



# ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS

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## NEWSLETTER

Vol. I No. I

JULY 1973

### THE NEWSLETTER

At the meeting of the Executive Board of the Organization of American Historians on April 11, 1973, the decision was made to publish a semi-annual newsletter. The purposes of this publication are to give the membership as much current information as possible about the activities of the Organization. It will describe activities and memberships of the standing committees, decisions of the Executive Board and the Executive Committee, changes of procedures in the Office of the Executive Secretary, and any other news which is pertinent to the member's relationship to this professional body. The Newsletter is not designed to be a public forum, and it in no way will encroach upon the *Journal of American History's* functions. Issues will appear in July and December, and the Executive Secretary will be receptive to communications of an informational nature from members so long as these are pertinent and fall within the prescribed news hearing purposes of the publication. The preparation and publication of the Newsletter is the responsibility of the Executive Secretary and his staff.

### THE NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Professor Richard S. Kirkendall, formerly of the Department of History of the University of Missouri, will become Executive Secretary of the Organization of American Historians on July 1, 1973. Professor Kirkendall received his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin, and has served as faculty member at Wesleyan University (1955-1956), and the University of Missouri (1958-1973). His field of scholarly specialization is recent American history. He succeeds Thomas D. Clark who is retiring from Indiana University. All correspondence should be addressed to Richard S. Kirkendall, Executive Secretary, Organization of American Historians, 112 North Bryan Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

### THE ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

On May 1, 1973, Dr. Ingrid Winther Scobie left the office of Assistant Executive Secretary. Ingrid was the first person hired for the staff after the executive offices were moved to Bloomington. She had just finished work for her doctorate at the University of Wisconsin. She organized and supervised the move of the records and other properties from the University of Utah, organized the present headquarters, and helped hire the rest of the staff. Her first major responsibility was the designing and publication of the *Program* in its new format.

Ingrid became an instant expert in dealing with hotel managers and staff, and in fitting the Organization's operation into a complex metropolitan hotel plant. In the process she kept people happy, made friends, and came home with the experience and knowledge so necessary to the day-to-day operation of a professional association office.

Ingrid Scobie is a scholar within her own right. She is a mother and a housekeeper, and the wife of James Scobie, Chairman of the Department of History at Indiana University. She plans to pursue her scholarly activities to the point of publication of her research findings. The Organization indeed owes Ingrid a real debt of gratitude. She can almost be called the "founding mother" of the present Executive Secretary's office.

Dr. Scobie will be succeeded by Mrs. Evelyn Leffler, a graduate of Indiana University. Mrs. Leffler has served as Placement Director for Indiana University School of Law. She is indeed a personable and most efficient lady. She will have charge of the office staff, publication of the *Program*, hotel arrangements, and much of the direct correspondence with members and patrons of the Organization.



## FIFTY-YEAR INDEX TO THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HISTORICAL REVIEW (1914-1964)

After a long and gallant struggle, the Fifty-Year Index is now a reality in type. The book is in page-proof and will be ready for distribution sometime in November or December. This project was begun in 1965, and it has been the responsibility of three or four editors and executive secretaries. Partly because each editor of the *Journal* used his own method of indexing the periodical, the task has been made more difficult. The composite index follows a single procedure, and every effort has been made to give it completeness, compactness, and usability. It will be a necessary adjunct to the use of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* itself. The volume will be priced at \$25.00 for individuals, and \$35.00 for institutional purchasers. An advertisement will appear in the next issue of the *Journal* which contains an order coupon. In the meantime subscribers may send their orders directly to the Executive Secretary, 112 North Bryan Street, Bloomington, Indiana, 47401. It is necessary to be informed that orders will not be filled before November or December.

## COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD APRIL 1973

Members of this committee are Nancy Weiss, Princeton University, chairwoman, Clarke Chambers, Ellen DuBois, Gerda Lerner, William O'Neill, Janice Law Trecker, and Joan Hoff Wilson.

The committee, serving effectively as ad hoc since the 1970 annual meeting in Los Angeles, has compiled a list of Research in Progress in the History of Women to be distributed through the Office of the Executive Secretary. This list is available for \$.50. It has influenced the American Historical Association to commission a pamphlet on women's history. Martin Ridge has agreed to devote an issue of the *Journal of American History* to women's history if a sufficient number of articles of high quality are submitted. The committee has voiced support of H.R. 1451, Women's Education Act, 1972. Professor Weiss has announced extended correspondence with Perdita Champney, coordinator for women's participation for the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. Likewise the committee has been in correspondence with the editors of *The History Teacher* regarding articles on women's history. It is continuing to support application for funds for a Bibliographical Guide to Manuscript Sources in Women's History.

More especially the committee now focuses its attention on the status of women in the profession. It is supporting the work of Dr. Charlotte Quinn of the American Historical Association in preparing a roster of women historians.

The Committee on the Status of Women in the Historical Profession was established as a standing committee by action taken at the Business Meeting in Chicago.

## EMPLOYMENT AND THE JOB REGISTRY

Two nagging problems of the Executive Secretary's office are trying to operate as effectively as possible a job consultation registry and the teaching of history. In Chicago we had the most effective assistance in the history of the Organization in the cooperation of the Illinois Employment Service. We also took to Chicago members of our own staff who have had experience in the employment area. There were 450 requests for jobs, and only 34 possible vacancies. We have no way of knowing what private arrangements were made, or how many jobs were actually available but were not listed with us. The Executive Secretary has made repeated efforts to secure job registrations with his office, but these efforts so far have been fruitless.

## THE TEACHING OF HISTORY

There is little reason to be cheerful about the status of teaching history in both the secondary schools and colleges and universities. There come letters and reports to the Executive Secretary indicating the constant loss in the areas of teaching history. This has been a subject of repeated discussion in the Executive Board meetings, and in April it was decided to use the residue of the Lilly Fund to make some specific examinations into the status of teaching history at the secondary school level. It is planned to go even beyond this and try to consult with officials in state departments of education who have the responsibilities of supervising school curricula. Active steps are now being taken to facilitate this survey.

## THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

The 1974 annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians will take place in Denver, Colorado. The headquarters will be in the Denver Hilton Hotel. The meeting dates will be April 17-20. Rooms will also be available in the Cosmopolitan Hotel, 18th and Broadway, and the Brown Palace. At the moment no precise price range for rooms has been established. It is not possible under present inflationary circumstances to get hotels to make precise price quotations until the year within which the Organization meets. An announcement will be made on this subject in the December Newsletter. The 1974 *Program* will be mailed to the membership by the end of February or the first week in March. Pre-registration information and the annual ballot will be included in the mailing.



## THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The program for 1974 is practically complete; certainly this is true as to its format. Chairman of the present committee is Professor Robert Kelley, Department of History, University of California, Santa Barbara, California 93106.

The chairman of the Program Committee for the 1975 Boston meeting is Professor John Blassingame, Yale University. Other members of the committee are Professors Eugene Hollon, University of Toledo; Abraham Eisenstadt, Brooklyn College; Gerald Nash, University of California, Los Angeles; Elizabeth Nathans, Duke University; Mary Frances Berry, University of Maryland; and David Fowler, Carnegie-Mellon University.

All queries concerning the 1975 Program should be addressed to Professor John W. Blassingame, Department of History, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut 06520.

## PRIZE WINNERS

The following prizes were announced at the 1973 annual meeting in Chicago:

### FREDERICK JACKSON TURNER AWARD

Mary O. Furner

Northern Illinois University

The Frederick Jackson Turner Award is given each year to the author of the best monograph in American history submitted to the prize committee. The winner receives \$1,500 plus publication by the University of Kentucky Press. The award originated in 1958 as the Prize Studies Award of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association. The contest is open to historians who have not published previously in book form. The annual deadline for individuals competing for the award is December 1. Dr. Mary Young, Department of History, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210, is chairman of the Turner Award Committee. All manuscripts should be sent directly to her for proper appraisal by the committee. Either Dr. Young or Mr. Bruce Denbo of the University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40506, will be glad to supply the rules and conditions applying to the Turner manuscripts and the future possibilities of publication of the most promising entries.

### BINKLEY-STEPHENSON AWARD

Richard H. Kohn

Miami University

The Binkley-Stephenson Award, honoring two past editors, is an annual prize of \$500 for the best scholarly article published in the *Journal of American History* during the preceding year.

## LOUIS PELZER MEMORIAL AWARD

Kenneth L. Kusmer

University of Chicago

The Louis Pelzer Memorial Award, dating back to 1946, is presented annually to a graduate student for the best essay in American history submitted to the award committee. January 1 is the deadline for entries. Publication of the essay in the *Journal*, \$500, and a medal go to the prize recipient. Inquiries should be directed to Professor Martin Ridge, Managing Editor, *Journal of American History*, Ballantine Hall 702, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

## BILLING FORM

When the staff of the Executive Secretary decided to change the billing form, we made a careful investigation of the best procedure and the best form to be used. We chose a normal or standard-size envelope, but the glue line inside the envelope was too thick to permit easy insertion of the bill and a check. We received a few complaints, some of them crude and profane. After the present supply of forms is exhausted, we will use a larger envelope. This, however, will not be until 1974 or 1975.

Use of the more modern renewal forms has reduced materially the tedious workload of the office staff. At the same time there has been an encouraging response from members. Renewals for the March billing ran a third ahead of responses for the same date a year ago. This new billing procedure has involved little or no additional cost to the Organization when the time of the staff is taken into consideration.

## UNITED STATES INFORMATION VOLUNTARY SPEAKERS SERVICES

Mr. Jeffrey R. Biggs, American Studies Advisor, has informed the Executive Secretary that his Agency will be happy to know of any member of the Organization of American Historians who may be going abroad and who would be willing to accept invitations to lecture. The following paragraph describes the main purpose of this invitation:

"Foreign Service posts unanimously consider first-class lecturers their most effective means of promoting more comprehensive mutual understanding. Our overseas posts need speakers who can speak authoritatively on subjects relevant to particular objectives. Foremost among these goals are the promotion of a greater comprehension abroad of American foreign policy, of the American cultural scene today in all of its ramifications including education, of its economy, or of such other subjects as mass communications, urban transportation, and environmental protection."

Overseas Speakers Division

The address of this agency is: Jeffrey R. Biggs, ICS/S—U.S. Information Agency, Washington, D.C. 20547.



## FROM THE RETIRING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Newsletter must be considered somewhat in the light of a partial experiment, but one which has seemed necessary. The professional news material contained in the *Journal* is most important, and should be preserved as part of the historical record. News contained here is of no less historical importance, but must be considered of a more current nature. In the three years that I have served as Executive Secretary I have often been shocked to find an unawareness of the existence of the Organization of American Historians in areas where it should indeed be well known. It is my belief that a newsletter will be of real assistance in making the Organization better known in areas where it needs friendly acceptances. At the same time the correspondence which flows through the Executive Secretary's office reveals a lack of current knowledge on the part of members of the Organization. This is true especially concerning committee activities, status of the program, and information about future meetings.

In retiring from the Executive Secretary's office I am very happy that we have progressed to the stage of producing this Newsletter. This is the one area where the Executive Secretary can speak directly to the membership. It has been a privilege to have served in this important office and to have had a hand in establishing a national headquarters for the Organization. The Office of Executive Secretary involves the making of decisions almost daily. The professional association exists today in a world of change and in one in which a great deal of cooperation among all sorts of professional bodies is necessary not only to keep abreast of changes, but to give the most effective direction possible to future operations. I hope that the membership will give Professor Kirkendall the

cooperation and assistance which he and his staff must have. I deeply appreciate all the kindnesses which have been extended to me and my faithful and loyal staff.

Thomas D. Clark

## AWARD OF A GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

The National Endowment for the Humanities has just informed the Executive Secretary that the Organization of American Historians has been given a grant to make preliminary investigations preparatory to the updating, revising, and possible re-publication of the important Gregory *Directory of American Newspapers, 1821-1936*. The Organization has suggested through the American Council of Learned Societies that this larger project be undertaken as soon as the preliminary survey is completed and the necessary funds can be made available for this immensely important revision. The *Directory* must be considered a major research tool for scholars in almost every field of American research.

## BACK ISSUES AND BINDERS

Back issues of the *Journal of American History* are available from the Office of the Executive Secretary, Organization of American Historians, 112 North Bryan Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401. Issues are mailed postpaid upon receipt of \$4.00 for each copy ordered. An additional 25¢ per copy is required for overseas mailing. With the exception of Volume 51, No. 1 (June 1964) and Volume 59, No. 1 (June 1972), all issues are available. Binders may also be obtained for \$3.00 each. A binder holds one volume of four issues.

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