



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS

OAH

NEWSLETTER

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1974 ANNUAL MEETING

This year's meeting will be held in Denver, Colorado, April 17-20. The headquarters will be the Denver Hilton Hotel, and rooms will also be available in the Cosmopolitan and the Brown Palace Hotels. Information on rates and preregistration has been mailed with the Program.

THE LOCATION. The Organization's journey to Denver will be made one hundred and fifteen years after the Pike's Peak Gold Rush hastened the settlement of Colorado. The original migration to the site had been triggered by reports of gold in what was then the western-most portion of Kansas Territory. An estimated fifty thousand fortune-seekers journeyed to Colorado in 1859. Participants in the modern-day "Rush to the Rockies," a somewhat smaller group, will be seeking information about research, methodology, and interpretations of history and related disciplines.

Historians will discover that Colorado welcomes visitors. Tourism is a major industry in the Centennial State and Denver, the "Queen City of the Plains," self-proclaimed political, business, financial, educational, and cultural center of the Rocky Mountains, is in itself an important attraction.

The Denver Metropolitan Area encompasses more than one hundred square miles, embraces five counties, and contains well over one million inhabitants. The core city of Denver, with half-a-million residents, is surrounded by twenty-five suburban communities. The largest of these are Arvada, Aurora, Boulder, Brighton, Golden, Lakewood, Littleton, Northglenn, Thornton, and Wheatridge.

Denver is the capital of the state. Government offices are located principally at the east end of the Civic Center Complex near the downtown section of the city. The capitol, completed in 1908, is crowned by a massive dome plated with twenty-four carat gold. Adjacent to that structure is the Colorado State Museum.

Directly west of the state capitol, the Denver City and County Building is flanked by the public library, the art museum, and the United States Mint. The Denver Public Library, founded in 1889, contains more than two million books, documents, and periodicals, and is known to historians for its Western History Collection. The Denver Art Museum, occupying a new seven-story structure that opened in 1971, houses a comprehensive collection of North American Indian Art, plus permanent and changing exhibits representative of all historic periods and diverse cultures.

Denver is also a regional administrative center for the federal government, whose offices are concentrated in two areas of the community. One is immediately north of the downtown business and shopping section. The other, a large complex called the Denver Federal Center, lies along Kipling Street between West Sixth and Alameda avenues in Lakewood. At the latter place is the Federal Records Center, which includes the Regional Archives of the National Archives and Records Center.

The area's economy, once founded on the mining of gold and silver, is sustained today by manufacturing and government installations, in addition to tourism. Industry is growing at a rapid pace. Older enterprises -- Gates Rubber Co., Samsonite, and Adolph Coors Brewing Co. -- have been augmented in recent years by Ball Brothers Research Corp., Eastman-Kodak, International Business Machines, Martin-Marietta, Western Electric, Hewlett-Packard, Honeywell, and Sunstrand Corp.

The educational center of the state and region, the Denver area is the home of many public and private institutions of higher learning. The largest of these is the University of Colorado which maintains, in addition to a large academic facility in Boulder, a school of medicine and nursing as well as a downtown "urban campus" in Denver. Also state-operated are the Colorado School of Mines in Golden and Metropolitan State College in Denver. Arapahoe Junior College, in Littleton, and the Community College of Denver, with four campuses, offer two-year academic programs, plus technical and vocational training courses. Private schools include the University of Denver, Regis College, Loretto Heights College, and Colorado Women's College, formerly known as Temple Buel College.

Attractions abound in the Denver area. Visitors will find that restaurants offer varied menus to suit every taste, from international cuisine to western wild game. Theaters and night clubs provide live entertainment to please all ages and interests. A walk through the wax museum and the tour of the rows of transportation antiques may be augmented by a visit to the U.S. Mint and the state capital grounds. Shopping is also exciting in Larimer Square's speciality shops, or in the numerous stores that may be found within walking distance of the headquarters hotel.

More distant but within the limits of Denver are other noteworthy points of interest. The Denver Museum of Natural History, one of the finest in the United States, is located in City Park. Nearby is the Denver Zoo, the largest in the Rocky Mountain Region. City Park is also the setting for the plant collection of Denver Botanic

Gardens, whose main facilities, including the Conservatory, are one mile south on York Street. An alpine plants exhibit, maintained jointly by the Botanic Gardens and the U.S. Forest Service, is located on Mount Goliath, west of the Metropolitan area.

Outside of Denver historians will discover other attractions. Within from only a few hours to no more than a day's drive from the capital city are numerous communities once famous as producers of precious metals. Some are now ghost towns; others are very much alive. Central City, the heart of what Horace Greeley once described as the richest square mile on earth; Cripple Creek, the locale of Winfield S. Stratton's Independence and other bonanza mines; Georgetown, a Victorian village in the midst of the Clear Creek silver district; and Leadville, the richest of all the silver camps and the home of Baby Doe and H. A. W. Tabor, have retained in varying degrees the flavor of the mining frontier.

Other elements of the past have been preserved. The State Historical Society's regional museums include Healy House and Dexter Cabin in Leadville, and the homes of Felipe Baca and Frank G. Bloom in Trinidad. That agency also maintains the Ute Indian Museum near Montrose; Fort Garland, a restored military post once commanded by Kit Carson in the San Luis Valley; and Fort Vasquez, replica of an early fur trading outpost on the South Platte River below Denver.

The Air Force Academy, located ten miles north of Colorado Springs at the foot of the rugged Rampart Range of the Rocky Mountains, is a relatively recent addition to the Colorado scene. Visitors will want to tour the beautifully landscaped grounds, view the many impressive buildings and visit the chapel, museum and planetarium.

The Centennial State is famous for its natural beauty and scenic wonders. In part to preserve these features, the state and federal government have set aside forests, parks, and recreational sites. While April is too early to travel by automobile to the summits of Mount Evans or Pike's Peak, 14,426 and 14,110 feet respectively, and Trail Ridge Road through Rocky Mountain National Park usually does not open until Memorial Day, a brief journey into the foothills to the vicinity of the Continental Divide will lead inevitably to the impression that Colorado is indeed a colorful state.

*Lee Scamehorn,
University of Colorado.*

THE PROGRAM. In consultation with President John Higham, the Program Committee has given the 1974 Annual Meeting a special focus. Eleven sessions--a fifth of the total--are devoted to presenting OVERVIEWS of where we now stand in our understanding of the major time-periods in American history since colonial times, and where we should be going. The flood of books and articles in recent years has left many wondering what new discoveries are salient; how they relate to each other and to older emphases; where agreement lies; and what questions need further scrutiny. We have also established a series of WORKROOM sessions which will feature the

convening of a group of seminar-type gatherings within one or two large rooms where small-group discussion may occur.

The many proposals that came in response to our open invitation demonstrated that social history is now the liveliest concern of the profession. Accordingly, the largest number of sessions relate to this interest. We have also scheduled gatherings which will examine new trends to be observed in the writing of history, and in such areas of continuing concern as cultural/intellectual studies, foreign relations, regional history, and economic patterns. Lastly, we have put together several sessions on innovations in the teaching of history; the experience and prospects of academic historians in the community colleges and technical universities; and such professional issues as collective bargaining.

*Robert Kelley,
University of California, Santa Barbara.*

WORKROOMS. These parts of the program are divided into two series: New Approaches to Teaching American History and New Approaches to American Social History. Each series will be offered twice. For details see the Program. Each discussion group will be limited to 8-10 participants and a discussion leader. Because of this limitation, admission will be by advance reservation only and requests for admission will be filled in the order of receipt. Those desiring to participate in one of the sessions on teaching should write to Mrs. Evelyn L. Leffler, Assistant to the Executive Secretary, Organization of American Historians, 112 North Bryan Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401. Those desiring to participate in a session on social history should write to Professor J. Jonathan Levine, Editor, Historical Methods Newsletter, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260, indicating the discussion in which he or she is interested and an alternate choice. Each participant will be sent a position paper written by the discussion leader which will serve as a focus for the seminar.

THE COLORADO STATE MUSEUM. The State Museum, which is the headquarters for the State Historical Society of Colorado, contains four floors of exhibits depicting the history of Colorado and a Documentary Resources Department that holds more than 700 manuscript collections, photographs, oral history materials, and an extensive collection of Colorado newspapers on microfilm. The hours for the Museum are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, and holidays, while the Documentary Resources Department will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and, as a service to OAH members, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 20th.

DENVER ART MUSEUM. The Denver Art Museum, one of the city's architectural gems, will interest many members of the Organization. Museum hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, and 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday.

EMPLOYMENT AND THE JOB REGISTRY. In Denver the OAH will once again operate a job registry, this time in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Employment and the U.S. Department of Labor. Departments seeking candidates, as well as historians seeking positions, are encouraged to use this service.

It is Organization policy to encourage departments to publicize openings, and we wish to use this occasion to once again urge department chairmen to list jobs with the Employment Information Bulletin of the American Historical Association. The information should be sent to Professional Register, American Historical Association, 400 A Street Southeast, Washington, D.C. 20003.

The Business Meeting last April endorsed in principle a resolution opposing "all forms of speed-up in educational institutions such as those recently enacted or proposed by legislators in Michigan, Oregon, California, etc.," and the resolution was passed on to the Executive Board "for consideration and appropriate action." The Board needs more information in this area and thus asks all members with information on such developments to bring it to the attention of the Executive Secretary.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board met in Bloomington on November 30 and December 1 and considered a large number of issues facing the Organization. Matters discussed and advanced for action by committees and the Executive Secretary and for further consideration at the next meeting included: a possible increase in dues, a change in election procedures, coordination of historical work in the federal government, and a roster of specialists in women's history. The Board also reconsidered proposals on bibliographical and research needs that had been before it for some time and endorsed proposals for OAH participation in the American Revolution Bicentennial. The Board expressed concern about CIA pressure against the publication by Harper & Row of Alfred W. McCoy's The Politics of Herion in Southeast Asia. In addition, the Board decided not to go forward with a proposal to establish an insurance program.

Two subjects consumed especially large portions of the Board's time: the teaching of history and the job crisis in the profession. Plans for investigation by committees of the first subject were developed more fully, and various efforts to deal with the crisis were authorized. The Executive Secretary's report to the Business Meeting in Denver will discuss these efforts.

REAPPOINTMENT OF THE TREASURER. The Executive Board also appointed Professor William D. Aeschbacher of the University of Cincinnati to a new five-year term as Treasurer of the Organization. Professor Aeschbacher has served the OAH since 1957. This move had been recommended by a special committee chaired by Professor E. David Cronon, University of Wisconsin, and consisting of Professor John L. Loos, Louisiana State University, and Professor Sarah Lemmon, Meredith College. In their report, they commended Aeschbacher for the high

quality of service rendered to the Organization and the excellent job he has done as Treasurer. Convinced that the OAH is very fortunate in having his services, members of the Board are grateful to him for his willingness to carry on these responsibilities for another term.

ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR USERS OF ARCHIVES.

Still another item on the Board agenda for December was concern about the ethical standards of scholars who use archives. After deliberation, the group authorized the preparation and publication of the following statement:

The Joint Committee on Historians and Archives (AHA-OAH-SAA) has noted with concern numerous instances of detrimental treatment of research materials by scholarly users. Such conduct may well lead to the imposition of costly and onerous security restrictions by archival agencies and the prosecution of offenders. In the opinion of the Executive Board of the OAH, the problem is sufficiently serious to merit the attention of all graduate departments of history. Accordingly, it recommends that in the training of graduate students, emphasis be given to proper standards of conduct by those using research materials. If these materials are mutilated, misplaced, or stolen, or treated with other than utmost care, such actions constitute highly unethical conduct and reflect adversely on the entire historical profession.

THE 1974 CANDIDATES

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following slate:

President:	John Hope Franklin, The University of Chicago
Vice President:	Frank Freidel, Harvard University
Executive Board:	Geoffrey Blodgett, Oberlin College Joseph Wall, Grinnell College Robert W. Johannsen, University of Illinois Burl Noggle, Louisiana State University Mary F. Berry, University of Maryland Otey M. Scruggs, Syracuse University
Nominating Board:	Richard H. Brown, Newberry Library Lillian B. Miller, National Portrait Gallery Jane DeHart Mathews, University of North Carolina at Greensboro Dorothy Ross, Princeton University Richard T. Ruetten, California State University, San Diego Alfred Young, Northern Illinois University

The ballots have been mailed with the Program and must

be returned to Professor Robert A. Divine, the chairman of the Nominating Committee, by March 20, 1974.

THE NEWSPAPER PROJECT

Since publication of the first Newsletter, the Organization, aided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, has moved forward with its project on American newspapers. Dr. Gale Peterson, a graduate of the University of Maryland, was appointed to conduct this project and assumed his responsibilities on October 1st. Using the mails and the telephone and traveling widely, he has contacted chairmen of history departments, directors of historical societies, archivists, librarians, and the relevant professional associations, and he has obtained advice and information on the size of newspaper collections, microfilming budgets, guides to newspapers and the uses of the computer in cataloging and indexing projects. If the evidence justifies the establishment of a long-term effort, he will soon prepare a proposal for financial support of a program to produce a new directory to American newspapers comparable to the one developed under the leadership of Winifred Gregory in the 1930's.

FIFTY YEAR INDEX

The index to the Mississippi Valley Historical Review is now available. Publication of this valuable research tool, which covers the entire fifty-year history of the Review, was delayed by the paper shortage, but delivery to OAH headquarters is now scheduled for January 31st. Thus, shipment of copies to individuals and institutions who have ordered them will begin early in February. The volume is priced at \$25 for individuals and \$35 for institutions. Order coupons are printed in the Journal and also in the 1974 Program. Purchasers may send orders directly to the Executive Secretary.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS

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SUMMER SEMINARS FOR COLLEGE TEACHERS

For the summer of 1975, NEH is planning to award twelve grants for seminars in history in its program of Summer Seminars for College Teachers. A diversity of topics is sought, and proposals to conduct seminars are encouraged from interested scholars at major universities. The purpose of the program is to enable college teachers at the smaller private and state colleges and junior and community colleges to work under the direction of prominent scholars in institutions with libraries suitable for advanced study.

The seminar director has wide latitude in designing his seminar. The Endowment asks only that the topics of the seminars be broad enough to accommodate a broad range of interests. The seminars should be primarily substantive and should not be construed as curriculum planning or pedagogical training.

Grants to conduct seminars provide for the summer salary of the seminar director, secretarial and administrative help, postage and communication, and institutional indirect costs. The grants also provide stipends of \$2,000 for a two-month tenure plus housing and travel allowances of \$250 for each of the participants.

Additional information can be obtained by writing to the Division of Fellowships, National Endowment for the Humanities, 806 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506

THE OAH AND THE NHPC

In the Executive Secretary's Report, which was published in the September issue of the Journal, Edward Coffman and Edgar Toppin were incorrectly identified as "members of the Advisory Council to the United States Archivist." In fact, Coffman and Toppin represent the Organization on the National Historical Publications Commission.

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