfect documents into its own format. It may take some time to learn, but is also something you may never want to be without.

Blaise A. Brownell is professor of history and Urban Studies and the Dean of the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. He is the author of Using Microcomputers: A Guidebook for Writers, Teachers, and Researchers (Sage Publications, 1985).
Facing History, however, has resuscitated the time-honored tradition of history as a moral science, which dates back to historians of antiquity and attained its apogee in the eighteenth-century works of Gibbons and Hume. From the perspective of these historians, history is a branch of moral philosophy and its lessons, which have guidelines for prudential thinking and moral behavior.

Interestingly enough, this earlier tradition offers contemporary historians a new way to view their role in society. They need not be confined to the ivory tower where they work with specialists interested in specific topics of the past. Instead, they have an opportunity to communicate with a much broader audience by applying their skills to help members of the general public think critically about social and political issues and reflect on their moral values and behavior.

Facing History is in the vanguard of clarifying for individuals inside and outside the historical profession the relevance history has for contemporary thought and ethics. In addition to preparing materials for schools in hundreds of communities, the program provides teacher training services and classes for adult learners who have reached thousands of individuals since the inception of the program a decade ago.

Each year, Facing History conducts one- and two-day awareness workshops in the United States and Canada to acquaint teachers, support staff personnel, and school administrators with the dynamics of the program. After individuals in an educational community have decided to adopt the course, they maintain an ongoing relationship with members of the staff. Those in the New England area can attend follow-up workshops in Brookline to plan specific lessons, review teaching strategies, and preview new visual and audiovisual materials. Those from outside New England can phone or correspond with members of the Teaching Training Team, who have had several years' experience with the program.

During the summer, educators from all locations are invited to part in four-day institutes held in various regions that are designed to explore the course content and methodology in greater depth than is possible in shorter timeframes.

These workshops fulfill two functions vital to the success and implementation of Facing History in the educational setting. First, they keep educators abreast of current research on twentieth-century genocide. Scholars lecture on a variety of themes related to the Holocaust and other manifestations of genocide. Members of the staff distribute articles that supplement materials in the resource manual and prepare displays to highlight documents and artifacts housed in the archives of the Facing History Resource Center. These presentations not only underscore the significance of studying genocide from the perspectives of many disciplines, but also they suggest additional sources and research projects that teachers may themselves pursue. "I am not an avid reader," remarked one inner-city teacher working with the program. "Yet I found myself studying constantly after I began teaching the course. I really wanted to know." Facing History continuously nurtures teachers' initial interest in the materials, and many teachers who have worked with the program for a couple of years decide to embark on more intensive research in summer history seminars. In addition, these workshops encourage teachers to look in depth at a piece of history and to think about the most appropriate ways for teaching history.

The second important feature of the workshops is that they give teachers a sense of moral support. Often, teachers who are at risk of teaching courses like Facing History feel isolated in their classrooms, and many of their colleagues disapprove of their efforts to include complicated and painful subject matter in the curriculum. Attending Facing History activities thus helps them realize the value of their work. A social studies teacher from Albuquerque, for instance, arrived at a summer institute planning to leave teaching. "I was burned out when I came here," she wrote in her final evaluation of the institute. "My resolve was reaffirmed after seeing what you have, an ready to go back to the classroom and try again." Teachers in the Boston area make a point of dropping in at the Facing History office once a week because "support for the teacher is really palpable here; people are genuinely concerned about good teaching."

Just as it is essential for teachers to receive training and encouragement for presenting the program in an effective manner, there must be a broad base of support from out-of-school adults in a community. Parents, local civic and religious leaders, business people, and professionals can exert pressure on the schools to retain novel curricula and can generate funds needed to sustain teachers willing to experiment with new programs. Adult citizens in a community who are involved in thinking about the fundamental issues raised by Facing History can expand their own understanding of what it means to be a citizen in a free society and can assist younger citizens in recognizing how courses like Facing History prepare them to deal with civic responsibilities. For these reasons, Facing History sponsors adult education classes in communities where schools have adopted the program or where educators are contemplating its adoption. The program also organizes annual conferences that bring interested citizens and educators together to examine major themes of the course with scholars in the humanities and social sciences.

Response to these adult learning opportunities has been as enthusiastic as that demonstrated by participants at teacher training activities. In one North Carolina community, for example, sixteen parents took the course concurrently with their children in a junior high school class. During the final session, these exchanged newspaper clippings on current affairs that reminded them of their study of the Holocaust and proposed the formation of additional study groups to investigate contemporary issues of world peace. Similarly, in a North Carolina community, for example, sixteen parents took the course concurrently with their children in a junior high school class. During the final session, these exchanged newspaper clippings on current affairs that reminded them of their study of the Holocaust and proposed the formation of additional study groups to investigate contemporary issues of world peace.
Galleon Dive Yields Gold, Silver - and Controversy

Jonathan Walters

[Editor's note: This article is reprinted from Preservation News (September 1985), the monthly newspaper of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.]


But the only thing many underwater archaeologists say they're seeing these days is red. "The American public is taking a shellacking on this one," says Dan Lenihan, chief of the National Park Service's (NPS) Submerged Cultural Resources Unit. "It's turned into a media event, a circus. Meanwhile, it's one more piece of history down the tubes."

While media nationwide hailed the July discovery of the Nuestra Senora de Atocha, many archaeologists mourned what they say is the inevitable loss of yet another archaeological treasure.

While media nationwide hailed the July discovery of the Nuestra Senora de Atocha—the flagship of a 1622 Spanish treasure fleet that went down in a hurricane off the Florida Keys with a reported 6400 million in gold, silver, and jewels—many archaeologists mourned what they say is the inevitable loss of yet another archaeological treasure. They are afraid the ship's discoverers, Treasure Salvors Inc., will merely strip the wreck, paying only cursory attention to accepted archaeological survey techniques.

Margot Stern Strom is the Executive Director of Facing History and Ourselves and co-author of Facing History and Ourselves: Holocaust and Human Behavior. She is a research associate of the Center for the Study of Gender, Education, and Human Development at Harvard University.

Mary Johnson, assistant to the director of Facing History and Ourselves, was formerly a professor of history with a special concentration in women's history and the French Revolution at Temple University and East Tennessee State University.

Representatives of Treasure Salvors Inc., however, say that fear and criticism are unjustified. "Everything is being [removed carefully, mapped and tagged]," says Bleth McHaley, vice president of Treasure Salvors Inc. Any criticism Treasure Salvors receives from the archaeological community, she says, stems from "envy" and "professional jealousy."

"I'm always open to criticism," says R. Duncan Mathewson, Treasure Salvors' chief archeologist. "But I'm being criticized by people who have no idea what I'm doing."

Archeologists interviewed said they have not been invited to see the site, nor would they accept for fear of lending credibility to an operation they oppose.

McHaley chalks such attitudes up to an "Ivy Tower" mentality. Mathewson says several eminent international underwater archaeologists are going to visit the site.

Debate over the shipwreck centers on how quickly material is being removed from the site and what conservation techniques are used.

"I heard one mention of them pulling up 6,000 coins in one afternoon," says Barto Arnold III, marine archeologist for the state of Texas, who acknowledges that he hasn't visited the wreck site. "I don't see how they can do that and do a careful job of archeology at the same time."

According to a Washington Post report, 1,208 silver bars, 7,175 ounces of gold, and 255,000 coins had been removed from the wreck in the first week of the find.

With material being removed at that rate, says Fischer, Treasure Salvors cannot be doing even a remotely professional job of archeology. On
a recent wreck he worked, he says, less than two percent of the site was excavated—and that took sixteen people five weeks.

"A shipwreck is a time capsule, a cross-section of history, dated and pristine. The important information comes from all the nitty-gritty details, not the spectacular goodies. The details are lost when you sweep in and remove material. [Treasure Salvors] might get ten percent of the information the wreck could yield, but they will destroy the other ninety percent."

"This is not a full scientific excavation of the type I'd like to do," concedes Mathewson. "This is archeological salvage. Still, he claims, Treasure Salvors has so far excavated only a small fraction of the site and material is being mapped to preserve "contextual relation" and that valuable historical data is being discovered and recorded.

Mathewson did deny press reports that 350-year old cedar chests containing coins were crumbling on the deck of a salvage ship as they were brought up by divers—a loss other archeologists decry as tragic and avoidable, but typical of salvage operations.

"Those chests weigh over 150 pounds as you're bringing them up," says Mathewson. "If [critics] have a better way to do it, I'd like to see it." McAuley says that Treasure Salvors is in the process of expanding facilities to accommodate conservation of the material being brought up from the Atocha.

The prospect of the Atocha's treasures being scattered to the winds is one archeologists liken to selling off Mount Vernon, brick by brick.

Debate also centers on the eventual fate of the material brought up from the Atocha— which both archeologists and salvors agree is one of the most significant archeological finds over Florida.

At some point, the material from the Atocha will be sold or distributed to investors in Treasure Salvors Inc.— provided the federal district court currently controlling the site officially turns ownership of the wreck's contents over to Treasure Salvors as expected. The prospect of the Atocha's treasures being scattered to the winds is one archeologists liken to selling off Mount Vernon, brick by brick.

Treasure Salvors' McAuley counters that many historical treasures are in private ownership. "Should people be prevented from owning a Paul Revere pitcher?" she asks.

The debate between archeologists and salvors over proper treatment of shipwrecks has been raging for years. Archeologists, who say they haven't the resources to stay a step ahead of the salvors, believe wrecks such as the Atocha should be off limits to salvage operations, or at least tightly controlled. Salvors, meanwhile, contend that many valuable wrecks would go undiscovered were it not for their efforts and that they are sensitive to history, too.

New Source for Historians of the Twentieth Century

The Southern Historical Collection of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has announced that the papers of Allard K. Lowenstein are open for research. The papers, housed in 106 boxes and constituting over 150,000 items, document the life of Lowenstein, representative from New York's fifth Congressional District, political activist, and United States Ambassador to the United Nations for Special Political Affairs.

The papers were a gift to the University from Jennifer Lowenstein Littlefield in December 1982. They are a rich resource for historians of the twentieth-century and especially valuable in the depth of material on the Civil Rights Movement, the anti-Vietnam War movement, the "Dump Johnson" movement, (of which Lowenstein was a chief architect), and on South Africa and Zimbabwe/Rhodesia.

The Southern Historical Collection is located in the Wilson Library on the Chapel Hill campus. It is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. To obtain a printed guide to the Lowenstein Papers, send $5.00 to the Southern Historical Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill, Wilson Library O24A, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514.

York's historic areas and ethnic neighborhoods. These include Chinatown, the Lower Eastside and Little Italy, Wall Street and the Financial District, City Hall, Greenwich Village, the newly developed South Street Seaport area, Brooklyn Heights, and Astoria and Steinway Village in Queens. Other sessions about New York offer views of Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, and "Public Works in the Empire City."

Program sessions consider current trends in the historical profession as well. On Thursday night, author Barbara Tuchman will moderate a panel on presidential biography with commentators Robert Caro, David McCullough, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., and Frank Freidel. Another session will consider publishing and marketing scholarly books.

"Twentieth-Century Baseball as Social History" is one example of a session that will evaluate nontraditional sources for historical interpretation. These sessions include "The Celluloid Version of Urban America" and "Changing Sexuality in a Changing Society: The Hite Reports,"
The OAH and the New York Council for the Humanities are sponsoring a Professional Day for secondary school teachers. The sessions, scheduled for Saturday, April 12, include topical and chronological workshops on research and teaching in American history. In addition, former OAH President Gerda Lerner will address participants at a Professional Day luncheon.

The OAH Annual Meeting Program, which includes descriptions of meeting sessions and preregistration and housing forms, will be mailed to OAH members in February. Air travel plans can be made at any time with Rosalyn Moss Travel Consultants (see related story this page). In addition, the OAH Convention Supplement will appear in the February 1986 OAH Newsletter.

Journal Seeks Papers for Bicentennial Issue

The Journal of American History is issuing a formal call for scholarly articles that will illuminate the theme of the Constitution and constitutionalism in American history. The December 1987 issue of the Journal will be dedicated to that theme. A special advisory board will assist in preparing the issue. The Journal also invites suggestions for other features (review essays, polls, reminiscences, and so on) to be included in the issue. The deadline for receipt of articles is December 1, 1986. Please submit articles or address inquiries to David Thelen, Editor, Journal of American History, Room 702, Ballantine Hall, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47405.

Discount Airfares

The OAH has appointed ROSALYN MOSS TRAVEL CONSULTANTS (RMTC) as travel coordinator for the 1986 OAH Annual Meeting, April 10-13 in New York. RMTC has negotiated a special discount for participants traveling round-trip from their home city to New York on regularly scheduled flights.

You can help the OAH save money. By booking your flight through RMTC, the OAH will earn credits that can reduce part of the cost of the Annual Meeting.

You may use a credit card to guarantee against possible fare increases or pay by invoice.

RMTC will mail your tickets to you.

If fares are reduced later, RMTC will reissue tickets at the lower rates.

NOTE: In the current, competitive "airfare wars," there may be some sporadic lower fares from specific cities. These fares may have restrictions and limited seating. RMTC's convention specialists will assist you in securing the lowest rate available.

Make Reservations Now

Call RMTC, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST. Toll free: 800-645-3437; in New York state, 516-536-3076.

Candidates Sought for OAH Boards

The Nominating Board of the OAH is eager to receive names of members whose scholarship, leadership, and interest in the organization's activities qualify them to serve as President or as a member of the Executive Board or the Nominating Board. All are elective offices. The Nominating Board will select one candidate for the Presidency, two candidates for each of the three vacancies on the Executive Board, and two candidates for each of the four vacancies on the Nominating Board.

Please send your suggestions, including vitae if possible, to the Nominating Board chair, Bertram Wyatt-Brown, Department of History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, before February 1, 1986. Other members of the Board are: Thomas Dublin, University of California, San Diego; Lois Green Carr, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland; Donald A. Ritchie, United States Senate, Washington, D.C.; Timothy H. Breen, Northwestern University; and Barbara J. Fields, University of Michigan.

OAH Call for Papers

The Program Committee for the OAH Annual Meeting to be held in Philadelphia, April 2-5, 1987 invites proposals for entire sessions, individual papers, panels, or teaching workshops, although the Committee strongly encourages submissions of complete sessions. Papers appropriate for the Constitution's bicentennial or the topic of dissent in America are especially welcome. Specialists in American history who participate on the 1987 Program must be members of the Organization.

Proposals should include a two-page synopsis that summarizes the thesis, methodology, and significance of each paper and one vitae for each participant. One copy of the proposal should be sent to each of the 1987 Program Co-chairs: Drew Gilpin Faust, American Civilization, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104; and Ronald Walters, Department of History, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland 21218. The deadline for submissions is March 15, 1986.
NEH Nominee Faces Tough Questions

On October 2, the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee spent four hours cross-examining Edward A. Curran in a confirmation hearing for the Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Nominated nine months ago, the Curran appointment has been stalled as leaders in both Congress and the humanities community have questioned whether Curran is the right person to head NEH. Although Committee Chair Orrin Hatch (R-UT) strongly supported the President’s nominee, Curran faced tough questions about his credibility, commitment, and qualifications from Senators Lowell Weicker (R-CT), Claiborne Pell (D-RI), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Christopher Dodd (D-CT), Paul Simon (D-IL), and John Kerry (D-MA). Several of the Senators noted that they had received more letters of concern about this appointment than any other.

For fifteen years, Curran served as Headmaster of National Cathedral School for Girls and, for the last three years, has been the Deputy Director of the Peace Corps. However, his brief tenure as director of the National Institute of Education (NIE) attracted the most attention at the hearing. During Curran’s confirmation hearing for NIE in 1981, before this same Senate committee, he made assurances of his commitment to continuing the important work of NIE. Yet soon thereafter he recommended in a letter to President Reagan the abolition of NIE, in part, because the federal agency had become “a tool of the political left.” Regarding this matter, Weicker asked Curran if he was familiar with the saying “Once shame on you, twice shame on me.” Weicker then stated “What’s at issue... is testimony before this very committee that is clearly at odds with subsequent events. And now here we are again and you’ve made statements supportive of the National Endowment, but... God knows if you won’t get in there and find more members of the left and decide that abolishing the agency is the way to deal with it.”

The White House informed Peter Duignan in September that he will not be nominated for the position of U.S. Archivist. Last spring, the White House had conducted interviews with possible nominees for Archivist and reported in April that a decision had been made. In interviews in May and June with the Washington Post and the New York Times, Duignan, an African specialist at the Hoover Institution for the Study of War, Revolution, and Peace, spoke of the President’s intention to send his name forward to the Senate for confirmation as soon as routine security checks had been completed. Opposition to the possible appointment mounted on two fronts: Duignan’s advocacy of “detente” with white South Africa and his close political connections with the Reagan administration, which many believed violated the intent of the independence legislation calling for a nonpartisan Archivist. Specifically, the Conference Report accompanying the legislation that established the Archives as an independent agency stated “the-congress intends that he (the Archivist) be an officer performing professional archival and records management functions insulated from the political orientation of a particular administration.”

The White House Personnel Office is interviewing once again for the position of Archivist and seems eager to move on the appointment. The National Archives and Records Administration became independent in April and has operated since then under the Acting Archivist, Frank G. Burke.

Selection of Archivist Expected Soon

In October 1984, Congress passed the CIA Information Act, which exempts the CIA operational files from FOIA requests. Congressional concern that historians have access to CIA records resulted in a compromise in the legislation that calls for the CIA to explore the possibility of establishing a Historical Review Program to undertake new efforts to declassify and transfer to the National Archives historically significant CIA records. William Casey, CIA director, recently developed plans for the program in consultation with the leadership of the United States, the Librarian of Congress, and three historians—John Gaddis, Richard Leopold, and Gaddis Smith. Senator David Durenberger spearheaded the Congressional support that has provided funding for the additional positions to staff the project. The Office of Information Services, with the advice and support of the CIA historical office, will have responsibility for the Historical Review Program. The first documents being reviewed are those of the Strategic Services Unit of 1945-46 and the Central Intelligence Group of 1946-51.

Federal Historians Seek Clarification of Federal Oral History Project

For the past year, the Oral History Subcommittee of the Society for History in the Federal Government methodically has been examining many aspects of federal oral history policy. In March, the Committee completed a comprehensive report that covers such topics as definitions, editing practices, assurances of confidentiality, and preservation standards. To achieve the goal of fostering the most complete oral history record obtainable, the Committee developed guidelines for federal agencies that include model deeds of gift. The Federal Society for History in the Federal Government submitted the report to the Archivist of the United States with the hope that an official understanding can be reached regarding the definition of an oral history record and assurances for the protection of the confidentiality of interviewees. The National Archives staff has worked closely with the Society for History in the Federal Government on this project and the proposed guidelines are currently under review. Copies of the report are available from the Society for History in the Federal Government, Box 14139, Bethesda, MD 20044.
Prospects Good for 1986 Appropriations for Historical Programs

Until November 15, federal agencies will be operating on a continuing resolution budget while work is being completed on legislation for the FY'86 budget. Although some key votes are still pending, the prospects for historical and humanities-related programs seem fairly good. There may be a very small increase for the National Archives. Both the Senate and the House have earmarked $4 million, the current level, for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission’s grants program. Although the President requested zero funds for historic preservation, the Senate is recommending current level funding for the state historic preservation program and for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the House has called for a one million dollar reduction for the states, reducing the amount to $20 million. Based on the action of the House and the Senate Appropriations Committee, NEH may also be retaining its 1985 budget.

Few Historians Nominated to Commemorative Commissions

The eighteen-member Commission to plan for the 1987 Bicentennial of the Constitution includes two historians—Thomas Henry O’Conner, professor of history at Boston College, and Philip M. Crane, a former history professor and current member of the House of Representatives. Both were among the four members of the Commission appointed by the Speaker of the House in consultation with the House Minority Leader.

Of the twenty-two members of the Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission, there are two historians as well—William Ward McNeill, professor of history at the University of Chicago and president of the American Historical Association, and Charles William Polzer, an ethnologist at the Arizona State Museum.

Page Putnam Miller is Director of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History.

91% of FOIA Requests Granted in 1984

More than 91% of all requests processed by eight Cabinet Departments in 1984 under the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) were granted in full and without the deletion of any information that was sought.

This information was released by Representative Glenn English (D-OK), Chair of the Government Information, Justice, and Agriculture Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Operations. The data were derived from annual reports covering the calendar year 1984 submitted by agencies to the Subcommittee.

English said: “These statistics show that the Freedom of Information Act is successfully accomplishing its primary purpose: making government documents available to those who want them. The FOIA works and it works well. Few government programs have a success rate in excess of 91%.”

The Department of Health and Human Services reported a success rate of 98.9%. Of 102,729 requests processed, 101,602 were granted in full. The Department of Defense reported a success rate of 92.4%, with over 70,000 requests processed.

Of the eight Cabinet Departments for which figures were available, the State Department had the lowest success rate, 29.6%. But even with this low rate, the State Department still released in full over 103,000 pages of documents. An additional 42,001 pages were released in part, and 39,311 were withheld.

English said: “These statistics show that the FOIA is successful in spite of general bureaucratic and political hostility to the principles of disclosure.” English cautioned, however, against accepting these numbers as a complete assessment of agency compliance with the FOIA. The statistics do not show whether agencies are processing requests in a timely fashion, whether the fee waivers are being granted to those entitled to them, or whether all disclosable documents are actually disclosed.

The problem of delays in the processing of FOIA requests is illustrated by the record of the State Department. During 1984, the backlog of FOIA requests increased from 2,236 to 3,444, or more than 50%.

"There is still plenty of room for improvement in the handling of FOIA requests," English said. "Many requests are not processed within the statutory ten-day time limit, and agencies need to work harder to meet that deadline."

English noted that there are no common definitions that constitute a request and that different agencies have different accounting practices. The overall statistics were derived from numbers reported by the agencies and were not independently verified by the Subcommittee.

Nevertheless, even if the numbers reported by agencies are only an approximation, the results still show that the overwhelming majority of requestors received all of the information that they wanted. Even those whose requests were not granted in full sometimes received some information that was sought. But for statistical purposes, the denial of any part of a request is treated as the denial of the entire request.

All agencies are required to submit annual reports on FOIA operations showing the number of requests denied and the reasons for the denials. Agencies are not required to report on the number of requests received. However, eight of the thirteen cabinet departments included figures on the number of requests received, and these figures were used to calculate the totals reported below.

The tables below show that the Commerce Department had the greatest number of requests, 1,171, followed by the State Department, with 811,799 requests. The Defense Department had the lowest success rate, 29.6%. The State Department had the highest success rate, 98.9%.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Agency</th>
<th>Total Requests</th>
<th>Granted in Full</th>
<th>Statutory Denials</th>
<th>Procedural Denials</th>
<th>Adjusted Requests</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
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<td>Commerce</td>
<td>1,171</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>103,110</td>
<td>101,602</td>
<td>1,127</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>102,729</td>
<td>98.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice</td>
<td>24,564</td>
<td>20,457</td>
<td>3,587</td>
<td>1052</td>
<td>24,064</td>
<td>74.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>3,617</td>
<td>966</td>
<td>1,092</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>3,246</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasury</td>
<td>25,654</td>
<td>20,005</td>
<td>4,792</td>
<td>857</td>
<td>24,797</td>
<td>80.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>267,968</td>
<td>207,978</td>
<td>17,007</td>
<td>21,775</td>
<td>226,193</td>
<td>91.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Agency annual FOIA reports for calendar year 1984.
Professional Opportunities

National Museum of American History

National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, seeks historian in American Studies to direct a Native American History Program for NHM and to assist in reinstallation of major exhibits in science, technology, and culture. Salary $26,381-$33,799. Responsibilities include development of cultural/historical programs and assistance to American Indian museums on history, educational programs, and cooperation with related institutions with interests in Native Americans. Will include organizing seminars, symposia, performance, research, and exhibitions. Inquiries to William L. Withuhn, Deputy Chair, Department of Science and Technology, National Museum of American History, Washington, D.C. 20560; (202) 357-2025. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Trinity College


University of California-Irvine

Position in Afro-American culture. Ph.D. and interdisciplinary expertise in sociology, anthropology, or history, with substantive focus on black people in the United States essential. Position requires ability to teach an introductory undergraduate course in Afro-American culture, a graduate seminar on Non-Dominant Classes and Cultures, and undergraduate and graduate courses in one's area of specialization. Applicants should have a record of successful teaching and innovative research. Tenured position at the Associate Professor level. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Contact the Director, Program in Comparative Culture, University of California, Irvine, California 92717. Deadline for application is January 15, 1986.

Austin Community College

History Instructor, Full-Time. Teach U.S. history, advise students, participate in curriculum development, prefer background in teaching U.S. history with Hispanic or Black emphasis. Must be interested in innovative teaching, relate well to diverse student body, and support the community college philosophy. M.A. in history required with at least 18 graduate semester hours in teaching field. Prefer graduate hours beyond M.A. with emphasis in ethnic studies. One year of equivalent college teaching, preferably community college level. AA/EEO. ACC invites applications from women and minorities. Application deadline: November 22, 1985. Contact: Personnel Office, Austin Community College, P.O. Box 2285 Austin, Texas 78768; (512) 655-7573.

Washington University

American History. The History Department of Washington University, St. Louis, welcomes applicants for two appointments in U.S. history beginning fall 1986 as assistant or associate professor (tenure track) or full professor, one principally in the 19th century and the other, 20th century. For the higher ranks, candidates must have teaching experience and significant publications. Send dossier to Richard J. Walter, Chair, Department of History, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri 63130. Application deadline is December 15, 1985. Washington University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

U.S. Naval Academy

Western Cultural History Survey. Assistant Professor, tenure track, with primary responsibility to teach required, freshman, two-semester sequence emphasizing development of values in Western society since ancient Greece. Second semester includes American history in context of the Atlantic community. Applicants must have an American history in context of the Atlantic community. Applicants must have a PhD in history required. Begin August 1986. Application deadline is January 10, 1986. Applicants wishing AHA interview should send vita to December 10, 1985. Contact Jane Good, History Department, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland 21402-5044. USNA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

St. Lawrence University

Tenure-track position at the assistant professor level. Beginning September 1986. 20th-century American history with a specialization in Women’s History and a subfield in either labor or minority history. Must teach U.S. survey course in addition to upper level specialties. Qualifications: Ph.D, and teaching experience. Salary dependent upon qualifications. Application and supporting materials should be sent to Jonathan G. Roselle, Chair, American Search Committee, History Department, St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York 13617. Deadline is January 31, 1986. AA/EOE.

Lehman College/CUNY

American Foreign Policy. Lehman College seeks to fill a full-time teaching position in American Foreign Policy beginning September 1, 1986. Specialization in twentieth-century and late-nineteenth-century history is preferred. A Ph.D. and an interest in research, publication, and teaching of undergraduates is required. Senior and junior scholars are invited to apply. The rank is assistant professor. Send resume and appropriate materials by December 12, 1985 to: Jacob Judd, Chair, Department of History, Herbert H. Lehman College, CUNY, Bronx, New York 10468. An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Survey Questionnaire for Women Historians and Women Holding History Degrees for an Update of Directory of Women's Historians

Name ____________________________
Race (Optional) Caucasian Black Hispanic Asian/ American
Home Address ________________________________________
City ____________________________ State __________ Zip Code ____________
Home Telephone ____________________________
Work Address ________________________________________
City ____________________________ State __________ Zip Code ____________
Work Telephone ____________________________
Job Title and Rank ____________________________
Employer ____________________________
Institutional Affiliation, if any ____________
BA (year) ____________ MA (year) ____________ Ph.D. (year) ____________
Research, Teaching, or Graduate School Fields ________________________________________
Have Published: Articles (number) ____________________________ Books (number) ____________________________
Are you a member of (circle): AHA OAH CCWHHP
Are you a member of (circle): AHA OAH CCWHHP
Return to: Norahie Frankel American Historical Association 400 A Street, NE Washington, D.C. 20003

Please Duplicate and Distribute this Questionnaire.
Meetings and Conferences

December

The National Archives will sponsor a one-day Preservation Conference on December 10, 1985 in Washington, D.C. This is the first annual conference of its kind to be held at the National Archives and it will bring together noted conservators and preservation experts. The conference is part of an effort by the newly independent National Archives and Records Administration to encourage the growing public interest in preservation of documents, photographs, and films. Pre-registration is required. The fee is $25, payable to the "National Archives Trust Fund (NS2)," Washington D.C., 20040. For further information contact Alan Calmes, Preservation Officer, (202) 523-1546 or Norvell Jones, Supervisor, Conservation, (202) 523-3360.

The Association for the Bibliography of History will hold three sessions at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association, December 27-29, 1985, in New York. The session titles are: Historical Bibliographies in Progress; Historians' and Librarians' Approaches to Research: Do They Differ? A Subject, Thesaurus for History, An Afternoon at the New York Public Library. For further information contact Charles D'Amielo, Social Sciences Bibliographer, Lockwood Memorial Library, SUNY/Buffalo, Amherst, New York 14260.

February

"The Old Order Ends: The New American Emerges" is a three-day conference in Novus Ordo Seclorum, the Bicentennial of the Constitution project of the Claremont Institute for the Study of Statesmanship and Political Philosophy. It will be held February 20-22, 1986 at Claremont, California. Thirty participants will discuss the Founders' views of the relationship between moral character and political life. Events in Novus Ordo Seclorum are free to the public. It is supported by a grant from the Bicentennial Office of the National Endowment for the Humanities and by the administrative assistance of the Political Science Department of Claremont McKenna College. For more information contact Ken Masugi, Director Bicentennial Project, The Claremont Institute, 4650 Arrow Highway, B-6, Montclair, California 91763.

March

The Fourth Annual Eastern Kentucky University History Symposium will consider "The Depression Decade in Kentucky," March 1, 1986, in the Carl D. Perkins Building of the Eastern Kentucky University. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the first session starts at 10:00 a.m. to register, send $8.00 (which includes lunch) to William E. Ellis, Department of History, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky 40475 before February 26.

April

The Eighth Charles Edmondson Historical Lectures will be delivered by Peter Gay, of Yale University, at Baylor University, April 2-3, 1986. For further information contact the History Department, Baylor University, Waco, Texas 76798.

An Advanced Seminar in North American History will be held April 14-18, 1986 at the Hotel Residence Miramare in Sestri Levante, near Genoa, Italy. The theme will be "North America in the 17th Century." The Seminar is sponsored by the Italian Committee for North American History in cooperation with the University of Pisa. Participants will be asked to attend three morning classes on: "The General Framework" (Kenneth G. Davies, Trinity College, Dublin, with Sergio Bertelli, University of Florence); "The Economy" (John McCusker, University of Maryland, with Luca Codignola, University of

Anthony Wayne

Soldier of the Early Republic

By Paul David Nelson

An exciting biography of an exciting figure. Some of his contemporaries called him rash and impetuous, a braggart and a dandy, but he proved himself one of the best and most successful military leaders of the early American republic. "A valuable addition to our knowledge of the Revolution and its aftermath." —Charles Rosset, Louisiana State University

Lincoln Finds a General

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By Kenneth P. Williams

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With over 250 photographs, Dwight Hoover has given us a fascinating portrait of Middletown in the 1920s—a time when it indeed seemed a "magic city." Published in Association with Historic Muncie, Inc.

$17.50

Religion in Indiana

A Guide to Historical Resources

By L. C. Rudolph and Judith E. Endelman

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The Guinness Book of World Records has in twelve editions listed Belle Gunness under the category "Most Prolific Murderer." Through the oral art and murderess Langlois discovers an integrated symbol system through which the community comes to various and contradictory conclusions about the deviant woman.

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Edited by Marlene Springer and Haskell Springer

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Religion in Indiana

A Guide to Historical Resources

By L. C. Rudolph and Judith E. Endelman

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Upcoming Meetings

Pisa; and "Religion and Society" (Michael McGiffert, The Institute of Early American History and Culture, with Tiziano Bonazzi, University of Bologna). The number of participants will not exceed 25-30. Applications of equal value will be processed on a first-come basis. Accepted participants may take advantage of the special registration fee of Lit. 200,000 (about $100), covering all hotel and meal expenses from the banquet of April 13 to the banquet of April 18. Applications with a short curriculum vitae and the registration fee must be sent to Luca Codignola; viale di OAH sa); and "Religion and Society" (about 234 pages. illus. $19.95)

THE RADICAL POLITICS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON
A Revisionist View
Richard K. Matteus
"This elegant and compelling book is on the leading edge of the field."—John M. Mutin, author of Colonial America. This radical new book makes a signal contribution to the literature.—Journal of American History. "This major scholarly achievement.风景

Fausold shows conclusively that the life in the Negro Leagues existing anywhere."—Donn Invisible Men: Life in the Negro Leagues. "This remarkable study will present all received ideas about Jefferson as a democratic theorist."—C. B. Macpherson, author of The Life and Times of Liberal Democracy. "Refreshing, iconoclastic, and provocative. . . . Though scholarians may disagree with it, they will have to deal with it."—Isaac Kramnick, author of Age of Ideology: Political Thought, 1750 to the Present. 184 pages. $22.50

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University Press of Kansas
329 Carruth
Lawrence KS 66045

University of Houston, University Park, Houston, Texas 77204, before November 30, 1985. The following information should be included: title of the paper or panel; name, affiliation, and address of the author(s); an abstract not exceeding one page. Those accepted will be notified by December 6.

December

The New River Gorge National River of the National Park Service and the Wytheville Community College are sponsoring the fifth annual New River Symposium, scheduled for April 17-18, 1986. The symposium will be held at the Wytheville Holiday Inn, Wytheville, Virginia. Papers for the Symposium are sought in natural history, folklore, geology, history, archeology, geography and other sciences, social sciences, and humanities. All papers should share the common theme of natural, physical, and/or human environments, or the interpretation of these. Proposals for sessions and panel discussions are also sought. Proposals are due by December 1, 1985 and should include a 250-400 word abstract for a panel review. They should be sent to William E. (Gene) Cox, National Park Service, New River Gorge National River, P.O. Box 1189, Oak Hill, West Virginia 25901.

THE TWELFTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE of the AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION will be held May 12-15, 1986 at Auckland University, New Zealand. The keynote speakers will be Robert Wiebe, Northwestern University; David Anton, University of California at San Diego; and Richard Nemmers, University of Hawaii. Participants are welcome on all aspects of American history, politics, literature, culture, and society. The deadline for papers or summaries is December 20, 1985. For more information, contact the conference coordinators: Joe Atkinson, Political Studies Department, Auckland University, Private Bag, Auckland, New Zealand.

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"A major scholarly achievement. Fausold shows conclusively that the negative and simplistic images once attached to Hoover's policies and programs must be revised."—Elia W. Hawley, author of The Great War and the Search for a Modern Order. American Presidency Series 204 pages. $22.50

University Press of Kansas
329 Carruth
Lawrence KS 66045

Write for a catalog of titles available in the American Presidency Series.
New Zealand, or Michael S. Mayer, Department of History, Auckland University, Private Bag, Auckland, New Zealand.

The Conference on New York State History will be held at the State Museum in Albany, May 30-31, 1986. Paper proposals are requested that consider the theme of the people of New York State in historical perspective. Send inquiries and abstracts before December 31, 1985 to Stefan Bielinski, Colonial Albany Social History Project, 3093 Cultural Education Center, Albany, New York 12220.

January

The Ohio Academy of History will hold its annual meeting April 19, 1986 at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio. Submit title and 100-word abstract of proposals to Erving E. Weingard, Department of History, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio 45469. The deadline is January 3, 1986.

The Claremont Institute for the Study of Statesmanship and Political Philosophy announces a call for papers for its third annual conference in its Bicentennial of the Constitution Project Novus Ordo Sequorum, "What Constitution Have I? Freedmen and Immigrants Under the New Order." This conference is scheduled for February 12-14, 1987 in Claremont, California. Possible panel topics are "The Founders' Conception of Citizenship," "The Civil War Amendments Today," "Foreign Policy and Ethnic Divisions," and "From Immigrants to Citizens." The Institute is especially interested in papers that treat their subject matter with the themes of the American political tradition, constitutional law, and political thought in mind. The Institute will provide local travel grant of $100.

The Seventeenth Annual Dakota History Conference will be held at Madison, South Dakota on the campus of Dakota State College, April 11-12, 1986. The Karl Mundt Distinguished Historical Writing Awards will be presented for the best papers. There are two categories: Professional (writer affiliated with an institution of higher education in the fields of social science, English, or history, and professional writers), and Amateur (anyone else). There will be three prizes for the best papers presented in each category. Papers should relate to some aspect of South Dakota, Dakota Territory, or the history of the Upper Great Plains Region. In addition, there will be one award on a topic: the Richard Groves Award for the best paper in military history ($100), and the Cedric Cummins award for the best paper in institutional history ($100). All papers submitted for competition must be read by the author. Papers presented will be published if desired. Deadline for submission of papers is January 31, 1986. Send papers to W.C.

February

The fourth annual meeting of the Economic History Association will be held in Hartford, Connecticut, September 26-28, 1986. Scholars are invited to send two copies of a one-page précis of the proposed paper to Professor Judith Brown, Department of History, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California 94305, by January 31, 1986.

The forty-sixth annual meeting of the Economic History Association will be held in Hartford, Connecticut, September 26-28, 1986. Scholars are invited to send two copies of a one-page précis of the proposed paper to Professor Judith Brown, Department of History, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California 94305, by January 31, 1986.

2 HISTORICAL DOCUMENTARIES

BY AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKERS

The Women of Summer

This engaging and emotionally riveting NHF film is the untold story of the Bryn Mawr Summer School for Women Workers, 1921-1935. This was a remarkable social experiment which brought blue collar women to the Seven Sisters campus for humanistic study. Produced and directed by Academy Award nominee Suzanne Bauman, with historian Rita Holzer. THE WOMEN OF SUMMER uses oral histories, archival footage, home movies, and the folk singing of Woody Guthrie and Ronnie Gilbert to evoke the School's spirit and times, the Harding to F.D.R. decades. Of particular interest to social, labor, women's and educational historians.

60min, color, 55 minutes. Purchase $850; rental $80.

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Front Line

A look at American involvement in Vietnam as seen through the eyes of Australian photojournalist Neil Davis, who spent 11 years in the war zone. Always working in dangerous circumstances to get a close look at events, Mr. Davis was tragically killed in Bangkok this fall. His trenchant observations and classic footage combine to give the Front Line record of power and impendence. Producer David Bradbury received an Academy Award nomination for this film.

60 min, color. Purchase $850; rental $80.

Available from: FILMMAKERS LIBRARY, INC.
Calls for Papers

Submit program chair. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard, which will be returned upon receipt of the proposal. The deadline for submission is February 1, 1986.

The Fifth Annual Conference on the Holocaust will be sponsored by Millersville University, April 6-7, 1986. The theme of the conference is "Resistance to the Holocaust." Organizers invite proposals for individual papers as well as complete sessions addressing any aspect of the stated theme. Deadline for submissions is February 1, 1986. Selected papers presented at the conference are eligible for publication in Volume IV of the Holocaust Studies Annual. Address inquiries to Reynold Koppel, History Department, Millersville University, Millersville, Pennsylvania 17551.

The 1986 annual meetings of the American Military Institute and the Air Force Historical Association will be held at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland, April 4-5, 1986. The theme will be Military, Naval, and Aviation medical history. Those interested in presenting a thirty-minute paper on these topics are asked to send an abstract of approximately 300 words to Robert J.T. Joy, M.D., Section of Medical History, 4301 Jones Bridge Road, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland 20814-4799. Proposal must be received by February 28, 1986. Please include a single page curriculum vitae with mailing address and telephone number.

March

The Ohio Valley History Conference will be held at Murray State University. Proposals for papers and sessions are invited in all areas of historical studies for the second annual conference. Abstracts of proposed papers (approximately 200 words) and presenters' vitae should be sent by March 15, 1986 to James Hamsack, Jr., Director, Department of History, Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky 42071.

Grants, Fellowships, & Awards

December

The American Council of Learned Societies is sponsoring a Grants-in-Aid program to provide funds in support of significant humanistic research. The grant will be available to the recipient immediately following acceptance of the award and should be spent within one year. Grants are to be used to advance specific programs of research in progress by contributing to the scholar's essential personal expenses for that purpose. These expenses may include personal travel and maintenance away from home necessary to gain access to materials, research or clerical assistance, and reproduction or purchase of materials. Awards for living expenses at home to relieve the applicant of the necessity of teaching beyond the conventional academic year will be made only in exceptional cases. Stipends will not exceed $3,000. The deadline for receipt of applications is December 15, 1985. Inquiries and requests for applications should be addressed to the Office of Fellowships and Grants, ACLS, 228 East 45th Street, New York, New York 10017.

The 1986 William Robertson Coe Fellowship program for outstanding teachers of American history will be offered in the three-week summer term June 23-July 11 at Planting Fields, Oyster Bay, Long Island, by the State University of New York at Stony Brook. The purpose of this program is to provide opportunity for teachers to increase their command of stimulating contacts with area specialists in American Studies. Concentration on reading and discussion frees the fellowship recipient for discussion of the daily three-hour seminar and for weekly, short analytical papers. The fellowships are awarded to teachers in secondary schools throughout the United States, Europe, and the Middle East who have had experience in and expect to keep teaching American Studies. Intellectual maturity, personal accomplishment, and promise as teachers are the criteria upon which the awards are based. Each fellowship, worth $1,700, consists of a stipend and a stipend of $200. Fellowships are notified on or before April 1 of their award. Applications must be received by December 15, 1985 from Martin B. Travis, Director, Coe Fellowship Program, Department of Political Science, SUNY-Stony Brook, New York 11794-4392.

Application for the Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships for 1986, administered by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, are now being accepted. Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate school in the United States and have completed all the requirements for the doctorate except the dissertation by January 1986. Stipends of $8,000 will be granted to approximately forty-five applicants whose dissertations concern some aspect of ethical or religious values. The deadline for receipt of applications is January 3, 1986. Application forms should be addressed to Beatrice Cannon Evans Biographical Archives, 428 East 45th Street, New York, New York 10017.

The Rockefeller Archive Center of Rockefeller University awards grants up to $1,500 to scholars, usually graduate students or post-doctoral scholars, who are engaged in projects that require the use of holdings at the Center. The size of individual grants will be dependent upon travel, temporary lodging, and research expenses of the applicant. Applications for the 1986 grant year must be received by December 31, 1985. Deadlines for submission of applications is December 31, 1985. Individuals wishing to apply for fellowships should outline a work schedule providing fellows with a broad range of archival administrative experience. Three institutions will be selected. Those wishing to participate as hosts should request guidelines and application forms from the Director, Rockefeller Archive Center, Pocantico Hills, North Tarrytown, New York 10591.

The David Woolley Evans and Beatrice Cannon Evans Biography Award, sponsored by Brigham Young University, will award a prize of $10,000 for a distinguished biography of any person significant in the culture or history of what may be called Mormon country. (Mormon country is regarded as extending throughout the Intermountain West of the United States, but also includes Southern Canada and Northern Mexico.) It is, moreover, an intellectual concept embracing...
individuals in any geographic locale who may be significant to the rise or development of Mormonism. If manuscripts are submitted, they should be book-length and ready for publication. If books are submitted, they should have been published during 1984. All authors, regardless of religious affiliation, are invited to submit entries. Entries are not limited to Mormon subjects. Manuscripts may be mailed to William E. Warner, Department of History, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602 before December 31, 1985.

Applications are accepted for the T. Wistar Brown Fellowship at Haverford College for the academic years 1986-87. Fellows spend one or two semesters at Haverford College doing research in the Quaker collection of the library and in nearby special collections. The fellowship is usually awarded to mature scholars and the stipend is $10,000. Letters of inquiry may be directed to the Office of the Provost, Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania 19041. Deadline for application is December 31, 1985.

UCLA's Institute of American Cultures, in cooperation with the University's four ethnic centers, offers graduate and postdoctoral fellowships to support study of African-Americans, Asian Americans, Chicanos, or American Indians. The stipend for the graduate fellowship is $5,000 per year plus registration fees and out-of-state tuition if applicable. Postdoctoral fellowships range from $20,000 to $25,000 per year. Postdoctoral fellowships can be awarded for less than a year, in which case the stipend is adjusted to the length of the award; postdoctoral fellowships can be used to supplement sabbatical salaries. The final date for submitting applications is December 31, 1985. For further information and applications, contact the fellowship director of the appropriate ethnic center at UCLA: Center for Afro-American Studies, 3111 Campbell Hall; Asian American Studies Center, 3232 Campbell Hall; Chicano Studies Research Center, 3121 Campbell Hall; American Indian Studies Center, 3220 Campbell Hall; UCLA, Los Angeles, California 90024.

THE MISSISSIPPI HISTORICAL SOCIETY announces the McLemore Prize of $700 to be awarded for a distinguished scholarly book on a topic in Mississippi history or folklore published during 1985. Published works only will be eligible; unpublished manuscripts will not be considered. Works should be well researched in a scholarly manner, in a form that includes a dissertation and bibliography. Works of original scholarship will be given precedence over edited works. Four copies of submitted books should be sent by January 1, 1986 to the McLemore Prize, Box 571, Jackson, Mississippi 39205. Questions should be directed to William E. Farrish, Department of History, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762.

The United States Army Military History Institute (USAMHI) will award approximately six Advanced Research Grants for 1986. Each grant carries a stipend of $750 with travel and living costs while conducting research in the USAMHI library, archives, and special collections. Applications must be submitted by December 31, 1985. Stipends are given to scholars at the graduate or postgraduate level pursuing topics in the field of military history. Although the USAMHI is interested in significant research in all fields of military history, it is particularly interested in U.S. and foreign operational level doctrine, combat operations, training, logistical and organizational systems, as well as research into command and leadership. The application deadline for grants is January 1, 1986. For information and applications contact: Assistant Director for Historical Services, U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania 17010-5008.

The Mississippi Historical Society announces the McLemore Prize of $700 to be awarded for a distinguished scholarly book on a topic in Mississippi history or folklore published during 1985. Published works only will be eligible; unpublished manuscripts will not be considered. Works should be well researched in a scholarly manner, in a form that includes a dissertation and bibliography. Works of original scholarship will be given precedence over edited works. Four copies of submitted books should be sent by January 1, 1986 to the McLemore Prize, Box 571, Jackson, Mississippi 39205. Questions should be directed to William E. Farrish, Department of History, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762.

The National Research Council will administer the Ford Foundation Doctoral Fellowships for Minorities program, which offers forty-three graduate predoctoral fellowships and ten one-year dissertation fellowships to American Indians or Alaskan Natives (Skimo or Aleut), Black Americans, Mexican Americans/Chicanos, and Puerto Ricans. Designed to increase the presence of underrepresented minorities on the nation's college and university faculties, these fellowships will provide higher education opportunities for members of these four minority groups that are most severely underrepresented in the nation's Ph.D. population, the pool from which colleges and universities select their faculties. Fellowships will be tenable at any accredited nonprofit United States institution of higher education offering Ph.D.s or Sc.D.s in the fields eligible for support in this program. Each predoctoral fellowship will include an annual stipend of $10,000 to the fellow, and an annual institutional grant of $6,000 to the fellowship institution in lieu of tuition and fees. Dissertation Fellows will receive a stipend of $18,000 for the twelve-month tenure with no institutional grant. The deadline for entering the fellowship competition is January 15, 1985. All inquiries concerning applications, materials, and program administration should be addressed to the Fellowship Office, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20560.

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association announces its eighth annual Hoover Presidential Fellowship and Grant Competition. Under the program, the Association NOW IN PAPERBACK FROM THE AMERICAN SYSTEM TO MASS PRODUCTION, 1800-1932 THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY IN THE UNITED STATES David A. Hounshell

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offers research support on a competitive basis to scholars and others conducting original investigations into the personal and public careers of President Hoover and into national public policy during the Hoover Period, 1921-33. Awards range to a maximum of $10,000 annually and are renewable. Priority is given to projects that use the primary resources of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and which have the highest probability for publication. Deadline for receipt of applications is January 31, 1986. To obtain applications write: Chair, Fellowship and Grant Committee, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association, Inc., P.O. Box 696, West Branch, Iowa 52358.

February

The Department of History, University of Texas at Arlington, announces the 1986 Webb-Smith Essay Competition, a $500 award for the best essay of 10,000 words or fewer on the topic "The History of North American Discovery." The winning essay will be submitted for publication as part of volume twenty-one of the Walter Prescott Webb Memorial Lectures Series published by Texas A & M University Press. Manuscripts for 1986 judging must be submitted by February 1, 1986. For submission forms and additional information, write the Walter Prescott Webb Memorial Lectures Committee, Department of History, Box 19529, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas 76019.

The John Carter Brown Library, an independently managed research institution at Brown University, offers about twelve short-term fellowships each year, extending from one to four months. These fellowships are open to foreign nationals as well as Americans and to scholars engaged in pre- or postdoctoral, or independent, research related to the resources of the Library. The monthly stipend for these short-term fellowships is $800. In addition, the Library offers either two six-month or one twelve-month NEH fellowships each year, with an annual stipend of $27,000 or a six-month stipend of $13,750. The NEH fellowship(s) is restricted to United States citizens engaged in postdoctoral research. Recipients of all fellowships are expected to be in regular residence at the Library and to participate in the intellectual life of Brown University. The Library is particularly strong in printed materials, both European and American, relating to discovery, exploration, settlement, and development of North and South America before 1800. The deadline for applications is January 1, 1986. For further information and application forms, write to the Director, John Carter Brown Library, Box 1894, Providence, Rhode Island 02912.

The American Historical Association is sponsoring three grants or fellowships for 1986. The Albert J. Beveridge Grants for Research in Western Hemisphere History will be awarded in the spring of 1986. These grants, not to exceed $1,000, are intended to further research in progress. Applications are due by February 1, 1986, and applicants must be members of the AHA. The AHA is also helping to sponsor postdoctoral fellowships in aerospace history. This fellowship, supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), will extend from February 1986 to 1991. The first fellow will be selected in the spring of 1986 and will begin work in the fall. The fellow will be engaged in advanced research in the areas of NASA-related history of science, engineering, management, or policy. Research may be conducted at NASA headquarters or at various NASA centers. The AHA will administer the program with the cooperation of the Society for the History of Technology, the History of Science Society, and the Economic History Association, each of which will supply a member of the selection committee. The stipend is expected to be about $23,000 for twelve months, with a generous moving and travel allowance. The deadline for the 1986-87 Fellowship is February 1, 1986. In addition, the AHA is accepting applications for the J. Franklin Jameson Fellowship for 1986-87, offered annually by the AHA and the Library of Congress to support significant scholarly research in the history of the collections of the Library by young scholars. The stipend is $15,000 for one semester, or longer if the fellow desires. Application deadline is March 15, 1986. Further information and application forms may be obtained by writing to the office of the Executive Director, AHA, 400 A Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

The Hagley Museum and Library in cooperation with the University of Delaware jointly sponsor The Hagley Program in the History of Industrial America, a two-year or four-year program leading either to an M.A. or a Ph.D. degree for professionals in various areas such as business historians, philosophers, labor historians, as professionals in museums and historical agencies or as college teachers. The Hagley Program's academic focus is on the social history of American industrialization. Within a wide-ranging history program, Hagley Fellows study the context and consequences of economic and technological change brought by industrialization, including its impact on the lives of American workers. Financial aid consisting of a stipend of $5,900 for the first year and $6,300 for the second year, full tuition, and a small travel fund is available. In addition, an allowance of $1,200 is available for married students with dependent children. These awards are renewable for a maximum of three years. Deadline for application is February 1, 1986, for the academic year 1986-87. For further information write Brian Greenberg, Coordinator, The Hagley Program of Industrial America, The Hagley Museum and Library, P.O. Box 800, Wilmington, Delaware 19807.

The Berkshire Conference of Women Historians will award its annual prize for the best book and the best article in any field of history written by an American woman and published during 1985. Submissions for the book award should be sent to Anne Russ, Wells College, Aurora, New York 13026; and for the article award to Margaret Darrow, History Department, South- muth College, Hanover, New Hampshire 03755. Two copies of the book or article are required. Deadline for submission is February 15, 1986.

The University of Florida's Graduate School Monographs in the Social Sciences announces a publications awards competition. The editorial committee is searching for unpublished works of the highest quality on any theoretical and/or empirical social science topic.

The Salvation Army

Farm Colonies

Clark C. Spence

This story of intentional communities in Colorado, Ohio, and California combines agricultural, social, religious, and political history. Spence researched public records and Salvation Army archives to produce the first accurate account of a project which, while doomed to failure, nevertheless strengthened the Army's public image.

176 pages. illus. $19.95.

Yellowstone

A Wilderness Besieged

Richard A. Bartlett

"A stunning, provocative look at the life and times of the Yellowstone visitor, manager, and concessionaire... . This is the best and latest account of Yellowstone National Park." (Alfred Huston) 437 pages. illus. $24.95.

The Indian Rights Association

The Herbert Welsh Years, 1882-1904

William T. Hagan

Draws on IRA archives to reveal not only the lobbying efforts of the association over several administrations but also the variety of problems facing the tribes on whose behalf the IRA intervened.

311 pages. illus. $21.95.

University of Arizona Press

1615 E. Speedway, Tucson, AZ 85719
The Arkansas Women's History Institute announces the Susie Pryor Award for the best unpublished essay or article in Arkansas women's history. The award carries a $1,000 prize and will be given for the first time at the 1986 meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association as a feature of Arkansas' Sesquicentennial celebration. Manuscripts should be no longer than thirty-five pages, should be typed, double-spaced, and should include documentation. Manuscripts will be judged on the basis of their contribution to the knowledge of women in Arkansas history; judicious use of primary and secondary materials; creative interpretation and originality; and stylistic excellence. Submissions (sent in triplicate) and requests for manuscript requirements should be sent to Betty Overton, Graduate School, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204. All entries must be postmarked no later than February 15, 1986.

March

The Jamestowne Society will award an annual fellowship in the amount of $1,000 for support of the completion of a master's thesis or essay on the history and culture of Virginia before 1700. Applicants may be candidates for the master's degree in any relevant discipline as long as their research is devoted exclusively or, at the very least, substantially to colonial Virginia before 1700. Applicants should submit a brief resume, a proposal outlining the thesis topic and plans for bringing it to a conclusion, and a brief writing sample to the Institute of Early American History and Culture, P.O. Box 270, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187 by March 1, 1986. They should also ask three persons, two of whom have taught them on the graduate level, to write letters of reference. For further information, write the Jamestowne Society Fellowship Program, P.O. Box 14523, Richmond, Virginia 23221.

The National Endowment for the Humanities has announced that fifty-six seminars for teachers at undergraduate and two-year colleges will be offered during the summer of 1986 at twenty-eight different institutions across the United States, and two in Italy. These seminars deal with a rich variety of topics central to the humanities and will provide teachers the opportunities both to work with a distinguished scholar and colleagues in an area of mutual interest and to pursue individual study and research. Each of the twelve participants will receive a stipend of $3,000 to help cover travel to and from the seminar location, books, and research and living expenses.

Copies of the brochure describing the content of each seminar are available from the Division of Fellowships and Seminars, Room 316, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C. 20506. The application deadline is March 1, 1986.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) will offer one to three history fellowships in 1986, depending on the level of funds available. Partial funding will be provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Successful candidates will receive a stipend of $15,000, plus $3,000 toward fringe benefits and other expenses and will spend ten months at a documentary publication project. Participating projects are The Papers of Albert Gallatin (Baruch College of the City University of New York), The Papers of the Black Abolitionists (Florida State University, Tallahassee), and The Papers of William Thornton (The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.). Applicants should hold a Ph.D. or have completed all requirements for the doctorate except dissertation requirements.
the dissertation. Further information and application forms are available from the NHPRC, Room 300, National Archives Building, Washington, D.C. 20408. Application deadline is March 15, 1986.

The fifteenth annual Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents is June 15-27, 1986, in Madison, Wisconsin. Jointly sponsored by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, and the University of Wisconsin, the institute will provide detailed theoretical and practical instruction in documentary editing. Applicants should hold a master's degree in history or American civilization. A limited number of tuition and travel grants are available. Further information and application forms are available from NHPRC, Room 300, National Archives Building, Washington, D.C. 20408. Application deadline in March 15, 1986.

The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations is seeking nominations for the Norman and Laura Graebner Award for 1986. The award is to be made to a senior historian of United States foreign relations whose achievements in the fields of scholarship, teaching, and government or community service have contributed most significantly to the fuller understanding of American diplomatic history. Nominations should be submitted to Richard Dean Burns, Center for the Study of Armanent and Disarmament, California State University—Los Angeles, 5151 State University Drive, Los Angeles, California 90032.

The Louis Pelzer Award will be given by the Organization of American Historians for the best essay in American history by a graduate student. The winning essay will appear in the Journal of American History, and the author will receive $500, a medal, and a certificate. The author must be enrolled in a graduate program at any level, in any field. Entries should not exceed 7,500 words and should be mailed to the office of the Journal of American History, Ballantine Hall 702, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47405. The deadline is January 1, 1986.

Sacramento History Center: Present Meets the Past

A red brick reconstruction of the 1854 Sacramento City Hall and Waterworks Building houses a series of white and chrome and glass galleries. Visitors punch into computerized video monitors calling up photos of people who lived before the telephone was invented. This spectacular juxtaposition of old and new in the Sacramento History Center, a $5.5 million, 20,000 square-foot museum that opened August 3 in Old Sacramento.

Photographs and plans of the 1854 building helped architects to re-create its dignified exterior on the original site by the banks of the Sacramento River. The building evokes the heady air of the mid-1800s: the great wealth and, sometimes, heartbreak of the Gold Rush; the newly planted shade trees and social life of a young town; the perils of flood and fire; and the politics of statehood, railways, commerce, and agriculture.

Yet the twentieth century is never far away. The flashing computer screens, films, and animated exhibits all serve to remind the visitor that the story of the "Great Valley" is an ongoing adventure. The exhibits are set up to encourage people to become involved with history instead of staring and walking by. In the lobby, the visitor is greeted by Frank Carson's huge mural, inspired by the Center's thousands of antique and modern photographs. Moving on, an orientation film explains the museum's set-up and provides a mini-tour of the galleries.

Once in the galleries, visitors are encouraged to follow up their own particular interests by calling up films and information at the easy-to-use video stations.

The collections, too, are a mix of the old and new, divided into four galleries. The Community Gallery includes examples of household appliances, fashions, furnishings, and other necessities of yesterday and today, focusing on how people in this region lived at home, work, and as members of their communities. A major part of this gallery is devoted to the stories of the diverse cultures that settled this area. The histories of American Indians, Mexicans, Russians, Chinese, and twenty-two other ethnic groups are portrayed vividly through photographs, diaries, newspapers, and other materials that can be viewed on the touch-operated video screens.

The Topomorphology Gallery also highlights human activities, but here the emphasis is on interaction with the environment. Exhibits, graphics, films, and computer video games illustrate and interpret humans' effect on the local flora and fauna as well as how we have changed the topography, geological resources, and other parts of the environment. For instance, the grizzly bear, beaver, and giant oak populations have shrunk significantly in this region because of human activities, while eucalyptus trees, domesticated animals, and many new agricultural plants have been introduced and flourished. Gold extraction, quarrying, agriculture, commerce, urbanization, and new forms of transportation have altered radically the shape of our land and rivers; artifacts such as the Bank of America's collection of gold specimens illustrate and explain the evolution of our activities on the land.

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Farming, ranching, and food processing have formed a major part of the Valley's economy in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and have affected the land, waterways, and atmosphere equally. Photos, text, and video programs in the Agricultural Technology Gallery tell the story of agriculture in Sacramento: early crop experimentation, ambitious flood control, reclamation and irrigation projects, the growth and concerns of itinerant farm laboring populations, the new age of mechanization and chemical control and the development of farming's companion industries—food processing and transportation. Artifacts and exhibits include an operating canning line that snakes along the gallery ceiling and a re-creation of a 1920s Delta kitchen, set up for home canning.

The fourth gallery is named for the donor of most of its contents, Eleanor McClatchy. The collections reflect McClatchy's diverse interests, including early California newspapers, antique printing presses, Gold Rush-era theater programs, sixteenth-century maps, and many other items relating to the history of printing and theater. The entrance to the gallery is a reconstruction of the original entrance to the Sacramento Bee building, using many reclaimed materials and decorations that graced the structure.

Only a portion of the Center's entire collection of treasures can be displayed at one time, but permanent and rotating exhibits and computer technology give access to thousands of artifacts and archival materials. These diaries, baby carriages, maps, and machines are reminders of the human aspirations and energies that shaped the Sacramento Valley. When a visitor leaves the History Center, he or she will have a sense of the connections between yesterday's dreams and today's.

The Sacramento History Center is located at 101 I Street, Old Sacramento (next to the State Railroad Museum). Center hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week. There is an entrance fee, but organized school groups may arrange for free admission.

Activities of Members

David M. Ellis, P.V. Rogers Professor of History Emeritus at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, has been awarded the 1985 Kerr History Prize by the New York Historical Association for his article, "Whitestown: From Yankee Outpost to Cradle of Reform." The $1,000 prize is awarded annually for the best article appearing in the Association's quarterly journal, New York History.

Eugene Genovese, who has taught at the University of Rochester since 1969, has been appointed Distinguished Professor of Arts and Science in recognition of his outstanding record of teaching and scholarship. Genovese, author of the prize-winning Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made and several other highly acclaimed works, was president of the Organization of American Historians in 1979.

Sally F. Griffith, assistant professor at Villanova University, was awarded the Allan Nevins Prize of the Society of American Historians for her dissertation, "Home Town News: William Allen White and the Emporia Gazette."

Linda K. Kerber, May Brodebeck Professor of Liberal Arts at the University of Iowa, delivered the Patten Foundation Lectures at Indiana University in October. The titles of her lectures were: "Can a Highly Pluralistic, Segregated Society be an Individual? Women and Individualism in American History" and "History Will Do It No Justice": Women and the Reinterpretation of the American Revolution."


Bruce M. Stave, professor of history and director of The Center for Oral History at the University of Connecticut, has been appointed Chair of the history department at Connecticut, assuming these duties upon his return from a year as Fulbright Professor at Beijing University in the People's Republic of China.

Winifred D. Wanderssee, associate professor of history at Hartwick College, has been awarded a grant from the Radcliffe Research Support Program. She will do research on the topic "Redefining American Women: The Decade of the Seventies" in the holdings of the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America and the Henry A. Murray Research Center of Radcliffe College.

James C. Williams was hired as the new director of the California History Center and Foundation, located on the De Anza College campus in Cupertino, California. Williams holds a Ph.D. in Public History from the University of California, Santa Barbara and has been chair of the steering committee for the California Committee for the Promotion of History during the past year.

The Grant Committee of the Rockefeller Archive Center has awarded research grants to the following members of the OAH: Alexa A. Hand, University of Chicago; Laura Smith Porter, Princeton University; Marcia C. Snydott, University of South Carolina; and Wayne J. Urban, Georgia State University.

The Forest History Society, Inc. announced that William G. Robbins, Department of History at Oregon State University, has won the $150 Weyerhaeuser Award for the best article in the Journal of Forest History during 1984. Also, Thomas B. Dunlap, Department of History at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, has been named winner of the $150 Blegen Award for the best article in the Journal of Forest History during 1984.

The American Council of Learned Societies has awarded fellowships to the following OAH members: Catherine

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1940 to 1980

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Maryland has long called itself "America in miniature," but George Callcott brings striking new significance to the phrase by exploring the multitude of ways in which the state provides a microcosm of the forces that have shaped the nation since the Great Depression. MARYLAND AND AMERICA is a highly readable account of political personalities, population shifts, and cultural evolutions. The theme of the book, writes the author, "is the suburbanization, bureaucratization, and modernization of America as it occurs in Maryland, transforming politics, culture, and way of life." It is not local history at all, but a case study of our times. 228 pages, $27.50 with 50 halftones.

The American Council of Learned Societies has awarded these OAH members Grants-in-Aid for postdoctoral research in the humanities and related social sciences. Virginia Bernhard, professor of history, University of St. Thomas: A comparative study of slavery in Bermuda and Virginia. Sally A. McMurry, assistant professor of history, Penn State University: Culture and agriculture in nineteenth-century America: cheesemaking in Oneida County, New York, 1835-1875.

The National Archives recently established a new Legislative Archives Division to accession, preserve, and provide reference to the records of Congress. B. Michael McReynolds is the Director of the Division, and David R. Kepley is the Chief of the Legislative Reference Branch. Charles E. South is the Chief of the Legislative Projects Branch.

The Zamorano Index To History Of California
By Hubert Howe Bancroft

This important two-volume work unlocks the contents of Bancroft's seven-volume History of California, published in San Francisco, 1884-1890. In addition to indexing the 5063 pages encompassed in this monumental work, The Zamorano Index also indexes the "Pioneer Register" found in installments at the end of volumes II through V. Compiled by members of the Zamorano Club, a long-time Los Angeles book collectors organization, and edited by Anna Marie and Everett Gordon Hager, The Zamorano Index runs to over 900 pages, conveniently split into two volumes. Designed to be a companion to the original publication, the two-volume set measures 6¼ x 9¼. It is printed in readable Schoolbook type on quality paper and bound in a sturdy binding. Priced at $125.00 per set, plus postage/handling and California sales tax (where applicable), this highly useful index to Bancroft's History of California may be ordered from

Bancroft Index, LAS/ADM 200, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-4012. Available December 1985.

The Junior Year at Douglass Program in Women's Studies

The Junior Year at Douglass Program in Women's Studies (Douglass College, New Brunswick, New Jersey) is now entering its third year. During this time, students from colleges around the country have come to Douglass for a year of intensive study about women's lives; they have found Douglass to be a supportive environment and the community that chose Women's Studies at Douglass for their junior year.

The Program Director is now accepting applications for the 1986-87 academic year. Students can apply for financial aid, and some scholarship funds are available. Participants in the program can take course work in Women's Studies as well as courses they need to complete a major or minor requirement at their home institution. In addition, students can undertake either a research project or an internship placement.

Special career planning workshops for Women's Studies students are available during the fall semester. The workshops offer participants the opportunity to discuss employment options and to look at job survival skills for Women's Studies graduates. The workshop include junior year students as well as regularly enrolled Women's Studies students. As part of the project, career focus booklets were created: one for English and other communications fields, and another one for students in the social sciences. A career focus booklet for students in mathematics and the sciences is being developed. These booklets are used as texts for the workshops.

The students who come to Douglass all have the opportunity to meet with scholars in the field and to attend special lectures and conferences that are held at Douglass throughout the academic year. In addition to being the home of Women's Studies at Rutgers University-New Brunswick, Douglass also houses the Center for the American Woman and Politics. The holder of the state- endowed Chair in Women's Studies also has her/his office at Douglass. Allison Jaggar, a feminist philosopher from the University of Cincinnati, is the current Chair. In the spring of 1986, Carol Gilligan, a feminist developmental psychologist at Harvard University, will arrive on campus as the second Chair.

For a brochure about the program and an application packet, write to the Director, Ellen P. Mappen, Douglass College, Voorhees Chapel, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903.
Readers’ Responses

Editor:

Lana Ruegamer’s article on historical societies and professional historians (OAH Newsletter, August 1985) contains some egregious errors on the Massachusetts Historical Society.

The author writes that the Society “collects relatively little, basking in the rich glow of a substantial endowment and an incomparable collection of books and manuscripts relating to early American history and assembled for the most part in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.”

The facts are these. The pre-1900 collection comprises only a small portion of our holdings. For decades, we have maintained an active collecting policy aimed at acquiring high quality manuscripts and rare books. Since February of 1984, for example, nearly 600 shelf feet of manuscripts have been acquired. Since 1965, the size of the collections has nearly doubled. A six-story wing added to the premises in 1970, chiefly devoted to stacks for books and manuscripts, is nearly filled to capacity, and plans are currently being drawn for still another structure that will accommodate anticipated growth in the collections. “Basking”? Hardly!

As for our “substantial endowment,” thirteen million dollars may be substantial by standards, but it would be a petty cash fund at the J. Paul Getty Museum. “Modest” would be a more accurate description.

The author writes that we have 155 members. At this writing, we have 298 members (171 Resident and 127 Corresponding).

Finally, the author’s stress on the exclusive character of the Society (“an exclusive club”) gives the impression that it exists solely for its members. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Since the early twentieth century, this has been an “open” Society. Untold thousands of graduate students and scholars have conducted research here—and free of charge, I might add. Indeed, our main mission as an institution is to service the needs of American historical scholarship. In fairness, your readers should be informed of this.

Louis Leonard Tucker Director, Massachusetts Historical Society

Editor:

I fear that the way my article on historical societies was cut leaves an impression quite opposed to the message of the original text. Far from justifying the academic historians’ traditional contempt for their historical society counterparts, the essay I submitted protests this attitude fairly strenuously.

Among the omitted sentences were these: “After acknowledging that historical societies have not produced the greatest names among historians, it seems unjust and mean that the part of the profession that produced Parman, Beard, and Turner cannot muster a due respect for the part of the profession that produced Draper, Jameson, and Thwaites. It is time the historical society historians came in from the cold.”

I regret too that Peter Varpat’s name was omitted from those whose assistance I acknowledged.

Having complained, it is now my turn to apologize. Mr. Tucker has caught me in a significant error about MHS’s collections, based on five-year-old research and faulty inference. Before Stephen T. Riley’s summary in the 1980 Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society (Boston, 1981), it had been more than twenty years since the society had offered a general description of the growth of its holdings (at least for the general public. Stephen Thomas Riley: The Years of His Stewardship, published by the society in 1976 on the occasion of Riley’s retirement, may offer a review of twentieth-century collections; in any event, however, since it was published in a limited edition, presumably for members and friends, and is not available in my region of the country, according to OCLC,

Editors:

Two points worry me about Lana Ruegamer’s article “Historical Societies and Professional Historians” in the OAH Newsletter of August 1985, delivered to me in mid-September. The first is the apparent lack of any editorial input. As a life member of OAH and a “constant reader” of your pages, I was pleased to see the grand old house of the Massachusetts Historical Society depicted on your cover and eagerly began to read the Ruegamer article. I quickly reached the conclusion that the author was out of touch with reality and I felt confirmed in this opinion when I read her inaccurate remarks about the Massachusetts Historical Society and noted her failure to consider as part of her analysis the presence of three or more major historical societies and several other historical collections in Boston proper.

Well as the profusion of excellent local societies, libraries, and museums throughout Greater Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Others closer to the scene than I will be quick to point out obvious errors. I wish merely to record that one’s faith in your editorial influence on authors dropped to a low point.

My second comment is that judging by her remarks about the Massachusetts Historical Society, Lana Ruegamer has not dug very deeply, and her article left at least one reader with a strong impression of easygoing superficiality. But of course this reader is only a private scholar (“self-appointed guardian of the communal memory”) and not a professional like your author.

William Bentzine-Smith
Groton, Massachusetts

The History of Science Society is proud to announce a new series of Osiris. Columbia University’s Robert K. Merton, whose pathbreaking “Science, Society, and Religion in Seventeenth-Century England” was published in the first series of Osiris, calls the new series, “a must for every research library and every serious student of the history of science.”

Edited by Arnold Thackray, Osiris will present major themes and research of wide interest to the history of science community.

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Meanwhile one may assume it was not frequent emphasis on the more modest growth than has acquisitions come in the tended as a public statement.)

gifts from members and usual American understanding 175 residents of Massachusetts museum founded by one of the historical society in the occurred.

American historical societies ability to choose members and is not open to all interested does not choose to compare his the former

to such bounteous construal that the Mas­

than that of all but a handful American history. It would have described 13 of the Massachusetts

qualified researchers. I con­


time after the appearance of that study. After the development of the movement, some of the reasons for professional historians to concern them­

selves about these matters. For such a wide-ranging topic as this, I was of course heavily dependent upon secondary sources. I regret that in the case of the Massachusetts Historical Society this reli­

cence led me to base articles. I read with considerable interest the article in the May 1985 issue of the OAH Newsletter entitled "Museum Exhibits: Breathing the Silence" by Barbara Melosh. I thoroughly agree with the sentiments of the author that more serious critical attention.

It might interest your readers to know that Winterthur Portfolio: A Journal of American Material Culture, of which I am editor, commissioned a series of exhibition reviews last year. The first such review was published in the spring 1985 issue of that journal. Written by Charles Carpenter, it is a ten-page illustrated review of "Design Since 1945," an exhibition held at the Philadelphia Museum of Art from October 1983 to January 1984. The summer/autumn issue of the journal reviews a major exhibition at the Atlanta Historical Society entitled "Next Pieces: The Plain-Style Furniture of Nineteenth-Century Georgia." Two examples of forthcoming exhibition reviews are "Where Two Worlds Meet: The Great Lakes Fur Trade" at the Minnesota Historical Society and "Made in Maine" at the Maine State Museum.

Cary Carson of Colonial Williamsburg has been especially helpful in obtaining reviews of exhibitions in history museums. As a historian working in a history museum, he too feels the need for critical appraisals of exhibitions that purport to teach history. Both of us feel that too much money and work goes into major exhibitions for the sponsoring institutions and staff not to have the benefit of informed critiques. As Ms. Melosh noted, the audience for many of these exhibitions is far larger than the limited number of historians who read the professional literature.

When we decided that it was important for this journal to provide detailed exhibition reviews, I prepared the following guidelines that may be of interest to your readers.

EXHIBITION REVIEWS

From time to time, this journal will publish thoughtful reviews of museum exhibitions that contribute to the study of material culture. Most of the same criteria for form and content as described in [our] "Notes for Book Reviewers" also apply to reviews of museum exhibits. The reviewer should assume that the reader has not seen the exhibit and may not have the opportunity to do so—even after reading the review. For this reason, it is essential that the reviewer provide a thorough explanation of the exhibition and as much background information as possible. Determine the objectives of the exhibit and evaluate how well—or poorly—those objectives have been achieved. Finally, is the exhibition a contribution to knowledge? If
Black Studies Research Sources: Microfilms from Major Archival and Manuscript Collections
General Editors: August Meier and Elliott Rudwick

BLACK AMERICANS IN THE WORLD WAR I AND POSTWAR ERA

The First World War and the years that followed were a watershed in the history of black Americans. It was a period of rising black militancy and marked the beginning of the large-scale migration of blacks to the North that had vast implications for politics, economics, ghettoization, and civil rights. In addition, the wartime and immediate postwar era was a time of particularly intense interracial violence. The three archival collections described below—vast files on federal surveillance of black protest leaders and movements; the court records and Congressional hearings about the infamous 1917 East St. Louis race riot; and the wide-ranging selection of documents from the National Archives on black workers during the Great Migration—provide researchers with an impressive body of sources illuminating these developments in the history of black Americans.

FEDERAL SURVEILLANCE OF AFRO-AMERICANS (1917-1925):
The First World War, the Red Scare, and the Garvey Movement
Edited by Theodore Kornweibel, Jr., Professor of Afro-American Studies, San Diego State University

Historians and others are indebted to these intelligence records for recording the true depth and scope of the Black Scare that swept America during the World War I era and after. They have the potential of changing the writing of twentieth-century Afro-American history.

—Dr. Robert A. Hill, Editor
The Bureau Garvey Papers
African Studies Center, UCLA

The entry of the United States into the First World War precipitated a dramatic increase in government surveillance of American citizens. The surveillance system included the military, the postal service, and above all the Justice Department’s Bureau of Investigation, forerunner of the FBI. Among the chief subjects of the domestic spying operation were black Americans, whose collective aspirations and demands were on the rise. This confluence of wartime (East, later, Red Scare) surveillance with black assertiveness is comprehensively demonstrated in this important new documentary collection.

During World War I and later, the manifold grievances of Afro-Americans were feared to offer a seedbed for enemy or radical subversion. Wholly apart from any foreign influence, however, vocal elements among the black intelligentsia, clergy, and press had begun to insist that their support for the war to preserve European democracy result in more democratic attitudes toward blacks at home. Stimulated by wartime rhetoric, black draftsmen were led to believe that their military service would earn them the full privileges of citizenship. Meanwhile, black immigrants to urban industrial centers began to abandon traditional roles and appeared receptive to the arguments of race radicals and nationalists.

At the center of this collection are the enormous surveillance files of the Department of Justice’s Bureau of Investigation under Directors A. Bruce Bielaski, William J. Flynn, William J. Burns, and their young and able assistant, J. Edgar Hoover. After the Bureau of Investigation files, the most significant black surveillance records are those of the Army’s Military Intelligence Division, which was the principal competitor to Hoover’s General Intelligence Division in the field of antiradicalism. Along with the records of the Bureau of Investigation and the Military Intelligence Division, eight other record groups have been utilized in an effort to present a comprehensive picture of federal surveillance. These include records of the Department of State, the U.S. Shipping Board, the Census Office of the U.S. Postal Service, the Department of Justice, the Panama Canal Commission, the Office of Naval Intelligence, and the U.S. District and Circuit Courts of Appeal.

Ordering Information
Federal Surveillance of Afro-Americans (1917-1925):
The First World War, the Red Scare, and the Garvey Movement
35mm microfilm (25 reels) with printed guide.

BLACK WORKERS IN THE ERA OF THE GREAT MIGRATION, 1916–1929
Edited by James Grossman, Assistant Professor of History, University of Chicago

Making formerly inaccessible resources available, and exhausitive in scope, this collection is an indispensable research aid for all students in American labor history, but especially those concerned with the black experience. My work would have been immeasurably enriched had it been in existence when I carried out my research.

—Dr. St. Clair Drake
Professor Emeritus
Stamford University

The First World War, known as the Era of the Great Migration to students of the Afro-American experience, saw a dramatic black migration from the rural South to urban centers in the industrialized North. Although many factors were involved, the acute labor shortage which plagued basic industries encouraged thousands of black families to make this transition "from plantation to ghetto." In doing so, they transformed the traditionally southern issue of race relations into a national issue.

The First World War was also an era of dramatically expanded government control over the national economy. Several basic industries vital to the war effort fell under federal control, including coal mining, shipping, and railroads. Many other things remained under the constant attention of the Department of War. A National War Labor Board was established to mediate labor disputes in industries having even a remote connection to the war effort. Since this coincided with the northward migration of black workers and their families, the records compiled by these wartime agencies focus with panoramic scope both on the operations and labor conditions of interwar vital industries and on black workers. Now, Black Workers in the Era of the Great Migration, 1916–1929 provides researchers with a wide compilation of these primary sources.

Ordering Information
Black Workers in the Era of the Great Migration,
1916–1929.
35mm microfilm (22 reels) with printed guide.

THE EAST ST. LOUIS RACE RIOT OF 1917
Edited by Elliott Rudwick, Professor of History and Sociology, Kent State University

The importance to researchers of this collection is enormous. It is a very welcome addition to the corpus of early twentieth-century documents on Afro-American demography, economics, and society.

—Dr. David Levering Lewis
Martin Luther King, Jr., Chair
Rutgers University
Author of King: A Biography

The East St. Louis race riot of 1917 took more lives than any other interracial conflict in twentieth-century America. Thirty-nine blacks and nine whites are known to have died, and hundreds of others were maimed as blue collar whites vented racial prejudice and economic frustration on a section of the East St. Louis black community. Not only does this riot exhibit all of the major traits common to most race riots before the 1960s, but it is the most extensively documented. Because of its shocking nature and its occurrence amid the deep racial tensions of the World War I era, public officials and private interests conducted several full-scale investigations into the disturbance, its causes, and the inability of public law enforcement to stem the destruction. The several panels of inquiry involved closed their records to public access until years after the war because the information they uncovered was so sensitive. All of the valuable documentation on the riot is now available for the first time in our new collection.

• Proceedings of the Board of Inquiry into the Conduct of Illinois National Guardsmen.
• Transcript of People vs. LeRoy Bundy, with decision of the Illinois Supreme Court overturning the conviction of black community leader LeRoy Bundy in connection with conspiring to incite to riot.
• Encouragement to U.S. congressional hearings, including photographs, labor union bulletins, grand jury reports, and a petition from the people of East St. Louis demanding change in the police department.
• Report upon the Conduct of Officers and Men: Illinois National Guard on Duty at East St. Louis, July 2, 1917.
• U.S. Congress: "Select Committee to Investigate Conditions in Illinois and Missouri Interfering with Interstate Commerce between these States" (23 unbound volumes).

Ordering Information
The East St. Louis Race Riot of 1917.
35mm microfilm (8 reels) with printed guide.
so, why? If not, why not? What alternatives were available to the planners? What restrictions?

FOCUS

Although reviews should focus on the intellectual, thematic content of the exhibition, it is also appropriate to discuss the quality of the design and installation. Is the layout easy to follow, or is it confusing? Is the lighting good? Are graphics used effectively? Are objects displayed to advantage? Are the labels legible? Do people seem to enjoy the exhibition, or do they rush through without bothering to read labels?

In most cases, the catalogue should be reviewed along with the exhibition, although some instances may arise when a separate review of the catalogue is desirable, especially if the catalogue is issued as a scholarly study in its own right.

ILLUSTRATIONS

A few photographs showing the installation of the exhibition may be used if, in the opinion of the editor, they will add substantially to the reader's understanding of the exhibition. Line drawings showing the layout of the exhibition may also be used if it is deemed appropriate.

CREDIT

It is essential that all reviews of exhibitions credit the individuals and organizations involved. Since exhibitions usually represent the work of a number of people, special effort may be required to identify those most responsible. Where a catalogue is involved, the information is usually found there, but in the absence of a catalogue, it may be necessary to inquire. Individuals identified should include the curator in charge of the exhibition and, in the case of a large exhibition, individuals who were responsible for any major segment thereof. Major lenders of objects and the principal sources of funding should, of course, be included. In some instances, it is appropriate also to provide the names of designers and fabricators.

The poignantness of Professor Lazo's tale comes from his fear that he will be regarded by research historians as someone who hasn't "done anything" and has been "left behind" unless he manages to be "both the humanistic educator and the research scholar." Perhaps it would help him to be reminded that, while excellent and promising teaching has never been the road to individual glory in the historical profession, many of the most interesting and innovative colleges in our country have been primarily teaching institutions.

The purpose of my article was to point out on the basis of scholarly evidence that the Hollywood Feature Film was used for the purposes of propaganda. Such propaganda can be of good or bad quality, but the point is that it exists and is produced in the guise of entertainment.

The modern film, such as Universal's The World in His Arms, starring Gregory Peck, and dealing with 1850s Alaska is quite entertaining, but it also has certain points that it makes about the Russians. 

3. For those interested in individual films, may I refer readers to my article about "I Married A Communist," which is a late 1940s attempt to make use of the genre termed women's films as an anti-Communist effort (Journal of Contemporary History, [January 1984]: 59-88.)

4. I think that there are those who would take issue with Professor O'Neill's characterization of Viva Zapata, but in any event no matter how the film is viewed today, at the time of its production it was viewed by its director especially as an anti-Communist effort.

5. As for Night People, whatever the quality of Gregory Peck's performance (and I agree that it was splendid) the film is an out-and-out tract, and has been viewed by [sic] such ever since it was released. I must also add that obviously someone in the U.S. government considered such movies worthwhile, as terms of propaganda efforts since it is a well known fact that the inferior version of 1948 filmed in the mid-1950s had covert U.S. government funding.

6. I also think that anyone who listens to the speeches of the characters representing the armed forces in films in the context of the 1950s can not help but agree that whatever the other effects of the film, these speeches aped the words of those who loudly talked about the need to end internal subversion.

7. I found Nora Sayre's work to be useful, but as I have pointed out she makes use of secondary sources and therefore perpetuates certain myths, such as Joseph Losey's comment about the film "I Married A Communist" serving as a litmus test for the Hollywood witch hunters. I had hoped that my article made clear the fact that there is a need to go beyond the selective memories and the hype and make use of studio records, which is what I have done.

The modern film is the lingua franca of our time, and we must recognize the fact that our students see more than they read, and that therefore we must be aware of what it is that they see, or what others have seen. I do not think that an approach to understanding that with regard to the anti-Communist films of the 1940s and 1950s is a belaboring of the obvious.

Daniel J. Leab
Professor of History
Seton Hall University

Ian W. G. Quinby
Editor, Winterthur Portfolio

Editor:

I found my head nodding "yes" many times while reading Dimitri D. Lazo's article "On Being a Historian: Thoughts from a Small Liberal Arts College" (OAH Newsletter, August 1985). Since finishing my Ph.D. eight years ago, I too have been working in a small college where the opportunities for breadth of teaching and learning have greatly enriched my intellectual life and made me feel that I am using all of my education and intelligence every day. The price to be paid, of course, is lack of intensive cultivation of my ostensible specialty (American cultural history, 1900-1950) and lack of time and energy to pursue recognition as a research scholar. On the whole, I have been willing to pay that price in order to be liberated from the grid of tight little boxes that has come to define the historical profession, while continuing to admire much of the fine tuned work that can only be achieved through specialization. The chance to become, as Lazo puts it, a humanist as well as a historian, is a rather rare privilege in today's academic world and one that I value greatly.

I write with reference to Professor O'Neill's response to my article on "The Hollywood Feature Film as Cold Warrior.

May I please point on the following with regard to Professor O'Neill's comments:

1. The purpose of my article was to point out on the basis of scholarly evidence that the Hollywood Feature Film was used for the purposes of propaganda. Such propaganda can be of good or bad quality, but the point is that it exists and is produced in the guise of entertainment.

2. Not all the films were of poor quality—many adventure films such as Universal's The World In His Arms, starring Gregory Peck, and dealing with 1850s Alaska is quite entertaining, but it also has
Index to Volume 13


Executive Board Actions," 13,2: 5.


Faust, Patricia L., obit., 13,1: 13.


"Gettysburg College Hosts 'Lincoln-175' Conference," Gabor S. Boritt, 13,1: 19.

"Goggin, Jacqueline and Horey Rothberg, letter to the editor, 13,4: 28.


Cutman, Herbert, obit., 13,3: 25.


Hail, Kermit L., "The History Teaching Alliance," 13,1: 12.

Hamaker, Gene Edward, obit., 13,1: 13.


"The History Teaching Alliance," Kermit L. Hall, 13,2: 12.


Leab, Daniel J., letter to the editor, 13,4: 30.


"Newsletter November 1985., 31


"OAH to Divers: Interests in Companies Operating in South Africa," 13,2: 3.


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