

OAH NEWSLETTER

Organization of American Historians
Volume 17, Number 4 / November 1989

Ashes in the National Archives

by Roger Kerson

The State of Social Science History in the Late 1980s

by J. Morgan Kousser

The Return of the Narrative?

by Dwight W. Hoover

History's Electric Future

by Orville Vernon Burton

History's Changing Sources and Techniques

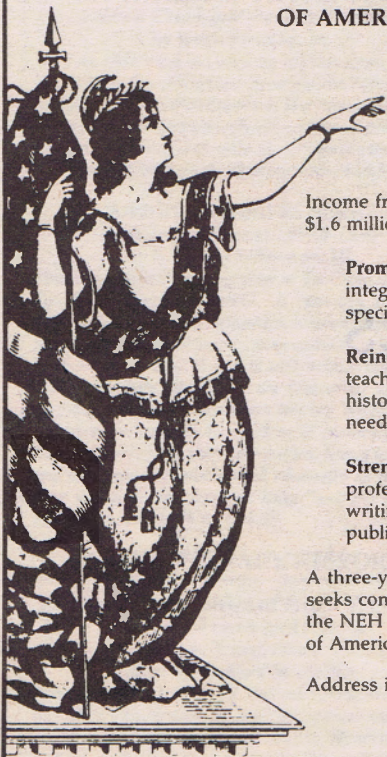
by Thomas B. Alexander

National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, Index of American Design

MASS-ca-2, Shop Sign, "The Little Navigator"

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The above list reflects contributions received during the period April 19 to October 13, 1989.

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The OAH Newsletter is published in February, May, August and November by the Organization of American Historians, 112 North Bryan Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47408-4199. Material submitted for consideration should be typed in double-spaced format and with minimal footnotes integrated parenthetically into the text. Copy for the "Announcements" must be no more than seventy-five words, and it must be submitted at least six weeks prior to the first day of a publication month. The Newsletter disclaims responsibility for statements by contributors, and the editor will condense items and articles when necessary and reject items and articles because of length. Full, half, quarter-page and job announcement advertisements are available. Contact the Advertising Director for rates and deadlines.

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Photo Courtesy Illinois Labor History Society

Joe Hill's Funeral, Chicago, 1915

Ashes in the National Archives

by Roger Kerson

In October of 1917, W. B. Carlile, Postmaster of Chicago, seized a letter addressed to Charles Gepford, at 3746 Cottage Grove Avenue. In a cover note to the Solicitor of the Post Office in Washington, D.C., Carlile explained that the letter "was accidentally mutilated in the process of machine cancelation [sic]. As a direct result of this mishap, the contents were expelled from the enclosure and their nature unavoidably disclosed." The envelope has not survived, but its contents have and at the National Archives. They include, among other items, the ashes of a dead man.

Not just any man, either. The ashes, which were stored in a torn, weathered 3" by 5" packet, are apparently the last known remains of a singer, songwriter and itinerant workman named Joe Hill, a legendary figure in the U. S. labor movement.

Hill was born Joel Haaglund in Sweden in 1879 and came to the U.S. looking for work in 1902. He drifted west and in 1910 became a "Wobbly," an IWW member. Soon, Hill began sending songs, stories, cartoons and poems to the IWW office in Chicago, and he is best remembered as a songwriter. Some of his best-known songs, such as "Hallelujah, I'm a Bum," were set to the tunes of Christian hymns, songs familiar to the working men Hill met in missions and flophouses across the country.

In January 1914 he was arrested by the Salt Lake City police, as a suspect in the murder of a grocery store owner and his son. A second son survived the shooting and said that his brother had fired a shot at his attacker before being killed. Hill was turned in by a doctor who had treated him for a gunshot wound. During his trial Hill insisted on his innocence but refused to offer an alternative explanation for how he wound up with a bullet in his chest. The real story, he said, had to do with the "honor of a woman," and he felt bound to say nothing more about it. Aside from the gunshot wound, there was not much evidence against Hill, but circumstantial evidence, combined with Hill's reputation as a dangerous labor radical, was enough to convince the jury. Hill was convicted and sentenced to death. He was shot by a Utah firing squad on November 19, 1915, despite a

worldwide campaign on his behalf. The International Workers of the World (IWW) brought Hill's body to Chicago, where more than 30,000 attended a memorial service for him on a grey, misty Thanksgiving Day. Hill's body was cremated a day later.

On November 19, 1916, the first anniversary of Hill's execution, the IWW held its tenth convention in Chicago. Hill's ashes had been divided up into numerous packets, with his picture printed on the front. "Murdered by the capitalist class," said the caption beneath the photo—but in his rough workman's clothes, his big-eared, expressionless face staring straight ahead, Hill looked more like an ordinary longshoreman than a sainted labor martyr. A short poem Hill wrote as his last will and testament was printed on the back.

**The ashes . . . are
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The envelopes were given to IWW delegates and to visitors from other countries. "The delegates will make the final distribution of these ashes," reported the *Industrial Worker*, the IWW newspaper, "with appropriate ceremonies when they return to their respective homes and countries." The ashes were scattered on every continent (except Antarctica) and in every state of the union (except Utah). Some of the envelopes, however, were never given to anyone to scatter.

Until recently, few knew that a packet of his ashes has been sitting in the National Archives since the 1940s, when it was deposited there by the Post Office. What were Joe Hill's ashes doing in that envelope—mailed but never delivered to Charles Gepford on Cottage Grove Avenue in October 1917. Who was Charles Gepford? Why did the Post Office go after his mail? And how come none of the people who have researched and written about Joe Hill found out about the ashes in the National Archives? More than seventy years after

the fact, there are no sure answers to these questions, just a catalogue of informed speculation. One of the more informed speculators is Fred Lee, an economist at Roosevelt University who joined the Wobblies in 1985 and rose quickly through the ranks to become chair of the IWW General Executive Board. The Wobblies are now reduced to a few hundred members, scattered in small locals around the country. Their headquarters is still in Chicago.

No one has ever explained, Lee says, why the Wobblies did not distribute all of Hill's ashes in 1916. Lee's best guess is that some packets were kept as mementos, or for distribution to new supporters of the union in countries where no ashes had been scattered. Most of these leftover packets, it turns out, were confiscated by federal agents in a raid on the Chicago IWW office in September of 1917.

That fall, the IWW was under attack by employers, outrages citizens and the federal government. In April, the U.S. had entered the war against Germany, requiring a nationwide mobilization of men and material. The IWW, not being particularly keen on the war effort, came close to urging its members to resist the draft, but eventually decided that such open defiance of the government was not in the union's best interest. But the Wobblies did not let the war interfere with their customary campaign to improve wages and working conditions, which included going on strike when necessary.

This was business as usual for the union, but many patriotic Americans—especially employers—viewed strikes during wartime as an enemy plot to deny vital supplies to the armed forces. The story began circulating that the IWW was getting secret funds from Germany, and there was a public outcry for a government crackdown. The *Tulsa Daily World* editorialized, "Kill them, just as you would any other kind of snake." In July 1917, local authorities in Arizona forcibly evicted 1,000 striking IWW miners from the copper town of Bisbee, dumping them in the desert without food or water;

See Kerson page 23

The State of Social Science History in the Late 1980s

by J. Morgan Kousser

Is social science history a dated fad, or has it been so fully accepted as to have become uncontroversial? Is it more or less popular with professors and graduate students today than in the recent past? Is its status higher at the most prestigious universities, or among their graduates, than at less highly-ranked colleges? What do historians and other social scientists see as the strengths and weaknesses, the achievements and deficiencies of social science history (hereafter referred to as "ssh")? To what degree do more traditional historians agree or disagree with social scientific historians and historically-oriented social scientists about these matters? How widespread is the teaching of statistics and theory in history departments, and how sophisticated is it, compared to the offerings in social science departments? Has the field become truly interdisciplinary?

To gauge opinion and gather facts on these and other topics, I sent out 456 questionnaires in May, 1987 to individuals in three groups: historians who were members of the Social Science History Association (SSHA), non-historian SSHA members, and one non-SSHA member at each of the universities listed in the American Historical Association's *Guide to Departments of History* that claimed to offer a Ph.D. program. The response, partially stimulated by a reminder to those who did not reply within six weeks, was gratifyingly high: 105 SSHA historians, 101 SSHA members whose self-described primary departmental affiliation was not with a history department, and 98 non-SSHA historians returned at least partially completed questionnaires.

All three groups share the view that rumors of an increasing distaste for "ssh" among graduate students or professors of history or the other social sciences have been greatly exaggerated. Between 80 and 85% of non-SSHA and SSHA historians view their colleagues and graduate students as equally or even more favorable toward "ssh" than they were five to ten years ago. Outside history departments, the trend seems even more auspicious, a mere 12% perceiving their peers as less warm toward "ssh." Among the pessimistic historians, there was a striking consensus between SSHA and non-SSHA members, both detecting small trends toward non-quantitative social, anthropological, or "new labor" history, in that order, and both decrying an alleged dearth of recent inspiring books by quantifiers as the most important reason for discontent.

There were a few important differences: SSHA historians see students as currently more math anxious and more interested in traditional political history than non-SSHA historians do. Non-historians, by contrast, view their loss as primarily a gain for mathematicized theory. But the dominant feature of the answers is growing or continuing acceptance of "ssh" in every discipline.

To determine whether the affirmation of such general opinions masked dissent from more specific propositions, I asked respondents to agree or disagree with a series of fifteen statements drawn from the literature of controversy about "ssh." Overall, despite statistically significant differences among the groups on a majority of the items, the most impressive facet of the answers seems to me to be the degree of approval of many of the central tenets of "ssh" by all groups.

Almost everyone, for instance, agreed that historians should state their assumptions explicitly. Nearly 80% of the non-SSHA group disagreed with

the often-repeated dogma that social science historians have taught us little that is new. By a 3 to 1 margin, they repudiated the Hexterian dictum that most historical data is so inexact that sophisticated statistical techniques are useless for analyzing it. Four out of five refused to write off social science history as having failed to live up to its promise, five out of eight rejected the much-advertised "return to narrative," and a majority agreed with Karl Popper's view that the chief tasks of historians are to reject false statements and explanations and to frame provisionally acceptable ones.

To be sure, there are important disagreements between the three sets of respondents. Although substantial majorities of each believe that all historians today ought to have a working knowledge of statistical methods, they disagree about whether non-climetricians need to know only "the simplest" or more advanced statistical techniques. Social scientists who are SSHA members applaud more advanced training for all historians nearly as avidly as non-SSHA historians abjure it. More than two-thirds of non-SSHA members, as well as a substantial minority of SSHA historians, decry what they believe has been an excessive preoccupation with "mere techniques" in "ssh," and there is a similar split over whether quantitative techniques can answer the most important questions in history.

Almost everyone . . . agreed that historians should state their assumptions explicitly.

Most puzzling is the stark contrast in responses to the statement that "all historical writings ought to be accessible to the general reader." Though the fabled "general reader" of history would be unlikely to understand the significance of many of the historiographical debates that take place in scholarly journals, or to comprehend books or articles that employ mathematicized theory or regression analysis, slight majorities of non-SSHA historians would seemingly read most or all of such work out of the discipline. Interestingly, attitudes towards accessibility are related to the recency of the Ph.D. The one-third of the AHA respondents who received their Ph.D.s after 1971 were significantly less likely to agree on the necessity of accessibility than were their elders.

To test whether there were systematic differences in attitudes toward "ssh" at more or less prestigious institutions, I first combined answers to the fifteen statements into an index. Each respondent's current department and that in which he or she received his or her graduate degree were then given the scores for the "mean rating of the scholarly quality of program faculty" listed in Lyle V. Jones, et. al., *An Assessment of Research-Doctorate Programs in the U.S.: Social and Behavioral Sciences* (1982). While correlations of the attitude and prestige indexes were usually positive, indicating that professors associated with more highly rated schools were more favorable to "ssh," none was statistically significant at conventional levels. "Ssh" is about equally popular among faculty members at colleges of high and low rankings and among these with graduate degrees from more or less prestigious universities.

Rather than departmental prestige, it was departmental affiliation that made the most difference in overall attitudes towards "ssh." There was also

some indication that younger scholars are generally more favorable to "ssh."

If the opinions of the professoriat offer more ground for optimism about the future of "ssh" than is sometimes believed, facts about current teaching suggest a more pessimistic assessment. Just as attitudes toward "ssh" vary according to disciplinary lines, so do courses in statistics and social scientific theory. Methods and theory offerings are sparser in history than in sister departments, and the courses that are taught in history are much too elementary to enable anyone to use these tools very effectively in primary research or to go on to greater mastery through self-study.

Virtually all of the social science departments and at least 44 history departments offer one or more courses in statistical methods. There is a positive, statistically significant relationship between offering such a course and the history departmental ratings in the Jones report. SSHA historians from 12 of the 21 departments rated at 60 or above in the Jones report returned survey questionnaires. Ten claimed that their departments offered statistics courses. In another 22 instances, history students take statistics courses in other departments, but in over a third of the cases, students either have no access to statistics, or do not customarily take advantage of it when they might. Of these courses in history departments, the modal enrollment is 6-10; and the vast majority of them are taught by historians.

Nearly all of the methods courses taught in history departments cover simple regression, about half go on to analysis of variance and multiple regression, but very few review more advanced topics. Almost none employ calculus, linear algebra or probability theory, which are increasingly standard in social science department statistics courses. In history, the chief purpose of statistics courses is to inculcate habits of systematic thinking, while in social science departments, the goal is to prepare students to use the methods in research.

The inadequacies of methods courses in history are widely recognized. A majority of SSHA historians believe that social scientific historians should at least have mastered multivariate regression, a quarter think further topics are necessary, and larger proportions practice what they preach, having acquired these tools themselves. But as things stand today, history students who want to become acquainted with many statistical techniques that are useful in historical research must cross departmental barriers. History departmental hiring committees should be aware of the difference in sophistication in current methods courses in history and other disciplines.

Turning from methods to theory courses, it appears that historians are even less appreciative of theory, only 12 of the respondents' departments offering one or more courses in social scientific theories, spread fairly evenly among other social science disciplines.

As for a third genre of courses, many more departments list offerings that apply insights from other social sciences to historical topics. Two-thirds of the 105 SSHA history respondents and a majority of the 101 social science SSHA members reported one or more such courses. Thirty-three of the 206 departments claimed to give five or more courses that fit this description. There was no statistically significant relationship among history departments between the number of these courses re-

ported and the Jones ranking of the respondent's current or graduate institution. Very few history departments offer subfields in quantitative or social scientific history.

The striking difference in the sophistication and availability of courses in statistical methods between history and other social science departments is nothing new. Most SSHA historians learned their statistics largely or wholly through self-study, and only 20% took a graduate methods class in a history department. By contrast, nearly three-fourths of non-historian SSHA members took graduate statistics courses in social science departments. Despite the fact that the Newberry and Michigan summer programs were established to overcome some of the previous (and still prevalent) deficiencies in history training, surprisingly small numbers of SSHA respondents attended them.

Contrary to much convention-hallway gossip, "ssh" is not about to fade away. Indeed, it is the bitter division over "ssh," not that no longer new departure, that has ceased. Today, "ssh" is firmly established in several disciplines. Although there is some movement towards cultural/intellectual histo-

The inadequacies of methods courses in history are widely recognized.

ry, this survey shows that "ssh" is no less accepted now than it had been in earlier years. On the other hand, the courses in methods currently offered in history departments are very elementary and those in theory are almost non-existent. The best advice for aspiring social scientific historians is to

take additional courses in other social science departments. Finally, rather than one unified subdiscipline, "ssh" is a rubric for an overlapping set of subdisciplines in history and other social sciences, a group of people who share some concerns, read some of the same journals, but who retain partially separate disciplinary identities. In the late 1980s, "ssh" remains, as it has since its inception 30 years ago, vigorously cross-disciplinary. ■

J. Morgan Kousser is professor of history and social sciences at California Institute of Technology. A more detailed version of the present paper, along with the tabulated questionnaire, is available in Historical Methods, 22 (1989), 13-20. A summary of the main results may interest readers of the OAH Newsletter.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Chief of Historical Survey

CHIEF OF HISTORICAL SURVEY, M-III. Location: Albany, NY. Salary: \$50,381* The New York State Museum's Historical Survey is responsible for promoting New York State history, culture and heritage through the acquisition, preservation and interpretation of material culture. The Survey also conducts research and prepares publications for the Museum's history program. The incumbent of this position will be responsible for planning, coordinating and implementing all historical research and collections documentation and management. This complex professional work involves responsibility for every facet of historical research and collections, and the supervision of professional, technical and support staff. The Chief will also initiate and assist in the planning of historical exhibits, manage expenditures and budget preparations, evaluate staff achievements, and supervise the preparation of proposals for federal and private research and collections grants. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: A Master's degree in History and six years of professional experience in historical research or in providing consultative services to regional or local historical groups, two years of which must have included administrative responsibilities. Preferred candidates should have a Ph.D. or the equivalent, evidence of achievements in historical research, and demonstrated ability to attract outside financial support. *Leads to a maximum salary of \$63,804 based on annual performance advances. Qualified candidates should send resume and cover letter including the names and affiliations of three references BY DECEMBER 15, 1989 to: Mr. Charles J. Byrne, Director of Personnel, Box SC-4, New York State Education Department, Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

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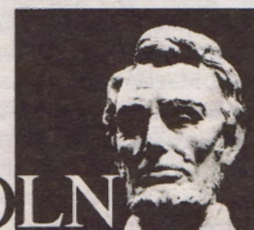
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Exhibition Shows Mexican War As It Was

The Mexican War is best remembered for opening vast territories of the American Southwest, but it is also an important moment in the history of art and journalism. It was the most widely reported war up to that time. Newspaper correspondents, artists and printmakers brought news from the field to people back home. Fort Worth's Amon Carter Museum will present the war as depicted in lithographs, engravings and photographs in *Eyewitness to War: Prints and Daguerreotypes of the Mexican War, 1846-1848*, from November 18, 1989 to January 14, 1990.

The exhibition will focus on the Mexican War as the advent of a new era of communication, when lithography and photography joined the written word to provide eyewitness reports of the war. Just as newspapers raced to publish accounts of each event, lithographers and engravers rushed to print images of battles, scenic views of areas, and renderings of the war's heroes.

Hundreds of different engravings and lithographs were produced between 1846 and 1848, but this exhibition concentrates on those prints that have some eyewitness connection. Sketches varied greatly in artistic quality, but many were sent back to the United States to be printed by lithographers.

In addition to its substantial collection of eyewitness prints, the Amon Carter Museum possesses the largest known collection of daguerreotypes made in Mexico during the war. Despite difficulties in obtaining supplies, itinerant daguerreotypists followed troops in northern Mexico and photographed scenes and individuals (usually officers) during the American occupation. Since each daguerreotype is a unique positive image, incapable of being duplicated, these photographs could not be reproduced for mass audiences, but they remain the most accurate images of the individuals and landmarks of the American venture into Mexico. ■



Courtesy Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth

General Wool and Staff in the Calle Real, Saltillo (Daguerreotype, c. 1847)

Appearing in Summer 1990

Journal of the History of Sexuality

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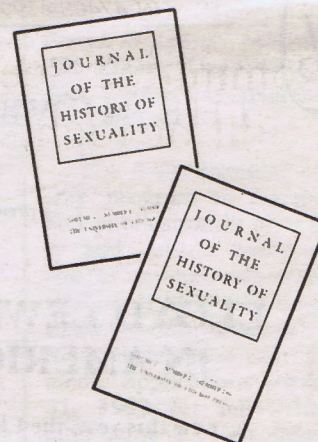
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Volume 1, 1990
ISSN 1043-4070

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News from the Organization

Correspondence

To the Editor:

Perhaps you have already been apprised of the fact that I resurrected Custer (*OAH Newsletter*, August 1989). To correct the record, Custer and his men died on June 25, 1876, not in July. I hope you will print this someplace in the *Newsletter*.

William H. Goetzmann
University of Texas at Austin

To the Editor:

I object to the facile way in which an important matter was dealt with in the August *Newsletter* ("Unexpected Conclusion" by Georgia Sand, pseud.). In particular an important conclusion was not made. The article cites the fact that women constitute 15% of American historians and that this is less than in any other humanities discipline. Later, the article mentioned with satisfaction how well historians are paid vis-a-vis the rest of the humanities.

I suggest the obvious conclusion: the reason historians are higher in salary than the rest of the humanities is because historians have resisted the professionalization of women in their discipline. Women historically have earned less than men. Women tend also to be newer to all professions and thus are clustered at the lower salaries.

So the reason historians do so well financially (read: white males) is that history as a discipline is sexist and has resisted the winds of change more so than other humanities disciplines. As a woman and an historian, I take little comfort in this conclusion.

Ellen N. Lawson
Cleveland, Ohio

The OAH Newsletter welcomes correspondence from readers. Letters for publication should be under two hundred words and may be edited for length and clarity. Address the Editor, OAH Newsletter, 112 N. Bryan St., Bloomington, IN 47408-4199.

Committee Seeks Bill of Rights Scholars

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Bicentennial of the Bill of Rights of the Organization of American Historians is interested in establishing a list of lecturers on the Bicentennial of the Bill of Rights. The committee hopes to establish a group of scholars with expertise in the field. If you would be interested in participating, please send a note and a short c.v. to:

Sandra F. VanBurkleo
Department of History
838 Mackenzie Hall
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI 48202

The OAH Executive Board has approved changing the name of the Committee on History in the Schools and Colleges to the Committee on Teaching, pending membership approval at the March, 1990, business meeting in Washington, DC.

To insure that the committee is composed of persons from different constituencies, it has recommended that the President appoint members who represent pre-collegiate levels, community colleges, four-year colleges and universities. The committee is especially hopeful that members from the latter two categories can be included so that it contains representatives from all teaching constituencies. ■

Candidates for 1990

The following list is for information only. Official ballots will be included with the 1990 annual meeting program.

President-Elect
Joyce Appleby, UCLA

Executive Board
(three vacancies)

Alan Brinkley, Graduate School, CUNY
Drew Gilpin Faust, Univ. of Penn.
Michael Frisch, SUNY, Buffalo
Mary Ryan, UC, Berkeley
Rudolph Vecoli, Univ. of Minnesota
Bertram Wyatt-Brown, Univ. of Fla.

Nominating Board
(three vacancies, paired)

Karen Anderson, Univ. of Arizona
Roy Rosenzweig, George Mason Univ.

Ronald J. Grele, Columbia Univ.
Gary Kulik, Smithsonian Institution

Paul Johnson, Univ. of Utah
Joe William Trotter, Carnegie Mellon

CORRECTION: The slate published in the August issue misprinted the names of Professors Brinkley and Anderson. The Newsletter regrets any inconvenience this may have caused.

Joan Hoff-Wilson has announced her resignation as Executive Secretary of the Organization of American Historians effective December 1989. She has accepted a special offer to stay at Indiana University beginning with the spring semester of 1990.

For the academic year 1989-90, Arnita A. Jones is serving as the Organization's acting Executive Secretary. Jones has formerly served as a Senior Historian with History Associates Incorporated, as a Program Officer at NEH, and as director of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History. ■

Non-Profit Tables at OAH Annual Meeting

The OAH Executive Board has established a new policy regarding free table space at the Organization's annual meeting. Any small non-profit organization of historians (defined by the OAH Executive Board as having less than one thousand members) may establish, without cost, a table at a convenient, public place to be determined by the convention manager. Table requests will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, depending on space available in any given year. At this table, the organization will be permitted to distribute materials, solicit members and subscriptions, and sell journals and other products of the organization to promote its activities. Such organizations must notify the OAH convention manager of their desire to establish a table two months prior to the annual meeting. Table space can not be requested at the time of the annual meeting. The deadline for the 1990 annual meeting is January 22, 1990. Written requests should include the organization's tax exempt number (or other proof of non-profit status) and a statement of the organization's size. Correspondence should be directed to the OAH Convention Manager, OAH 112 N. Bryan St., Bloomington, IN 47408-4199.

Obituary

Rena L. Vassar

Rena L. Vassar, professor of history at California State University, Northridge, died on July 14, 1989. A victim of cancer, she was sixty-two years old. Her colleagues and her many friends throughout this country and abroad will remember her for her charm, high professional standards and uncompromising integrity.

Born in Pueblo, Colorado, Professor Vassar took her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Colorado and completed the Ph.D. in American colonial history at Berkeley in 1958. She joined the Northridge faculty seven years later. She also taught at Indiana University, the University of Colorado, Claremont and Colgate. At Northridge she developed new courses in the history of American women and in oral history. She had an exceptionally loyal following of students. They knew her as a demanding teacher who was uncommonly generous in sharing her time. Though considerable, Professor Vassar's published legacy reflects only a portion of her broad range of scholarly interests. Her two-volume *Social History of American Education* appeared in 1965. At the time of her death she had completed much of the research for a landmark history of women in higher education.

Colleagues and friends knew Rena Vassar as a person of wide-ranging and complex intellect. She was devoted to the arts; not a week went by without a concert or play. Her fine memory gave her quite an astonishing breadth of knowledge in an array of fields. She had a bounteous capacity for friendship, and eagerly aided those who were troubled. This compounded the frustration of all who tried to return full measure during her final months. Friends who were not with her then will feel no surprise that she was a model of grace, unflinchingly courageous to the end.

Submitted by John J. Broesamle

Social Studies Curriculum Report

Charting a Course: Social Studies for the 21st Century has just been published by the National Commission on Social Studies in the Schools.

The Commission, founded in 1986 as a joint project of the AHA, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, the NCSS and the OAH, was charged with examining the current status of social studies programs in the nation's schools, K-12, and making recommendations for needed change.

Copies of the report are available from the OAH. Send \$7.00, which includes postage and handling, to Curriculum Report, OAH, 112 N. Bryan St., Bloomington, IN 47408-4199. ■

Please Note

Due to changes in both the telephone system for Indiana University and zip codes for Bloomington, Indiana, the office of the Organization of American Historians now has new numbers.

The new telephone number is (812) 855-7311.

The address and new zip code are 112 North Bryan Street, Bloomington, IN 47408-4199. ■

The Return of the Narrative?

by Dwight W. Hoover

Is narrative history becoming respectable again?

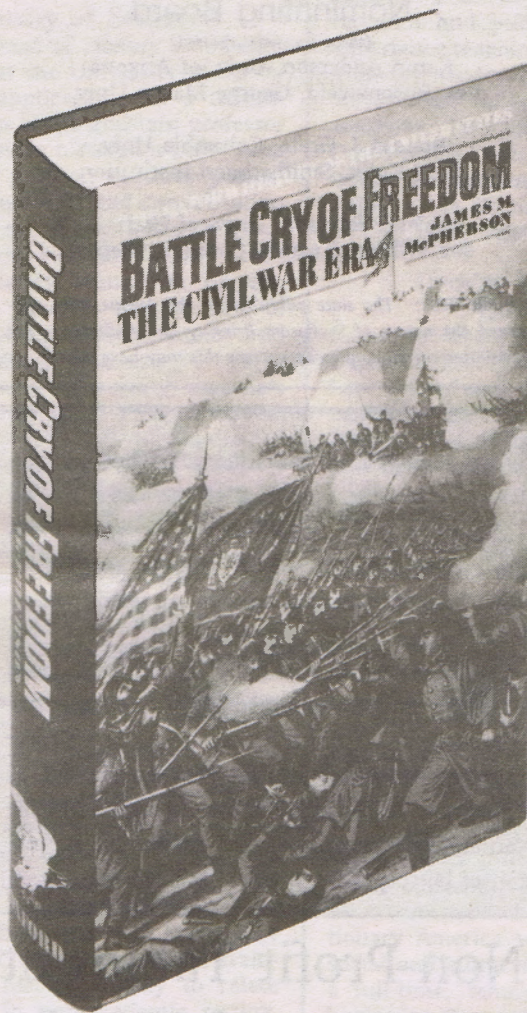
Following the 1982 publication of Robert Middlekauff's *The Glorious Cause*, a narrative of Revolutionary America in the "Oxford History of the United States," C. Vann Woodward wrote in the *New York Times Book Review* about the split between narrative historians and "new scientific" historians. Woodward claimed that the profession had fallen on evil days because "new" history lacked a central theme and no longer attracted the general public. In a telling metaphor, he said, "History was once called a habitation of many mansions, but it has been more recently described as scattered suburbs, trailer camps and a deteriorating central city." Woodward urged a revival of the narrative art.

In the *New York Review of Books* several days later, "new" historian Gordon Wood took an unsympathetic view of Middlekauff's book. He believed a call to narrative to be mistaken. Narrative, he said, uses a story-telling format; emphasizes human agency; focuses on personalities and politics; deals with societies; and covers long periods of time. Wood condemned narrative history as being fictive: "Perhaps there is always a constructed character to all history writing, but this fabricated character seems particularly evident in narrative history. The past after all is not a series of stories waiting to be told, as becomes more and more apparent in the 20th century."

Vann Woodward and Gordon Wood reflect part of an on-going debate, and each had seized upon previously identified problems with history—the loss of an audience and the equation of narrative history with fiction. Neither writer came to terms with the other's position; each had presented one side of the argument.

A revival of interest in narrative occurred during the late 1970s and early 1980s and was stimulated by Lawrence Stone's 1979 article in *Past and Present*. An eminent new historian, Stone wrote: "The two essential ways in which narrative history differs from structural history is that its arrangement is descriptive rather than analytical and that its central focus is on man not circumstances." He noted that new scientific history was lessening its impact on the profession, a significant point coming from a practitioner of the genre. Stone offered three reasons for his judgment: disillusionment with the economic deterministic model of historical explanation, the decline of ideological commitment among western intellectuals, and the mixed record of the use of quantification. He left no doubt of his own views, saying "the macro-economic model is a pipe-dream, and 'scientific history' a myth."

However, Stone's examples of the kind of narrative history that he found interesting did not please traditionalists. He offered Emmanuel LeRoy Ladurie's *Montaillou* and Carlo Ginzburg's *The Cheese and the Worms*. The new narrative history, as these examples of French social life illustrated,



Courtesy Oxford University Press

James McPherson's "Battle Cry of Freedom," a recent narrative history

differed from the old in its concern for the poor and the obscure, its use of new sources and its telling stories to illuminate whole societies. The attempt to create a hybrid which would combine social-science history with narrative history was imaginative, and it was noticed. By redefining the limits of narrative to include the inarticulate, concentrating upon smaller groups than entire societies or nation states, and allowing analysis as well as description, Stone widened the possibilities. Yet, even these limits do not contain Stone's examples. *Montaillou* does not follow a chronological sequence nor does *The Cheese and the Worms* possess narrative coherence. While Stone's effort was admirable, it was flawed.

At the same time, Bernard Bailyn's 1981 AHA presidential address described "The Challenge of Modern Historiography." He was conscious of the lack of coherence in social history, despite the explosion of work in the field. In order to achieve necessary coherence, he called for creation of new

narrative structures "dominated by a sense of movement through time, incorporating the technical studies, and devoted to showing how the present world was shaped by its emergence from a very different past." The new narrative history could incorporate manifest events obvious to people of the time with latent ones discovered by scholars. It could enlarge historical perspective by studying "large-scale orbits" and "patterns of filiation and derivation." And it could emphasize mentalities. The "description of internal states of mind and their relation to external circumstances and events" could serve as an integrating force, Bailyn concluded.

Neither Stone nor Bailyn had adequately defined what the narrative form was, however. This failure was a great weakness of their arguments.

An effort in this direction had already been made in the works of Hayden White. *Metahistory* (1973) and *Tropics of Discourse* (1978) provided a basis for the "new historicism" in literary studies and set the terms for the debate over the narrative. White emphasized his belief that all historical works are literary creations and that the stories they contain are composed from story elements drawn from the past. He argued that written history provided models of the past but also metaphorical statements enabling readers to find meaning in the models. Therefore, history resembles fiction because it shares the same structure. Indeed, White maintained that the distinction between fiction and history should be eliminated in favor of a new paradigm emphasizing "that we can only know the actual by contrasting it to the imaginable." The saving elements are the sets of structures which constrain the historian and guide him in his work. These consist of modes of employment (comedy, tragedy, satire), modes of explanation, and modes of ideological implication (anarchist, conservative, liberal).

Although White has been influential in setting the terms for discourse in literary criticism, his ideas have not as readily entered historians' discourse. His view that historians make ethical decisions when choosing between strategies of writing history and that the choice is essentially a poetic one was unlikely to persuade many of the new historians who believed with Kant that any branch of knowledge contains only as much real science as it contains mathematics. A few social-science historians such as Stone did say a kind word for narrative, thus easing the almost religious fervor the practitioners expressed for their techniques in the 1960s. Now they were willing to admit that analytical history based upon quantitative methods was not the only way of doing history. Yet their view of the theoretical underpinnings of the narrative remained rudimentary and based on problems in analytical history rather than on appreciation of narrative's possibilities.

No one in the present has apparently been able to combine the new social history into a new nar-

Capitol Commentary

Update on Appropriations Process

Congress failed to meet the October deadline for the passage of the appropriations bills for FY'90. Thus as we go to press, the federal government is still operating under a continuing resolution. Work has been completed by several House/Senate conference committees and final budget figures will probably be fairly close to the conference committee recommendations. However, one of the appropriations bills under consideration requires a .43 percent across-the-board cut of all agency budgets to pay for the war against drugs. If this bill passes, then most federal agencies will have a small reduction in their FY'90 appropriations.

National Archives and National Historical Publications and Records Commission: The House/Senate conferees on the National Archives' budget recently agreed to increase the President's request of \$122.6 million by \$4 million for a total of \$126.6 million with \$5 million of that to be earmarked for the National Historical Publications and Records Commissions grants program.

National Endowment for the Humanities: The Conference Committee on the Interior Appropriation reached a compromise of \$132.4 million for the budget of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The House had passed a budget for NEH of \$134.6 million and the Senate \$126.5 million.

Historic Preservation: The Interior Conference Report also includes \$32.75 million for the Historic Preservation Fund instead of the \$30 million proposed by the House and the \$38 million proposed by the Senate. This amount would be divided with \$27 million for the state historic preservation programs (a \$2.25 million increase over the current level), and level funding of \$4.75 million for the National Trust for Historic Preservation and \$1 million for the continuation of the special lighthouses project.

Women's History Landmark Project: The Interior conference committee also included \$60,000 for the continuation of the Women's National Historic Landmark study, a joint effort of the NCC, the Organization of American Historians, and the National Park Service.

Congressional Hearing on Labor History Landmark Bill

On September 28 the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, chaired by Representative Bruce Vento (D-MN), held a hearing to consider H.R. 2949, a bill that calls for the preparation of a National Historic Landmark Theme Study on American Labor History. The theme study would identify key sites in American labor history and would direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a cooperative agreement with major scholarly and public history organizations knowledgeable of American Labor History to prepare the theme study. Witnesses at the hearing testifying on behalf of H.R. 2949 included: James B. Gardner, Deputy Executive Director of the American Historical Association; Lynn Weiner, who teaches history at Roosevelt University; Daniel J. Walkowitz, professor at New York University; and Bruce Craig, Cultural Resources Coordinator for the National Parks and Conservation Association. In the question-and-answer period, Representative Vento sought the opinions of the witnesses on the \$500,000 authorization provided for the study, the provision that specified that the study be undertaken by a cooperative agreement between knowledgeable historical organizations and the National Park Service and not by National Park Service staff, and on whether the study should concentrate primarily on the history of labor unions or on a broader understanding of labor history. On this last point, all



Page Putnam Miller

of the historians agreed that the theme study should reflect the broad work experiences of all Americans and should not be limited only to the study of labor unions.

Ruling Made on Court Case Regarding National Security Council Computerized Records

On September 15 the U.S. District Court ruled on the lawsuit filed on January 18 by plaintiffs -- Scott Armstrong, author and journalist; Gaylord Nelson, former Democratic senator from Wisconsin; the Center for National Security Studies of the American Civil Liberties Union; the American Library Association; and the American Historical Association--versus defendants--President Reagan, President Bush, and the National Security Council, and the U.S. Archivist. The plaintiffs are seeking to present the destruction of electronic messages contained on the tapes used in the Professional Office System (PROFS) used by the National Security Council staff. Many of the messages retrieved from this system played an important role in the investigations of the Iran-Contra Affair. The defendants argued that most of the PROFS messages were similar to telephone messages and should not be preserved and that procedures are in place to insure that messages of enduring value had been printed and were on file. The defendants sought dismissal of the lawsuit.

U.S. District Judge Charles R. Richey ruled that the case should not be dismissed and that private citizens can take the President of the United States to court to challenge the White House decision to destroy the PROFS computer tapes. "Under the Presidential Records Act," Judge Richey wrote, "the President simply may not, for political reasons incident to the performance of his duties, decide not to retain documents that otherwise qualify as Presidential records." Richey further expanded on this point by stressing that "the President's unilateral decision to 'flush' the PROFS system would appear to be an exercise of discretion that violates the Presidential Records Act's disposal provisions."

The Court decision, however, stated that additional discovery is necessary to determine if the President was in compliance with the Presidential Records Act in its handling of the PROFS tapes. "The plaintiffs are entitled to invoke the Administrative Procedures Act," Judge Richey wrote, "in their efforts to ensure presidential compliance with the Presidential Records Act." Despite the defendants' argument that the guidelines for preservation of material of enduring value had been followed, Judge Richey noted that "the record before the Court contains evidence sufficient to suggest that the users of the PROFS system historically have not at all times adhered to the applicable guidelines." The ruling thus focused on issues of authority and not on the technicalities of how to determine what is a federal record. Since the PROFS tapes are classified, the issue is the preservation of the tapes and not an examination of their content.

This decision marks the first time that private citizens have been given the right to sue the President under the terms of the Administrative Procedures Act. And this could have most significant long range implications. Informal word from the Justice Department is that they intend to appeal the case.

National Endowment for the Humanities

The major issues in the National Endowment for the Humanities' appropriations legislation have not focused on the funding level but on the clarification of what kinds of proposals should receive federal funds and on the question of whether NEH should exert more control over block grants to other institutions which in turn distribute grants, fellowships, or stipends to individual artists and scholars. The controversy arose over two grants awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts for photographic exhibits that included what some regarded as offensive images. In defense of the Arts Endowment, Representative Sidney Yates (D-IL), who chairs the appropriations subcommittee in the House with responsibility for the Endowments' budget, noted that of the 80,000 grants the NEA has awarded in its 25-year history, only about 20 have been controversial. In House Report 101-120, which accompanied the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill, 1990, the House Appropriations Committee stated that "if subgranting is permitted it would be undertaken with procedures that will make the chairmen and councils of NEA and NEH as thoroughly informed and responsible for the subgrants as they are for direct grants." One of the key reasons, however, that NEH has awarded funds to such institutions as the American Council for Learned Societies, the American Antiquarian Society and the Newberry Library for regranting is because NEH has a limited number of staff available for the processing of small grants to individuals. There is concern among the scholarly community that new procedures would only make the application process more cumbersome and lengthy.

Of greater concern, however, is the possible long-range implications of the Jesse Helms (R-NC) amendment to the Senate Interior appropriations bill. The controversial amendment would prohibit the use of appropriated funds for the dissemination, promotion, or production of obscene or indecent materials. Although aimed at the National Endowment for the Arts, the amendment would also apply to the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Gallery of Art. On September 13 the House voted to instruct the House conferees to vote against the Helms amendment in the conference committee. And on October 2 the House/Senate conferees worked out compromise language that attempted both to prohibit "patently offensive" works and to reaffirm the principal of free inquiry and expression. The conference committee also called for the establishment of a temporary independent commission for the purpose of reviewing the National Endowment for the Arts' standards and procedures.

Permanent Paper

On July 31 the Senate passed by voice vote S.J. Res. 57, legislation that would establish a national policy to promote the use of permanent, alkaline papers. A similar bill in the House, H.R.J. Res. 226, is still pending before committees. In hearings last spring in the House of Representatives, witnesses testified that the deterioration of the acid papers in our archives and libraries can be avoided in the future by the use of alkaline printing and papers. Furthermore, there is evidence that alkaline paper, which will last several hundred years, can be produced at no greater cost than acidic papers. American publishers have already begun to convert to alkaline paper. Approximately a quarter to a third of American hardcover books are now printed on permanent paper, although this is usually not noted in the publications themselves.

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

Archives Conserves Damaged Records

Water from a malfunctioning roof drain cascaded into the third floor of the California Archives Building during the night of October 14, 1988 during the first significant rainfall of the season, and caused approximately \$30,000 in damage to more than 1,400 century-old records from the California Supreme Court. Staff members discovered the damage while making routine morning rounds. Dave Snyder, Accessions Archivist noted, "These records, which survived the San Francisco earthquake and fire in 1906, were almost destroyed by a night's rain."

Much of the Archives staff was called upon to help in the initial stages of recovery. Once the affected shelving units were identified, staff devised a method for removing the wet materials. Special handling was required to deal with soaked cardboard jackets which disintegrated at the touch; dissolving water-soluble glue in bindings; and running dyes from leather-bound volumes.

Phase two of the disaster recovery plan involved spreading flat documents on shelves lined with paper towels, interleaving the pages of bound volumes with additional paper towels, and

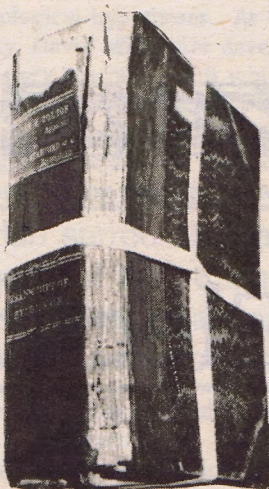


Photo Courtesy of
the California Archives

maintaining location identification to facilitate eventual re-shelving. Fans were positioned to keep air circulating through the area and reduce the possibility of mold developing on the paper.

Documents in the recovery area were turned periodically and checked for mold, as were those adjacent to the disaster area. After the records had been dried, they were surveyed to determine the extent of permanent damage. After basic conservation steps had been taken, the files were reassembled and stored until such time as they could be reshelfed.

Some materials could not be restored by the Archives' preservation staff and will have to be sent to an outside conservator. A particularly significant court case damaged by the water was *Colton v. Stanford* which revealed many of the business practices commonly employed by the railroad. Public opinion began to turn against the railroad monopoly after the case was heard. ■

Reprinted from California Originals.

SHAFR Announces the Link Prize

The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations announces that it is establishing the Arthur S. Link Prize for documentary editing. The prize will recognize and encourage analytical scholarly editing of documents, in appropriate published form, relevant to the history of American foreign relations, policy and diplomacy.

This award is designed to encourage the kind of combining of documentary editing with scholarship to which Professor Link has devoted so much of his life, and it will signify SHAFR's affection and appreciation for a scholar who is also a thoroughly decent human being.

Competition will be open to the editor/author(s) of any eligible collection of documents published after 1984. The prize will be made no more than once in three years. For more information write Warren F. Kimball, Chair, Arthur S. Link Prize Committee (SHAFR), Department of History, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ 07102. ■

The Humanities in American Education

"We live with a tradition that says that going to college is much more important than what you do in the classroom when you get there," comments Frederick Rudolph, emeritus professor of history at Williams College, in a conversation with NEH Chairman Lynne V. Cheney that opens the September/October issue of *Humanities*. An authority on the history of American undergraduate education, Rudolph says that college students' lack of direction in selecting liberal-arts courses is resulting in a dearth of broadly educated people able to conduct the affairs of the country.

What is being done about this serious national concern? This edition discusses recent educational

initiatives. As described in "The California Framework," that state's board of education, for instance, has adopted a plan to dramatically increase the study of history and geography in state elementary and secondary schools.

"Core in Texas" describes how Texas public colleges and universities are tackling a legislative mandate to implement core curricula. "A Case Study in Brooklyn" discusses how the faculty tailored a model core curriculum for its multiethnic student population. "Collecting Thoughts" highlights the NEH/Reader's Digest Teacher-Scholar Program, which resulted from a 1987 NEH report noting that teacher-preparation programs are often deficient in content study. ■

Partners in Research

The National Park Service has published a new edition of *Partners in Research*, a catalog of research project opportunities in the 26 Mid-Atlantic National Park units.

The NPS encourages donated research time and independent research provided by qualified individuals. Conducting studies such as those listed in the catalog will provide an important supplement to NPS research activities.

For a copy of the catalog, contact James W. Coleman, Jr., National Park Service, 143 South Third Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. ■

New Report on Deacidification

The translation of an article originally published in German that summarizes a substantial study of deacidification techniques is being distributed by the Commission on Preservation and Access to the library community and others interested in this preservation technology. The study was conducted by the Battelle Institute for the West German Library.

Among the report's findings: "It should be stressed that all mass deacidification processes de-

veloped so far result only in an extension of the remaining life expectancy of books at the time of treatment, depending on their condition. A restoration of the original durability of the paper is not achieved in this manner.... The preservation of endangered library and archival collections can be successful only through the use of a comprehensive concept that combines all presently known measures of preservation and accommodates the possibility of future expansion."

The Commission has distributed the translated report to several hundred universities and libraries. Additional copies are available at no charge, by writing Pamela Block at the Commission on Preservation and Access, Suite 313, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC, 20036. ■

Public Historians Seek New Host for Secretariat

The National Council on Public History (NCPH) has issued a request for proposals for an institution to host its central office. The Secretariat's mission includes secretarial, financial and program responsibilities.

The host institution will sponsor a professional historian who will serve as the Executive Secretary of NCPH. The Executive Secretary and the host institution are central to the growing public history movement and provide continuity and good communication within NCPH. The Secretariat has also edited *Public History News*, the NCPH newsletter.

Institutions interested in preparing a proposal can obtain a solicitation packet or further information from Theodore J. Karamanski, Chair, NCPH, History Department, Loyola University of Chicago, 6525 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60626; tel. (312) 508-2221. Proposals are due February 15, 1990. ■

OAH Call for Papers Annual Meeting, 1991

The Program Committee for the annual meeting to be held in Louisville in 1991 invites proposals for sessions, panels, workshops and papers. Although the committee prefers fully packaged session proposals (with chairs, paper givers and commentators), it will give full consideration to proposals for individual papers. Fair evaluation of the proposals requires a standard submission format. Each proposal should include the following: a resume, no longer than 500 words, which states the thesis, methodology and significance of the proposed session, panel, workshop or paper; a prospectus, no longer than 500 words, of each proposed paper and a short recent summary vita for each proposed participant. In order to contain the spiraling costs for reproducing and mailing the more than 1,000 vitas we anticipate will be submit-

ted for the annual meeting, the 1991 Program Committee prefers the submission of a single page summary rather than an entire c.v.

Deadline for receipt of proposals is **February 1, 1990**.

The theme for the 1991 Annual Meeting is: "Diversity and Dissent: Politics as Social Process." This theme is a response to calls for a comprehensive perspective on the development of American "political" culture or, more appropriately, American "political" cultures. The evolution of the American body politic has entailed changing relations between public and private spheres. Analysis of "political" cultures could profit from a conception of "politics" as a phenomenon far broader than the history of elections and parties; "politics" can be conceptualized as a social process responsive in

varying degrees to the interests, aspirations and self-conscious actions of the broad cross-section of social groups within American society.

The Program Committee seeks a balanced program which (re)presents the best of the current practice of American history. Thus, the Committee encourages submissions in all areas of United States history.

Please note: Participants in the annual meeting who specialize in American history, that is—practicing American historians, are required to be members of the OAH. Participants representing other disciplines need not be OAH members.

Submit proposals to Armstead L. Robinson, Carter G. Woodson Institute, University of Virginia, 1512 Jefferson Park Avenue, Charlottesville, VA 22903; tel. (804) 924-3109. ■

History's Electric Future

by Orville Vernon Burton

Just as the weight-driven mechanical clock is the metaphor for the early modern period and the steam engine represents the industrial revolution, the computer is the symbol of our age. The changes wrought by computers affect almost every aspect of our lives, and history is no exception. No longer is history the sanctuary of literary exiles who work only with pen and paper. Computers are changing the way historians research, write and teach.

Computerization of the library has fundamentally changed the humanities. Many libraries, from the Library of Congress to local campuses, have computerized holdings and no longer add new items to the card catalogue. Researchers have instant access to an entire catalogue and can search for words or combinations of words that were never separately indexed. Patrons can use a modem—a telecommunications device which allows a user's microcomputer to communicate with other microcomputers, online databases and mainframe computers—and from the friendly environs of home or office can call directly into a database, insert the listings into their own microcomputer file, check out books and have them delivered.

The Illinet on-line system gives access to all titles in most Illinois libraries, and some schools allow access to the OCLC national system, which is the equivalent of simultaneous browsing through all research libraries in the country. Most major library files are computerized and all these files, containing over seventy-five million records, are available to any microcomputer user via information retrieval systems such as DIALOG. The DIALOG system contains more than 170 databases, including extensive information from the fields of humanities, social science, biography, education, chemistry, medicine, business, economics, law and government. Unfortunately, data retrieval systems are still relatively expensive, with a ten-minute search costing anywhere from five to fifty dollars. Recently, many universities have helped bring down the cost to users by obtaining a license for the IBM Information Network (IN) which allows high-speed access to several national databases. Since most historians begin research by finding out what has been written on a subject, computerized bibliographic searches have made this aspect of a historian's work easier.

Scholars currently rely on indexes, fully recognizing their potential for errors, omissions and missed subject headings. Libraries will one day

convert books and journals into machine-readable text, allowing complex searches far beyond the limitations of printed indexes at the end of books and even into rarely-indexed journals. Computer copies, in addition, will allow hundreds of people access to the same sources, saving the expense of purchasing multiple copies of important works. If a book or article is in machine-readable form, furthermore, quotations can be moved directly into a historian's own text. Storage costs for libraries would be greatly reduced, as would worry about stolen and deteriorating books. Machine-readable books via telephone lines and modems would also democratize the profession. A historian at a community college in South Carolina could have access to the same books as a Harvard professor. In short, computers will make libraries' information more accessible and more dynamic because users will be able to retrieve and utilize information more quickly.

Libraries will one day convert books and journals into machine-readable text, allowing complex searches.

Computerized dissertations will be another breakthrough. Already, many graduate students are writing their dissertations with word processing packages on computers. If dissertations, often abundant with unpublishable details, are placed in machine-readable databases, then historians all over the country can peruse them. Currently, dissertations are not indexed and are difficult to use. Some may prefer, however, to keep their dissertations out of public view, and privacy, a problem often associated with computerized information, is an issue with dissertations also.

Skeptics claim that machine-readable books and dissertations are not the way of the future and will go to the back of the library like microfilm, which is under-utilized because of clumsiness and eye-strain. However, I believe historians will eventually find machine-readable materials less expensive, more convenient and more aesthetically pleasing than paper books. The average price of a history book in 1986 was \$27.76. Given the budget constraints which libraries, graduate students and history professors now face, the market for books will inevitably shrink unless books become less expensive. Future book prices will be reduced by selling

in machine-readable form.

The expense of converting old books to machine-readable form will diminish as optical scanners become more sophisticated. Scanning is the technological development that I am most excited about. I am looking forward to the day when researchers take into the archives affordable hand-held scanning devices which transform hand-written documents into machine-readable text. Existing scanners can already read handwriting, if consistently written, and continued development should soon make it possible to read even manuscript census schedules directly from microfilm.

With books and journals available in electronic text, historians will no longer have to search in vain for a reference or footnote; computers will do it instantly. Screen windows will allow researchers to read and take notes at the same time, or compare multiple books and articles simultaneously. Electronic books, dissertations and journals will not be just printed material displayed electronically but an entirely different type of historical literature. Machine-readable quantitative works, for instance, will allow scholars to analyze each other's data firsthand since a database will be included with a book disk. Electronic books, serials, maps and documents with sound and music, pictures, color and electronic painting, movement and graphics will all make the next generation of historical works more exciting and instructional than at present. They will enable teachers to shape educational material to the needs of particular courses and free students from the expense of buying several partially utilized textbooks.

Moving beyond the transfer of books onto diskettes is the full text database system. In 1965, Avierzi Fraenkel conceived a project to apply a full text retrieval system to all of Hebrew Law. This Responsa literature covers about 1400 years of questions and answers in Hebrew, Aramaic, Yiddish and numerous other languages. In testing a computerized search for material, a group of experts, relying upon indices, encyclopedias and similar reference texts, found 78% of the defined relevant documents. The computerized search retrieved 98% of the defined relevant documents. (Human eyes all too easily miss material when scanning large document files.) As of 1984, more than 500 queries had been submitted by university scholars, rabbinical courts, judges, libraries, information centers, encyclopedia teams and graduate students. A sample query put to the system stated, "Retrieve all

historical material on indigenous Jewish communities in Algiers and North Africa in the fifteenth century." The implication for historical research is the scope and complexity of questions analyzed. This system has moved beyond numerical trivia.

The use of databases will greatly benefit historians in their day-to-day work. It is no longer necessary to learn programming to use computers; and software, free of cryptic jargon, is easier to understand. The computer, a tool which humanists once considered useful only for mathematical applications, is now being utilized to store, retrieve, manipulate and present information of all types. Computers are, in fact, an ideal tool for historians, whose research requires voluminous notes, organization, indexing and retrieval. A computer never forgets, and notes taken on a different subject, but relevant to the one at hand, can be found quickly by a search for key words. A historian surrounded by tens of thousands of 5-by-8 cards is at a technological disadvantage to historians using computers. Word processors and database systems allow interaction so that sections of notes and quotations can be moved directly into the text, thus ensuring greater accuracy by reducing the number of transcriptions. In addition, laptop portables now allow scholars to take computers into archives. The Baker Library at the Harvard Business School allows neither typewriters nor ink pens but admits computers without a second glance.

Inside the classroom today, computers are being used in exciting new ways. Database systems are now being developed that will allow undergraduate students to experience first-hand the excitement of historical research and at the same time increase their understanding of the statistical complexities which abound in our world. For example, at the University of Texas at Austin, Myron Gutman has developed a database using census data, church records and other vital statistics on some 45,000 people

from Fredericksburg, Texas, between 1846 to 1910. With the database, students can write multi-generational family histories and test demographic and anthropological hypotheses. At Carnegie-Mellon University, David Miller has developed a "Great American History Machine" with which students can quickly generate detailed maps of nineteenth-century census data. Both programs teach students pattern recognition and allow them to pursue advanced research at the undergraduate level.

A historian surrounded by tens of thousands of 5-by-8 cards is at a technological disadvantage to historians using computers.

Computer technology will also help historians communicate with each other. Already the new technology facilitates cooperation in the history profession, and the near future will see more coordination in the scholarly community. With the proliferation of electronic bulletin boards, scholars will discover each other's interests and determine what aspect of a particular problem needs investigation. Working together, researchers should learn from each other's mistakes. Computers make it easier for historians to share ideas and sources and thus produce more sophisticated history. Some historians have made their note files available to other scholars interested in similar topics. More cooperation among historians should bring about a more complete picture of the past.

Historians believe that truth emerges from the complete context; thus seeking to synthesize all the pieces of the past, historians must make a concentrated attempt to discover as much as possible about the past. Computers and associated technologies will aid historians by making more remnants, records and interpretations of the past available.

able. More than that, by providing more and better information, computers allow historians to ask and answer questions never before attempted. With the new technology and hardware, we can preserve the record just as it was recorded, go back for more and different questions and make available the information so that future scholars may ask different questions arising from their own set of concerns.

The potential unleashed by computers is limited only by our imagination. In the early part of this century, H. G. Wells wrote about a World Brain that would make all information accessible to all persons in all locations. Although not a World Brain, supercomputers, with their amazing speed and huge memory capabilities, offer immense opportunities to all historians. Working in tandem with microcomputers, supercomputers allow scholars to organize, analyze, visualize and comprehend massive historical data, such as all the census information ever collected for the United States. Let the technology seem overpowering or fearsome, remember that the real potential of the supercomputer is not in some \$10 million machine sitting in an astronomy or physics lab, but in the ten million installed PCs (in the U.S. alone) which sit on users' desks. These PCs possess the computing power of over 10,000 Cray-1 supercomputers or equivalents.

When computing power and the organization built into software are added to scholars' cooperative intelligence, the potential exists for computers to create a profound change in the discipline of history. We have the rare opportunity to change the scale and magnitude of historical inquiry and ultimately to affect the questions historians ask. If the next ten years are anything like the last, then the future of history looks enormously exciting. ■

Orville Vernon Burton is professor of history at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

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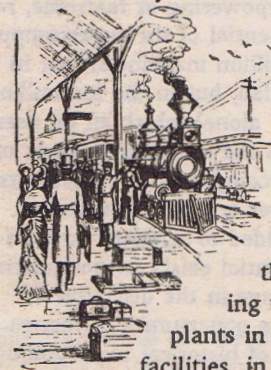
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New Institute Studies Technology

West Virginia University has established a new Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archeology.

"There's nothing quite like it anywhere else in the country," says Emory Kemp, the institute's newly appointed director. The purpose of the institute is to establish a center of professional excellence to support programs and projects concerned with the history of technology, industrial archeology and the preservation of engineering works.

One such project for which the center will be responsible is the complete restoration of the Philippi Bridge, a two-lane covered bridge built in 1852. It was used by both armies during the Civil War and was the last bridge to be included in the federal highway system.



Multiple sources of funding have been tapped to operate the center. U.S. Rep. Alan Mollohan requested that Congress appropriate \$600,000 in federal funds through the U.S. Department of the Interior to support the center. Legislation was approved and awaits President Bush's signature.

Congressman Mollohan said, "Glass plants along the Ohio and Monongahela Rivers; abandoned mining towns in Southern West Virginia; old manufacturing plants in Wheeling, Parkersburg, and Clarksburg; old railroad facilities in Grafton; and agricultural sites throughout West Virginia—they all hold keys to an important heritage and should be preserved and perhaps improved for modern use so that future generations may appreciate their contributions."

Emory Kemp, a specialist in late 18th and 19th century history of engineering, is now professor in the WVU department of history. ■

Brooklyn's History Museum Opens

Brooklyn's History Museum, housing the first and only permanent exhibit devoted to Brooklyn's history and people, opened its doors to the public on October 8, 1989 at The Brooklyn Historical Society.

The new exhibit is housed in the elegantly restored \$1.7 million Shellen's Gallery, on the first floor of The Brooklyn Historical Society's landmark building at 128 Pierrepont Street, located within the Brooklyn Heights Historic District.

"Brooklyn's History Museum, together with a new adjoining school orientation center, represents an exciting accomplishment that will fulfill our mission to make available important materials representative of Brooklyn's diverse people and cultures," says David M. Kahn, Executive Director of The Brooklyn Historical Society. A major museum, research and education center for Brooklyn history, The Brooklyn Historical Society is dedicated to the exploration and appreciation of Brooklyn's rich heritage. ■

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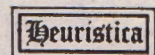
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Where financial support is necessary, fellowships will carry stipends, with a maximum of \$20,000 each. Appointments will also be available for scholars of American history who do not need financial assistance but who would benefit from affiliation with the Center for one or both semesters.

Application forms, due in the Center by January 15, 1990, may be obtained by writing to the Charles Warren Center, 118 Robinson Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138.

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History's Changing Sources and Techniques

by Thomas B. Alexander

Many recent articles have critically discussed quantification and social science history. Some make these techniques whipping boys. I have begun to wonder why we historians, who profess to be experts on change through time, appear to be so time bound in our self-examinations. The use of such a supposedly precise label as "revisionist," let alone "new history," smacks of something frozen in time. Use of the "new political history" or just "new history" in such areas as social history has obfuscated analysis for more than a decade. When I was an undergraduate, the "new history" we were taught was that fervently advocated a quarter century earlier by James Harvey Robinson and others at Columbia University before the Great War. It seems to me that the most useful perspective on changing methods, emphases, even objectives is to accept change through time as being equally as important for the history of history as for the history of any other subject.

No one denies that change has been unevenly paced, but to conclude—either hysterically or gleefully—that a revolution is in progress just because something is changing on one's own watch is ahistorical. Quantification approaches to the study of history clearly speeded up in the 1960s as computers became accessible that could store the voluminous data sets previously tapped sparingly by historians. Many of us have often speculated that Frederick Jackson Turner, struggling to accomplish county-aggregate multiple correlation analysis with historical cartography, would hardly have despaired of the future of history had he lived to use a computer.

There are countless instances of technical advances altering the way historians have pursued their calling. The emergence of newspapers provided a major new source and affected the questions historians could some day reasonably ask. Institutionalizing private manuscript collections for scholars' use vastly expanded historians' turf and contributed to enthusiasm for biography. Development of inexpensive microfilming and other forms of microphotography seemed revolutionary to those of use in action at the time. Before convenient photocopying, I carried a contour photocopier all over the country one year and packed home thousands of black-bagged sheets to be developed in the bathtub as mirror-image negatives that had to be read face down on a light table!

Historians will perceive boundless implications in recent scanning techniques for making printed and handwritten materials machine readable. And who among us would voluntarily attempt to recall how we ever managed before so recent a miracle as word processing on personal computers? The mainframe computer was an important technical step in a presumably never-ending procession. Past historians welcomed opportunities that came their way, and I think that after the waning of culture shock we shall follow the same course.

And what of new types of sources for historical study? The past half century has generated a variety of new data sources, not to mention those be-

ing created today and those yet unimagined just over the horizon. For nearly a half century we have had credible survey research in the United States, and such sources are currently burgeoning. These surveys are already being exploited but usually by political scientists and sociologists. The sheer magnitude of material requires machine-readable storage and computer assistance, and statistical inference is almost the only way to exploit it. Survey-response materials are growing in scope and volume. A half century from now, historians interested in any part of the preceding century will probably need to be able to access this gold mine effectively.

Frederick Jackson Turner . . .
would hardly have despaired
of the future of history
had he lived to use a
computer.

No exhaustive catalog of historical sources currently being generated is possible, for we lack the perspicacity to recognize the uses of what is underfoot. Some examples, however, are too obvious to overlook. Much information formerly printed as government documents is now in machine-readable form, and increasingly more will be. Though individual-level federal census data are kept confidential for perhaps seventy years, arrangements exist by which scholars can obtain reagggregations from recent censuses if they can formulate useful statistical questions. The 1990 federal census will have ecological units as small as a city block, opening the way to challenging and promising analysis by the prepared investigator.

Among obvious resources for future historians of the twentieth century are film and television. The American Historical Association sponsored a symposium on this subject in 1985, and activity started then is ongoing. The magnitude of film and videotape archives will require analytical tools and methods that we cannot yet imagine. Also, there are exponentially proliferating economic data, but these have become almost the exclusive property of economic historians trained as economists rather than as historians. Extensive sources for political history, such as congressional and legislative roll-call data, are primarily the preserve of political scientists. If future historians do not include an adequate proportion prepared to meet new opportunities, more and more of history will be preempted by other disciplines whose practitioners are ready with the methods if not always with the perspective we as historians would wish they had.

Apart from preparing for future challenges, it is also important that historians understand the historical literature currently appearing in the journals and in many social science periodicals. In 1980 J. Morgan Kousser reported that the average number of tables per one hundred pages of text in five leading historical journals rose from one to five between 1961 and 1978. For the 1984-88 period I

find the average of tables and figures to be six. It appears that there is now considerable stability in the proportion of tables and figures—cause for neither hysteria nor glee. In contrast, however, *Social Science History* during the same period had an average of 18 tables or figures per one hundred pages.

There are differences among the leading five journals. The *Journal of American History* has experienced an especially dramatic change. In the late 1970s, it reached eight tables per one hundred pages; but in the late 1980s, it has averaged four tables or figures per one hundred pages, though a sharp increase in the 1989 issues points toward the overall average of six. In the same period, the *American Historical Review* increased from two to almost five. The *Journal of Modern History* remained stable at about three. The *Journal of Southern History* increased from six to more than ten. And the *William and Mary Quarterly* increased from five to nearly eight.

The proportion of research articles containing at least one table or figure has also increased. For the five journals, one-third of articles from 1984 through 1988 contained figures or tables. The *JSH* leads with almost one-half, and the *W&MQ* follows with more than two-fifths. The other three had about one-fourth each. In contrast, four-fifths of the research articles in *Social Science History* contained at least one table or figure. It is certainly not the case that significant orientation to quantitative approaches is necessary to understand every article with a table or figure. Nevertheless, many of these do employ significant statistical inference and a considerable number present findings in such highly sophisticated statistical ways that they cannot be credibly assessed without adequate preparation by the reader. In addition, many articles without a table ought to have some, for they contain subtle statistical inferences not often made explicit. Outside these five lie a host of potentially valuable articles in such journals as *Social Science History*, the *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* and the *Journal of Social History*. Moreover, research reports in the historical dimension increasingly appear in numerous major social science journals.

No one historian can expect to cope with every historical publication. Foreign language disability, for example, denies a large corpus to any one of us. It is important, nonetheless, that a sufficient portion of the members of every discipline be able to sustain the critical assessment and review function, both before and after publication, for anything accepted into its mainstream publications. Future historians will need to be not only true to a distinguished discipline's proper mission but also flexible and venturesome. A considerable proportion will need to be able to profit from new kinds of sources as they become available and new methods that facilitate their use. ■

Thomas B. Alexander is emeritus professor of history at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

Call to Strengthen Core Requirements

Too many students are graduating from college without knowing "basic landmarks of history and thought," writes National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Chairman Lynne V. Cheney in *50 Hours*, a new report that urges colleges and universities to revise curricula so that undergraduates study essential areas of knowledge.

With the release of *50 Hours*, NEH announced the results of a survey administered by the Gallup Organization that showed significant gaps in college seniors' knowledge of history and literature. On the eve of the federal holiday honoring Christopher Columbus, the Gallup survey shows that one-fourth of the nation's college seniors did not know that Columbus first landed in the Western Hemisphere before the year 1500.

Noting that many colleges and universities allow students to earn bachelor's degrees without taking courses in history, literature, science or mathematics, *50 Hours* urges trustees and administrators to support faculty members who are working to strengthen general education requirements. She also encourages alumni, parents and students to work for reform.

The new NEH report cites dozens of schools that have developed required courses of study for undergraduates—cores of learning that give students opportunities to gain basic knowledge of fields of human thought. As a device for organizing these examples, *50 Hours* sets forth a core of learning—50 semester hours of required study in cultures and civilizations, foreign languages, mathematics, natural sciences and the social sciences.

The Gallup survey of nearly 700 college seniors, which was conducted under contract to NEH in spring, showed many students to be unfamiliar with basic facts about history and literature. As Gallup puts it, "If the students' answers were to be graded,

more than half of those tested would have failed. Using the standard 'A' to 'F' scale, where a less than 60-percent-correct score means failure, 55 percent of the students would have received a grade of 'F' and another 20 percent a 'D.'

The survey showed that roughly 25 percent of college seniors could not distinguish Churchill's words from Stalin's, or Karl Marx's writings from the U.S. Constitution. More than 40 percent could not identify when the Civil War occurred. Most could not identify *Magna Carta*, the Missouri Compromise or Reconstruction. And most could not link major works by Plato, Dante, Shakespeare or Milton with their authors.

50 Hours says that many American colleges and universities fail to provide enough structure in the curriculum, particularly in the area of study known as "general education."

"Entering students often find few requirements in place and a plethora of offerings," Cheney writes. "There are hundreds of courses to choose from, a

multitude of ways to combine them to earn a bachelor's degree, and a minimum of direction. In the absence of an ordered plan of study, some undergraduates manage to put together coherent and substantive programs, but others move through college years with little rationale."

In place of strong core, many colleges have loosely stated "distribution requirements," directing that students take some courses in certain areas and some in others. At many schools, the list of acceptable choices is long, and most of the offerings are so specialized that "they often have little to do with the broadly conceived learning that should be at the heart of general education," Cheney writes. Citing examples of universities where one can fulfill humanities distribution requirements with courses in interior design or social science requirements by taking "Lifetime Fitness," Cheney notes that some courses that satisfy distribution requirements "Have little to do with the areas of human knowledge that they are supposed to elucidate." ■

50 Hours' Plan of Study

The core curriculum that is the central organizing device of "50 Hours" suggests study in five basic areas of knowledge:

- Foreign Language, 12 hours
- Concepts of Mathematics, 6 hours
- Foundations of the Natural Sciences, 8 hours
- The Social Sciences and the Modern World, 6 hours
- Cultures and Civilizations, 18 hours

- The Origins of Civilization*: a one-semester course that considers the beginnings of civilization on various continents. (3 hours)
- Western Civilization*: a one-semester course that considers the development of Western society and thought from Periclean Athens through the Reformation. (3 hours)
- Western Civilization (continued)*: a one-semester course that considers the development of Western society and thought from the Reformation into the 20th century. (3 hours)
- American Civilization*: a one-semester course that traces major developments in American society and thought from colonial times to the present. (3 hours)
- Other Civilizations*: two one-semester courses from the following: civilizations of Africa, East Asia, Islam, Latin America, South Asia. (6 hours)

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For further information and fellowship applications, write to

Professor Rudolph Bell, Director
Professor John R. Gillis, Project Leader
Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis
Department of History CN 5059
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903

Phone: 201-932-7905

Closing date for 1990-91 fellowship applications is January 15, 1990. Those wishing to give a paper in 1990-91 should write to Professor John R. Gillis as soon as possible.

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
RUTGERS

The University of Connecticut Graduate Program in History

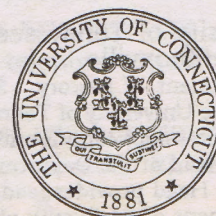
The University of Connecticut Department of History offers graduate work in all the major areas of the discipline, but is particularly strong in the fields where the Ph.D. is offered: Early American and Recent United States, Latin American, Medieval, Early Modern and Modern European history. With over thirty faculty and approximately 100 graduate students, the bulk of class work for both the M.A. and the Ph.D. is taken in small seminars designed to promote maximum interaction between professors and students. The faculty is a dynamic and growing one committed to both graduate teaching and research. Recently they implemented a multi-year National Endowment for the Humanities Funded project to train teachers of Western Civilization, which is a prototype for university-high school cooperative programs.

The University of Connecticut is an institution large enough (less than 20,000 students) to provide variety but small enough to ensure quality. It offers a wide range of opportunities for interdisciplinary study as well as a graduate research library of two million books and periodicals, and a location in an attractive rural setting convenient to the major research and population centers of the Northeast.

All graduate students in the department are eligible for teaching assistantships, fellowships and other forms of financial assistance. In addition financial aid is available in several interdisciplinary programs associated with the department including:

- **Medieval Studies**: a program that offers degrees in Medieval Studies with a concentration in History.
- **Latin American and Caribbean Studies**: a program that is one of ten federally funded centers in the nation and offers an interdisciplinary M.A.
- **Soviet and East European Studies**: an interdisciplinary M.A. is offered through the Center for Soviet and East European Studies.
- **Archival Management**: A program leading to a Certificate of Archival Management and a History M.A. or Ph.D.
- **Museum Research**: A program for students in Early American History that offers a Certificate in Museum Research.

For further information, contact:
Professor Guido Ruggiero Jr.
Director of Graduate Studies
Department of History
Box U-103, 241 Glenbrook Road
The University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT 06269-2103
(203) 486-3717



Announcements

Professional Opportunities

"Professional Opportunity" announcements should represent an equal opportunity employer.

Charges are \$50 for 100 words or less, \$75 for 101-150 words; announcements over 150 words will be edited. Application closing dates should not be earlier than the end of the month in which the announcement appears.

Send printer-ready copy to Advertising Director, OAH, 112 N. Bryan St., Bloomington, IN 47408-4199. Deadlines for receipt of announcements are: January 1 for the February issue; April 1 for May; July 1 for August; and October 1 for November. Announcements will not be accepted after the deadlines.

Agnes Scott College

U.S. History. Agnes Scott College, an independent, selective liberal arts college for women in metropolitan Atlanta, seeks applications for an entry level, tenure-track position in U.S. History beginning fall 1990. Possession of the Ph.D. is essential and promise of distinction as a teacher will be a most important consideration. It would be helpful if letters of recommendation would especially address this point. Scholarly activity is expected. Agnes Scott strongly encourages applications from minority candidates. Application deadline is December 15, 1989. Please send a letter application, c.v., and the names and addresses of three references to Michael J. Brown, Chair, Department of History, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia 30030.

Purdue University

U.S. business and/or economic history. Tenure-track, position in United States business and/or economic history at assistant or beginning associate level available August, 1990. Research specialty in any aspect of twentieth-century business and/or economic history. Appointee will teach U.S. history survey as well as develop and teach new upper-division and graduate level courses in business and/or economic history. Teaching load is two courses each semester. Appointee will be expected to maintain an active program of research and publication. Ph.D. in history is required. Publications and evidence of teaching experience and excellence are highly desirable. Send letters of application, c.v., and confidential placement files to Professor John J. Contreni, Department of History, University Hall, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907, by November 15, 1989. Applications accepted until position is filled. EO/AEE.

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Head, Department of History. Search extended. The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, invites applications and nominations for Head of the Department of History. The Head provides leadership for a department of 24 faculty offering the B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees.

Candidates should hold an earned doctorate in history, the rank of senior associate or full professor and have an established record as scholar and teacher in any field of history. Candidates must possess demonstrable administrative skills. Salary and fringe benefits are competitive. Effective date is August 1, 1990. Send letter of application, c.v., and three letters of reference to Dr. B. J. Leggett, Chair, Search Committee, English Department, 308 McClung Tower, Knoxville, TN 37996-0460. Review of applications begins October 16, 1989, and continues until the position is filled. The successful candidate will have an understanding of and demonstrated commitment to equal employment opportunity and affirmative action. AA/EOE.

University of Scranton

The Department of History and Political Science at the University of Scranton invites applications for a tenure-track position at the assistant professor level in American history for September 1990. The position requires possession of the doctorate and specialization in American social and women's history. A strong background in recent American history would be helpful. The position involves the teaching of survey, advanced undergraduate and possibly graduate courses. Letters of application and supporting materials should be sent to Dr. Raymond W. Champagne, Box 29, University of Scranton, Scranton, PA 18510 by December 1, 1989. The University of Scranton is a Jesuit institution of higher learning in northeast Pennsylvania. AA/EOE.

University of Southern Mississippi

Director, Oral History Program. Position is a renewable twelve-month appointment, beginning July 1, 1990, which may carry faculty rank in the Department of History on a non-tenure track status. Oral History is a semi-autonomous interdisciplinary program housed in the Department of History. Required qualifications: Ph.D. in American history or American Studies or equivalent scholarly record; knowledge of Mississippi; experience and/or training in oral history; ability to relate with public in non-academic setting. Preferred qualifications: capacity to teach courses in Mississippi history and oral history; experience in grantwriting and promotional activities; knowledge and/or experience in historical editing. Salary commensurate with qualifications. Will interview at Oral History Association. Deadline for applications is January 15, 1989. Send letter of application, c.v., transcript, and three recent letters of recommendation to: Neil R. McMillen, Chair, Oral History Search Committee, University of Southern Mississippi, Southern Station Box 5047, Hattiesburg, MS 39406. AA/EOE.

Harvard University

Assistant Professor in Afro-American Studies. Opening expected for 1990/91. Field less important than completion of Ph.D. by May 1990 and demonstrated scholarly excellence. Please send letter and c.v. to Dr. W. Sollors, Chair, Afro-American Studies Dept., Harvard University, 77 Dunster Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. Review of applications will begin November 1. AA/EOE.

Harvard University

New position. The Afro-American Studies Department and the History Department at Harvard University are now jointly searching for an Assistant Professor in American history with an Afro-American focus. Candidates must have the Ph.D. in hand by August 1990. Teaching responsibilities include an Afro-American history course. Participation in the undergraduate tutorial program is also expected. Send applications before December 1, 1989 to Professor Nathan I. Huggins, Department of Afro-American Studies, Harvard University, 77 Dunster Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. AA/EOE.

Yale University

20th-Century U.S. national political history. Position requires substantial research and publications as well as experience teaching undergraduate and graduate students. Applications from women and minorities are especially welcome. Deadline December 1, 1989. David Brion Davis, Chair, Search Committee, Department of History, P.O. Box 1504A Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520-7425. AA/EOE.

George Washington University

Kayser Professor of Legal History. The Department of History and the National Law Center seek a specialist in American legal history, with an ability to offer courses of interest both to history and law students. Graduate training in history required. Applicants should have a distinguished record of scholarly accomplishment in legal history. Period of specialization within field is open. Appointment effective September 1, 1990. Please send nominations or applications, including a c.v. and the names and addresses of three references, to Professor Edward Berkowitz, Department of History, George Washington University, Washington, DC 20052 by December 1, 1989. AA/EOE.

Kutztown University

Colonial/Revolutionary America. Kutztown University invites applications from historians of colonial and revolutionary America with an emphasis in social and cultural history to apply for a full-time, tenure-track appointment beginning September 1990 at the rank of assistant professor. Ph.D. and college teaching experience are required; publications are preferred. Send letter of application and dossier, including three letters of recommendation and graduate and undergraduate transcripts to Professor Thomas A. Sanelli, Chair, Search Committee, Department of History, Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA 19530 by January 12, 1990. AA/EOE.

Trinity College (CT)

Latin American History. Historian with a primary field of expertise in Latin America for a full-time, tenure-track joint appointment at the rank of assistant professor in the Department of History and the Program in Area Studies. Applicants should be prepared to teach a comprehensive survey of pre-modern and modern Latin American history, courses that examine the history of the Iberian cultures and their relationship to Latin America, and courses that examine the intellectual, economic, and political developments of specific countries in Central and South America. Teaching experience

and demonstrated scholarly potential preferred. Ph.D. required. Minorities and women encouraged to apply. Send c.v., letters of reference, and other supporting materials to Borden W. Painter, Jr., Chairman, History Department, Trinity College, Hartford, CT 06106. Application deadline: December 1, 1989. AA/EOE.

Mesa State College

Mesa State College invites applications for the Wayne N. Aspinall Chair of history, political science, and public affairs. The position consists of a five week lecturing residency on the Mesa State College campus during the spring semester, 1991. Applicants should be recognized authorities in their fields. A generous honorarium is offered. Deadline for applications: January 15. Send applications and inquiries to: Donald MacKendrick, Dean, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Mesa State College, Grand Junction, CO 81502; tel. (303) 248-1316.

Oakland University

Early U.S. history. The Oakland University Department of History invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professorship in colonial, revolutionary and early national American history beginning in August 1990. Ph.D. required. Teaching experience and demonstrated scholarly potential preferred. Teaching includes introductory survey courses and advanced undergraduate/graduate courses in areas of specialization. Please send application, c.v., transcripts of graduate work, and three letters of recommendation by December 8, 1989 to Carl Osthaus, Chair, Colonial Search Committee, Department of History, Oakland University, Rochester, MI 48309-4401. Interviews at AHA convention. Applications from women and members of minorities are encouraged. AA/EOE.

Moravian College

Moravian College invites applications from persons with a completed Ph.D. for a tenure-track position in American colonial history at the rank of assistant professor. Responsibilities also include US survey to 1877 and other courses as candidate's preparation and interest warrant. Research and publication expected, with preference for candidate able to use German-language material in the large Moravian Archives. Superior teaching ability in a liberal arts setting required. Appointment begins September 1990. Send application letter, c.v. and official credentials including three reference letters to Dr. Robert Stinson, Chair, Department of History, Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA 18018-9990. Review of applications begins January 15 and will continue until position is filled. Interviews at AHA Annual Meeting. AA/EOE.

Presbyterian College

Modern European/African. Presbyterian College. Tenure-track position beginning Fall 1990. Ph.D. and commitment to undergraduate teaching required. Teaching responsibilities to include World Civilizations, Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Europe, Africa and/or other non-Western field. Send letter, c.v., and three references by December 15, 1989 to David Needham, Chair, Department of History, Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC 29325. AA/EOE.

Fairfield University
U.S. History. 19th-century social historian for period c. 1850 - 1920. Civil War and Reconstruction required. Competency in immigration and/or women's history desired. Tenure-track, assistant professor, beginning fall 1990. Must be qualified to teach Western Civilization survey. Ph.D. and excellent teaching ability required, publications desirable. Send letter of application, c.v., and at least three references by December 10, 1989 to Dr. Richard C. DeAngelis, Chair, Search Committee, History Department, Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT 06430. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. AA/EOE.

Fairfield University
U.S. History. 20th-century with competency in American foreign relations and business and labor history. Sub-field in women's history desirable. Tenure-track assistant professor, beginning fall 1990. Must be qualified to teach Western Civilization survey. Ph.D. and excellent teaching ability required, publications desirable. Send letter of application, c.v., and at least three references by December 10, 1989 to Dr. Richard C. DeAngelis, Chair, Search Committee, History Department, Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT 06530. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. AA/EOE.

Saint Louis University
United States history. The Department of History at Saint Louis University anticipates a tenure-track appointment in United States history, with specialization in pre-civil war political and social or constitutional, effective August 25, 1990, at the assistant professor level. Doctorate required. Candidate should be committed to teaching and demonstrate scholarly promise and be compatible with the mission of a Jesuit, Catholic university. Send letter of application, c.v., three letters of recommendation, and transcripts to: Martin G. Towey, Chair, Department of History, Saint Louis University, 221 North Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63103. Applications will be accepted until December 15, 1989. Saint Louis University encourages applications from women and minorities. AA/EOE.

State University of New York at Buffalo
Applications and nominations are invited for the position of Professor and Chair of the Department of History (for September 1990). Required credentials include a Ph.D. in history, a demonstrated excellence in teaching, and a national scholarly reputation. Specialization in American or European history is preferred. Some administrative experience is desirable. Screening of applications will begin in December 1989; interviewing is expected to begin in February 1990. Send application letter, c.v., and names and addresses of three references to Dr. Mark B. Kristal, Chair of the Search Committee, Office of the Dean of Social Sciences, Box HNL, SUNY at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14260. AA/EOE.

Appalachian State University
Public History. Assistant Professor, tenure-track. Ph.D. in United States history required, teaching experience and evidence of scholarly potential preferred. Public history training and/or experience in one or more of the following: Cultural Resources Management, Historic Preservation, Site Administration, or related field. Share teaching of introductory course in

public history, offer course(s) in specialty, teach American history and World Civilization surveys. C.V. and three letters of reference to G. P. Antone, Department of History, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608 by 15 January 1990. AA/EOE.

Appalachian State University
American History, any field. Ph.D. or ABD required. Primary responsibility to teach American and World Civilization surveys. Possible tenure track; rank lecturer or assistant professor. Minority candidates encouraged to apply. Send c.v., transcripts, 3 letters of recommendation and a statement describing teaching and research interests to: G. P. Antone, Chair, Department of History, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608. Deadline: January 15, 1990. AA/EOE.

Activities of Members

Joel A. Tarr has been awarded the Abel Wolman Award for the best new book in the field of public works history. Tarr is co-editor of *Technology and the Rise of the Networked City in Europe and America*. Contributors include Clay McShane, Martin Melosi, Harold L. Platt and Seymour J. Mandelbaum.

Bruce Craig has been honored for achievement in the field of policy activities for his efforts in preserving a tract of land adjacent to the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

Warren M. Billings, Professor of History, University of New Orleans, has been appointed to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. He will represent the Association for Documentary Editing.

Joan Jacobs Brumberg's book *Fasting Girls: The Emergence of Anorexia Nervosa As A Modern Disease* has won the 1988 Berkshire Prize from the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians. The prize is awarded annually to the best book by a woman historian.

John E. Wickman will retire as Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in Abilene, KS, on December 3, 1989, having held the position since 1966. Before joining the National Archives, Wickman taught history and political science at the college level in Indiana and Missouri and served as an aide to Kansas Governor William Avery.

Oberlin College Archivist Roland M. Baumann is one of only two U.S. archivists invited to examine archives in the U.S.S.R. this fall. He will visit Moscow, Leningrad and Riga.

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded grants to 90 humanities projects. OAH members who direct winning projects are: Leon F. Litwack, University of California; Stuart B. Kaufman, University of Maryland; Reese V. Jenkins, Rutgers University; Douglas Greenberg, American Council of Learned Societies; Esther Katz, New York University; Richard K. Snowman, Rhode Island Historical Society; Paul H. Bergeron, University of Tennessee; and, John P. Kaminski, University of Wisconsin.

Steven Riess, Northeastern Illinois University, won the 1989 Webb-Smith

Essay Competition for the best essay on the topic History and Myth. The winning essay was entitled "Professional Sports as an Avenue of Social Mobility in America: Some Myths and Realities."

R. Douglas Hurt has been appointed Acting Director of the Graduate Program in Agricultural History and Rural Studies at Iowa State University.

Calls for Papers

Notices submitted for "Announcements" should be no more than 75 words and typed in double space. Please include only information basic to the announcement's purpose. All copy is subject to editing.

Send to the Editor, *OAH Newsletter*, 112 N. Bryan St., Bloomington, IN 47408-4199. Deadlines are: December 15 for the February issue; March 15 for May; June 15 for August; and September 15 for November.

The Annual Missouri Valley History Conference invites proposals for papers or sessions in all fields of history. Please submit an abstract of the paper and a c.v. immediately to Jerold Simmons, Program Coordinator, MVHC, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE 68182; tel. (402) 292-0818.

The City of Woonsocket and the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor will sponsor a national conference on textile history to be held in Woonsocket, RI, on March 24, 1990. Organizers call for one-page proposals for papers on all aspects of textile and related histories. Submit proposals by **November 20, 1989** to Douglas M. Reynolds, Scholar in Residence, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, P.O. Box 34, Uxbridge, MA 01569.

The Southwest Labor Studies Association's annual conference will be held in Los Angeles at California State University, Dominguez Hills, April 20-21, 1990. Submit proposals by **December 1, 1989** to Frank Stricker, Labor Studies Coordinator, Department of History, SBS A-306, CSU Dominguez Hills, Carson, CA 90747.

The Strong Museum calls for papers for their November, 1990 symposium on "Advertising in America." Papers should examine the history of American advertising from 1840 to 1940. By **December 1, 1989**, proposals should be submitted with a 200 word abstract and c.v. Contact Florence Smith, The Strong Museum, One Manhattan Square, Rochester, NY 14607; tel. (716) 263-2700.

The *Journal of the West* invites proposals for its special issue devoted to "The Public Library: Its Role in the Social and Cultural Formation of Western Communities" and which address predecessors of public libraries and their role in the social development of the West. Submit proposals by **December 15, 1989** to Leslie A. Manning, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, P.O. Box 7150, Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7150; tel. (719) 593-3115.

The National Genealogical Society seeks proposals for presentations at its

national conference to be held in Portland, OR, May 29-June 1, 1991. Proposals may be for lectures, panel discussions, media presentations and genealogical workshops. Proposals should include a c.v. and a presentation abstract. Send to Ellen M. Benedict, Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc., 1410 S.W. Morrison, Suite 812, Portland, OR 97205, before **December 15, 1989**.

The North American Society for Oceanic History requests papers for the 1990 meeting. Send proposals by **January 1, 1990** to Clark G. Reynolds, NASOH Program Chair, History Department, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29424.

The Australian and New Zealand American Studies Association seeks proposals for papers for its biennial conference to be held at the University of Sydney, July 1-5, 1990. Send one-page abstract and c.v. to Shane White, Department of History, University of Sydney, N.S.W. 2006, Australia, no later than **January 1, 1990**.

The annual conference on New York State History will be held June 1-2, 1990. Paper and panel proposals on any topic in New York State history and other offers to participate are invited. Contact Stefan Bielinski, Colonial Albany Social History Project, 3093 Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230; tel. (518) 474-6917 before **January 31, 1990**.

The California American Studies Association announces an interdisciplinary conference on "Place in American Culture" to be held at California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, May 4-6, 1990. The Program Committee invites proposals for individual papers, complete panels or media presentations. Contributions from historians are especially welcomed. For information, contact Michael Steiner, Department of American Studies, California State University, Fullerton, Fullerton, CA 92634. Five-hundred word proposals and brief c.v. are due by **February 1, 1990**.

The New England American Studies Association calls for proposals on the social and cultural history of the 1960s and its influence for its April 27-28, 1990 conference. Send proposals for papers, panels and performances by **February 1, 1990** to Sarah Way Sherman, Dept. of English, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824; tel. (603) 862-3964.

The Rocky Mountain Region World History Association will meet in Provo, Utah on June 7-9, 1990. The topic will be religion in world history. Proposals are due **February 1, 1990**. For information contact David McComb, Department of History, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523.

The Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife invites proposals for 25-minute papers, interim reports and slide presentations for its July 1990 conference on the subject of "Medicine and Healing." Send single-page abstract and c.v. before **February 15, 1990** to Peter Benes, Director, The Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife, 249 Harrington Ave., Concord, MA 01742; tel. (508) 369-7382.

The University of Florida's Graduate School Monographs in the Social Sciences is searching for unpublished

works on any theoretical and/or empirical social scientific topic. The author of the winning manuscript will receive an offer of publication through the University Presses of Florida. Deadline for submission of the finished manuscript is **February 15, 1990**. For information contact George E. Pozzetta, Department of History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 23611.

The University of Kansas invites proposals for papers and sessions for "Ike's America," an interdisciplinary conference October 4-6, 1990. Proposals on any aspect of the Eisenhower presidency or American life in the 1950s are welcome. Please send a one-page abstract and c.v. by **February 15, 1990**, to Chester J. Pach, Jr., Hall Center of the Humanities, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-2967.

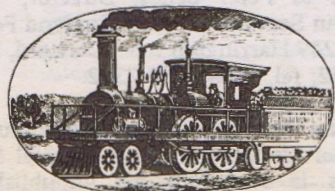
Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation, calls for papers on the interplay between religion and American culture. Contact Thomas H. Davis, Cavanaugh Hall 344, Indiana University, 425 University Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46202. (No deadline given.)

The Forest History Group of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations calls for presentations on Latin American forest and conservation history. For information contact Harold K. Steen, Forest History Society, 701 Vickers Ave., Durham, NC 27701; tel. (919) 682-9319.

The new Sage Publications Incorporated Series on Race and Ethnic Relations calls for manuscript proposals. Manuscripts should be between 200 and 400 typewritten pages, and proposals should be 5 single-spaced pages, including information on manuscript themes, comparable studies and the manuscript's market. For information contact John H. Stanfield, II, Dept. of Sociology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

The Washington Seminar on American History and Culture, an unaffiliated post-doctoral seminar, meets monthly to discuss work-in-progress and completed scholarship. Papers are submitted and circulated in advance. \$15 contributions are required for membership. Visitors to Washington are encouraged to join and notify the seminar director of their interest in giving papers. For information contact James M. Banner, Jr., Resources for the Future, 1616 P St., NW, Washington, DC 20036; tel. (202) 328-5085.

The John Whitmer Historical Association announces a call for manuscripts for a new monograph series designed to foster serious historical research into the development of the Latter Day Saint movement. First consideration will be given to manuscripts relating to history during the lifetime of Joseph Smith, Jr., but submissions on all aspects of Mormonism are welcome. Manuscripts should be less than 18,000 words in length. For information contact Roger D. Launius, John Whitmer Historical Association Monograph Series Editor, 1001 E. Cedar St., New Baden, IL 62265; tel. (618) 588-7291.



Grants, Fellowships and Awards

The 1990 Hendricks Manuscript Award will present at least \$1000 for the best manuscript focusing on the Dutch colonial experience in North America. Entries must be based on research completed or published within two years prior to first submission. Works of fiction and article length are not eligible. Three copies and a letter of intent should be submitted by **December 1, 1989** to Hendricks Manuscript Award Committee, Friends of the New Netherland Project, P.O. Box 2536-Empire State Plaza Station, Albany, NY 12220-0536.

The Institute of Early American History and Culture and the Commonwealth Center for the Study of American Culture at the College of William and Mary will appoint a senior fellow for the 1990-91 academic year. Candidates must have a record of accomplished scholarship, with strength in the late colonial or early national period, and be engaged in a research project that is interdisciplinary in nature. Review of applications begins **December 1, 1989**. Application forms are available from Jean B. Lee, Director, IEAH&C, Box 220, Williamsburg, VA 23187.

The United States Judicial Conference's Committee on the Bicentennial of the Constitution announces a summer stipend program to support research on the history and evolution of the federal courts. The awards consist of up to five \$8000 honoraria and \$2000 travel and expense grants. Applicants should hold a terminal degree. A description of research, statement of goals, enumeration of research sites, tentative budget, c.v., and two letters of recommendation must be received by **December 15, 1989**. Send to Judge Frank X. Altamari, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Uniondale Avenue at Hempstead Turnpike, Uniondale, NY 11553.

The University of Michigan's Research and Training Program on Poverty, the Underclass and Public Policy offers one-year postdoctoral fellowships to American minority scholars in all social sciences. Fellows will conduct their own research and participate in a year-long seminar on poverty, the underclass and public policy. Applicants must have completed their Ph.D. by August 1, 1990. The application deadline is **January 10, 1990**. Contact the Program on Poverty, the Underclass and Public Policy, School of Social Work, 1065 Frieze Building, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1285.

Two Rockefeller Foundation Humanist-in-Residence Fellowships will be awarded in 1990-1991 to post-doctoral scholars to work on a book-length original manuscript that contributes to the development of feminist theory. Fellows will receive a stipend of \$30,000. Applications are due **January 12, 1990**. For information and application materials, write to Women's Studies, Southwest Institute for Research on Women, University of Arizona, 102 Douglass Bldg., Tucson, AZ 85721; tel. (602) 621-7338.

The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library offers short-term fellowships to support visiting scholars pursuing post-doctoral or equivalent research in its collections. Please submit a c.v., a brief research proposal, and two confidential letters of recommendation before **January 15, 1990** to the Director, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Box 1603A Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520-1603.

The Five College Fellowship Program will award \$20,000 stipends to minority graduate students who have completed all requirements for the Ph.D. except the dissertation. The 1990-1991 fellowships also include office space, computer support, library privileges and housing. Application deadline is **January 15, 1990**. For information contact Lorna M. Peterson, Five College Fellowship Program Committee, Five Colleges, Inc., P.O. Box 740, Amherst, MA 01004; tel. (413) 256-8316.

Maurice L. Richardson Fellowships are available for graduate studies in the History of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Stipends, ranging from \$500 to \$11,000, will be made on the basis of merit and standing. Send applications by **January 15, 1990** to Department of the History of Medicine, 1415 Medical Sciences Center, 1300 University Ave., Madison, WI 53706.

The University of Oklahoma announces that junior- and senior-level Rockefeller Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowships for the 1990-91 academic year are open to candidates with doctorates in history, the history of science and related fields. Applications are due **January 15, 1990**. For information contact Kenneth L. Taylor, History of Science Department, 622 Physical Sciences Bldg., University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019; tel. (405) 325-2213.

The Virginia Historical Society invites applications for its 1990 research fellowship program. Send three copies of a c.v., two letters of recommendation, a 2-page description of the research project and a cover letter by **January 15, 1990** to Nelson D. Lankford, Chairman, Research Fellowship Committee, Virginia Historical Society, P.O. Box 7311, Richmond, VA 23221-0311; tel. (804) 342-9672; FAX (804) 355-2399.

The Travel to Collections program of the National Endowment for the Humanities provides grants of \$750 to assist American scholars to meet the costs of long-distance travel to research collections, archives, museums or other repositories throughout the United States and the world. The application deadlines are **January 15** and **July 15, 1990**. Information is available by contacting the Travel to Collections Program, Division of Fellowships and Seminars, Room 316, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20506; tel. (202) 786-0463.

The Francis Clark Wood Institute for the History of Medicine offers grants of up to \$1,000 for use of the Historical Collections of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Letters of application outlining the project, length of residence, historical materials, a budget for travel, lodging, research, a c.v. and two letters of recommendation should be sent by **January 15, 1990** to Carla C.

Jacobs, Administrative Assistant, Wood Institute, College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South 22nd St., Philadelphia, PA 19103.

The National Air and Space Museum announces a one-year resident fellowship for pre- or postdoctoral historical and scientific research related to aviation and space. The fellowship should begin between July 1 and October 1. A stipend of \$12,500 for predoctoral candidates and \$20,000 for postdoctoral candidates will be awarded, with limited additional funds for travel and miscellaneous expenses. Deadline is **January 15, 1990**. For application materials write Guggenheim Fellowship, Office of the Deputy Director, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, 20560.

The Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, announces the Rockefeller Foundation Residency Program in Humanities for the 1990-91 academic year. Full-academic year and single-semester residencies are available. These fellowships are open to academic scholars at the post-doctoral level and qualified independent researchers. The deadline for application is **January 15, 1990**. For information contact Philip P. Mason, Director, Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, 5401 Cass Ave., Detroit, MI 48202; tel. (313) 577-4003.

The American Antiquarian Society will award a number of Visiting Research Fellowships during the 1990 academic year. Several categories of awards are offered, some in Chicago and some in Worcester. For information contact John B. Hench, American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609; tel. (617) 755-5221. Deadline for application and 3 letters of reference is **January 31, 1990**.

The Essex Institute offers a fellowship program to encourage research and publication in New England history and culture based on its library and/or museum collections. A monthly stipend of \$500 will be paid for up to three months, with the possibility of free housing in a nearby studio apartment. Applications are due by **January 31, 1990** for fellowships beginning after June 1. For information write Fellowship Program, Essex Institute, 132 Essex St., Salem, MA 01970; tel. (508) 744-3390.

The Hagley Museum and Library and the Department of History at the University of Delaware offers Hagley Fellowships covering tuition at the University of Delaware and provide a yearly stipend of \$8170 for master's candidates and \$9050 for doctoral candidates. Applications can be made through the Associate Coordinator, Hagley Program, Department of History, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716; tel. (302) 451-8226. Deadline is **February 1, 1990**.

The American Institute of the History of Pharmacy offers grants-in-aid totalling \$5000 annually to graduate students to encourage historical investigation of some aspect of pharmacy and to pay research expenses not normally met by the university granting the degree. Application are due **February 1, 1990**. For information contact the American Institute of the History of

Pharmacy, Pharmacy Bldg., 425 N. Charter St., Madison, WI 53706; tel. (608) 262-5378.

The American Institute of the History of Pharmacy is accepting applications for its Teaching Improvement Award for \$15,000. Any person who holds an instructorship or higher rank in a university within the USA is eligible to apply. The deadline for application is **February 1, 1990**. For information contact AIHP, Pharmacy Bldg., 425 N. Charter St., Madison, WI 53706; tel. (608) 262-5378.

New York University's American Institutions Program offers a Summer Seminar on "Rethinking Rights: Law, Social Movements, and Institutional Reform," June 18-29, 1990. Full-time faculty are eligible for fellowships that cover the costs of transportation, housing and stipends. All scholars are encouraged to apply. Deadline is **February 1, 1990**. For applications, write, Rethinking Rights Seminar, Faculty Resources Network, New York University, 1104 Bobst Library, 70 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012.

The Mary Lizzie Saunders Clapp Fund is awarding research support grants for study at Radcliffe's Schlesinger library. The library collects materials on women's roles, achievements and contributions to American life from 1800 to the present. The deadline is **February 15, 1990**. For information contact Patricia King, Radcliffe College, Ten Garden St., Cambridge, MA 02138; tel. (617) 495-8647.

The Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine is awarding grants for summer 1990 research using materials at The Medical College of Pennsylvania. Two grants of up to \$1,500 each for 4-6 weeks of research in the Archives will be made to applicants selected by the Award Committee. For an application contact the Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine, The Medical College of Pennsylvania, 3300 Henry Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19129. Deadline is **February 16, 1990**.

The Naval Historical Center, Dept. of the Navy, has established a senior fellowship to support one year in residence at the Center to assist in research and writing a major monograph concerning the history of the U.S. navy, and it awards \$55,000 per year plus allowances. The Center will also award two postgraduate research grants of up to \$2,500 each and a \$7,500 predoctoral fellowship for individuals researching and writing on U.S. naval history. The Center welcomes internship applications from undergraduate history majors as well. The deadline for applications is **February 28, 1990**. For information write Director, Naval Historical Center, Bldg. 57, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374.

Next summer the National Endowment for the Humanities will offer fifty-one seminars for college teachers. Twelve participants are selected to attend each seminar. Participants in the 8-week seminars receive a stipend of \$3,500 and those in 6-week seminars receive \$2,750. Applications are also being accepted for 1991 Summer Seminar directors. Deadline is **March 1, 1990**. For information contact Summer Seminars for College Teachers, Room 316, Division of Fellowships and Seminars, NEH, 1100 Pennsylvania

Ave., Washington DC, 20506; tel. (202) 786-0463.

The Congregational History Project will be awarding up to eleven Dissertation Fellowships for the 1990-91 academic year. Applicants must be candidates for the Ph.D or Th.D degree at North American graduate schools who have completed all pre-dissertation requirements by the time of application. Deadline is **March 1, 1990**. For information write James W. Lewis, Congregational History Project, Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion, 1025 East 58th St., Chicago, IL 60637.

The Gerald R. Ford Foundation awards grants of up to \$2,000 to cover travel and other expenses for research in the Gerald R. Ford Library's Archival collections. For information contact David Horrocks, Gerald R. Ford Library, 1000 Beal Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48109; tel. (313) 668-2218. The deadline is **March 15, 1990**.

The Rockefeller Archive Center of the Rockefeller University will award a stipend of up to \$30,000 for study and research at the Center. Applications are due **April 1, 1990** and should include a c.v., a letter detailing the candidate's research interests and demonstrating familiarity with the Center's holdings, and three letters of reference. Send to Darwin H. Stapleton, Director, Rockefeller Archive Center, Pocantico Hills, 15 Dayton Ave., North Tarrytown, NY 10591-1598.

The Hagley Museum and Library announces the availability of Advanced Research Fellowships for 1990-1991 supporting independent study in Hagley's fields of interest at its Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society. Scholars working in the humanities or in related fields. Contact Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society, Hagley Museum and Library, PO Box 3630, Wilmington, DE 19807; tel. (302) 658-2400 by **April 1, 1990**.

A biennial prize of \$250 for the best article in the history of education, will be presented at the 1990 meeting of the History of Education Society. Articles published in 1988 or 1989 in refereed journals only will be considered. Self-nominations are welcomed. Send five copies of the article, by **June 1, 1990** to Robert L. Hampel, Chair, H.E.S. Prize Committee, College of Education, Willard Hall, The University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716.

Lehigh University Press will award \$1500 and a publication contract for the best book-length manuscript submitted in the field of eighteenth-century studies. Manuscripts must be submitted before **December 31, 1990**. For information and an entry form, contact Director, Lehigh University Press, 103 Coxe Lab #32, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA 18015; tel. (215) 758-3933.

The Committee of the Presbyterian Historical Association offers a grant for the best book and article on American religious history published during 1988 or 1989. Winners will receive a cash stipend. Contact James Symlie, c/o Union Theological Seminary, 3401 Brook Road, Richmond, VA 23227.

The National Endowment for the Humanities offers the *Overview of Endowment Programs* for those seeking NEH grants. Contact *NEW Overview*,

Room 406, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20506; tel. (202) 786-0438.

Meetings and Conferences

The Center for Labor Research & Studies at Florida International University will host "Florida's Labor History: A Symposium," on **November 17-18, 1989** in Miami. The symposium is free and open to the public. For information contact Peggy Wilson, CLRS MO-2, Florida International University, University Park, Miami FL 33199; tel. (305) 554-2371.

The New England Bibliography and the American Antiquarian Society will sponsor a symposium on New England's history **December 9, 1989**, in Worcester MA. For information call Caroline Sloat at (508) 347-3362.

A conference on "American Civil Religion and Pacifists" with special attention to the years 1830-1930 will be at Goshen College, Goshen, IN, **February 15-17, 1990**. For information contact Theron F. Schlabach, Box A37, Goshen College, Goshen, IN 46526.

The "African American History in Texas" conference will be held in Dallas, TX on **February 16-17, 1990**. For information contact W. Marvin Dulaney, Conference Chair, Dept. of History, The University of Texas at Arlington, Box 19529, Arlington, TX 76019; tel. (817) 273-2861.

California State University-Fullerton Philosophy Department will hold a symposium, "Philosophy and American Culture," **March 8-10, 1990**. For information, contact David Depew, Chair, Philosophy Dept., CSUF, Fullerton, CA 92634.

The United States Capitol Historical Society will sponsor a symposium entitled "Launching the 'Extended Republic': The Federalist Era" on **March 14-15, 1990** in Washington D.C. All proceedings will be open to interested persons free of charge, and no advance registration is required. For information write Ronald Hoffman, Dept. of History, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742.

The Middle Atlantic Historical Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities will hold its conference on **March 31, 1990** at Seton Hall University. For information contact J. F. Mahoney, Department of History, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ 07079-2696.

The Library Company of Philadelphia will hold a conference on the contributions of Benjamin Franklin to the literature and culture of the 18th century and a clearer understanding of Franklin as a politician, scientist, thinker and writer on **April 17-19, 1990**. For information call (215) 598-7919.

Michigan State University's Women's Studies Program and the Modern Literature Conference sponsors "Re-Visioning Knowledge and the Curriculum: Feminist Perspectives" on **April 19-22, 1990**. For information contact 1990 Conference Committee, Women's Studies Program, 300 Linton Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.

The Society of German-American Studies Annual Symposium will be held **April 26-29, 1990** at the Deutsche Haus-Athenaeum in Indianapolis. The symposium will be hosted by the German Department of Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis. For information, contact Giles Hoyt, German-American Center, Indiana University, 425 Agnes St., Indianapolis, IN 46202; FAX (317) 274-2347.

George Mason University is hosting a conference "To Secure the Blessings of Liberty: Rights in American History" **April 26-28, 1990** to celebrate the Bill of Rights. The conference, open to the public, will consider the background and ideas which led to the writing and ratification of the Bill of Rights. For information, call or write History Department, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030; tel. (703) 323-2571.

The Biennial Conference on Social History will be held at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh on **May 5-6, 1990**. The theme will be "Method, Discourse, and Practice in Social History." For information on the conference write John Modell, Department of History, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

The Berkshire Conference on the History of Women will be held **June 7-10, 1990**, at Douglass College, Rutgers University. For details contact Carys Evans-Corrales, Berkshire Conference, Voorhees Chapel, Douglass College, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

The National Institute on Genealogical Research will be held **June 11-16, 1990** at the National Archives in Washington, DC. The program takes a records-intensive look at Federal records of genealogical value located in the National Archives in Washington. Enrollment is limited. For information write National Institute on Genealogical Research, P.O. Box 14274, Washington, DC 20044-4274.



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Ashes in the National Archives

From Kerson page 3

in August, Wobbly Frank Little was lynched in Butte, Montana, where he had gone to organize a copper strike.

In Washington, President Wilson, pressured by Western governors and employer lobbyists, appointed Federal Judge J. Harry Covington to investigate the IWW. Covington found no evidence of German funds flowing to the union, and no evidence that the Wobblies were breaking Federal laws. But Thomas Gregory, Wilson's attorney general, was convinced that such evidence existed and decided to stage a nationwide raid on IWW offices on September 5, 1917.

IWW national headquarters in Chicago was a prime target, but there were also raids in other cities where the Wobblies had a permanent presence. In Chicago, the raid was carried out by a team of public and private operatives, including seven members of the American Protective League, a civilian group, made up of businessmen who volunteered to help the authorities round up draft dodgers and war dissenters. The IWW offices were located at what was then the heart of the city's skid row section. Entering the four-story building, the team of 19 agents found Wobbly leader "Big Bill" Haywood and three secretaries quietly at work in his office. For three days, agents carted away five tons of material. No arrests were made; the purpose was to find evidence for eventual prosecution of the Wobblies. The haul also included, Hayward biographer Peter Carlson wrote, "several small envelopes containing the ashes of Joe Hill."

Many patriotic Americans—especially employers—viewed strikes during wartime as an enemy plot.

Fred Lee conjectures that when government agents descended on the IWW offices, grabbing just about everything that was not nailed down, someone decided that at least one packet of Joe Hill's ashes should be saved. "Somebody tried to sneak them out, and addressed them to this guy Charles Gepford," says Lee, devising a chain of probable causation. "This was not a plan to distribute the ashes. This was a plan to try to get them away from the federal government—and it failed." Lee freely admits that his reconstructed version of events is mostly guesswork.

One detail that neither Lee nor anyone else can fill in is the identity of Charles Gepford. More than 150 Wobbly leaders were arrested on conspiracy charges in 1917, says Lee, but Gepford was not among them: "He was not even a second rung leader. His name doesn't show up anywhere. . . I've never seen him in anything I've read, and nobody can remember him."

It may be no coincidence that the name of Charles Gepford never shows up in any IWW records or literature. If you were part of an organization under siege, and you wanted to hide something from the authorities, you might very well decide to give it to

someone anonymous, someone with no known connection to your organization—someone, in fact, unlikely to be searched or arrested.

But if Charles Gepford was truly a secret supporter of the IWW, why did the Post Office open his mail? "Total accident," says Fred Lee. He accepts the explanation given by Chicago Postmaster W. B. Carlile, who wrote that the envelope containing Hill's ashes was accidentally mutilated by a cancelling machine, causing the contents to be "unavoidably disclosed."

Postal agents seized sizable quantities of anti-war material during those years, along with a large selection of political literature which had little to do with the war, but which was judged too extreme for the government to tolerate. The Post Office confiscated enough mail between 1917 and 1921 to fill up more than 200 sizable cartons, which are now stored in the National Archives. The collection is probably one of the best collections of World War I-era radical literature to be found anywhere in the United States—although the Post Office did not seize it for the purpose of creating a historical archive.

Jerry Clark, an archivist whose specialty is the material confiscated by the Post Office, does not believe that Charles Gepford's mail was seized by accident. "I have a feeling these people were being watched," he says. It was standard operating procedure, he explains, that "things sent to a certain address would be opened." Maybe the Wobblies thought Gepford was a safe choice to receive Hill's ashes because he was not on any of their membership lists—but maybe he was on a list that the IWW did not even know about.

The envelope addressed to Gepford and its contents were kept by the Post Office until the 1940s, when they were quietly transferred to the National Archives, along with the other cartons of confiscated mail. While Fred Lee spins a convoluted web of circumstance to explain how the Gepford envelope wound up in this unique collection, Jerry Clark has a very simple answer for how the existence of the unusual artifact has remained virtually unknown for so many years. Scholars never found out about Joe Hill's last ashes, he says, because they never asked.

The story was no secret, says Clark, who worked in the division of the Archives which handles Post Office Records up until a few years ago. For years, he says, the existence of Hill's ashes had been common knowledge among archivists. "We have lots of odd things in the Archives," he explains. "Have you ever heard about the human fingers?" The fingers were sent to the State Department by Mexican kidnapers in 1915 and are high on every archivist's list of unusual items. If you mention Joe Hill's ashes to an archivist, it is virtually guaranteed that within a few minutes, you will hear about the fingers. Sitting among tens and thousands of boxes of paper, the two human artifacts naturally create an instant,

and rather grisly, mental association.

Such things may have been common knowledge for years among archivists, but the rest of us were in the dark until May of 1986, when an article in the Archives' monthly calendar mentioned, among other things, penguin bones, a ventriloquist's dummy, Rosemary Woods' typewriter and Joe Hill's ashes. That article eventually led to a story in *Solidarity*, the monthly publication of the United Auto Workers, and the story soon came to the attention of the IWW, which is how Fred Lee began a quest for the return of Joe Hill's ashes.

"We have lots of odd things in the Archives. . . Have you ever heard about the human fingers?"

On June 1, 1988, Lee wrote to Don Wilson, Archivist of the United States, asking for the return of Joe Hill's ashes to the IWW. Wilson and his subordinates spent a few months trying to figure out what to do about his request, because they were not sure they had the authority to release an item that had come into their possession. The key question, apparently, was whether or not the ashes constitute a federal "record." Do the ashes in and of themselves actually convey any information? Or is all of the "informa-

tion" about this episode sufficiently contained in the paper packet which holds the ashes and the surrounding documentation?

The final verdict, apparently, is that the packet and the papers are good enough. So Wilson wrote to Fred Lee in early October, telling him he could contact the Archives at his convenience to arrange a transfer of the ashes. In November of 1988, Lee went to Washington to collect the ashes, and they are now in the custody of the IWW in Chicago.

No decision has been made yet, Lee says, about what the Wobblies will do with Hill's ashes once they get them. One plan that has been discussed is to send some of the ashes to Sweden, where Hill was born and there is a Joe Hill museum, and distribute the rest at Chicago's Waldheim Cemetery, where a number of noted American radicals are buried, including the anarchists who were executed as a result of the Haymarket Affair.

Lee says the ceremony will be for rank-and-file labor activists, in the spirit of the telegram Hill sent to "Big Bill" Haywood on the day he died: "I die like a true rebel. Don't waste time in mourning. Organize." ■

Roger Kerson is a Chicago-based writer. A version of this article originally appeared in the *Chicago Reader*.

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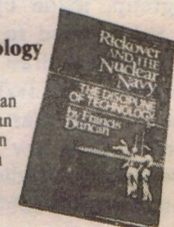
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