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NEHA News

The Newsletter of the New England Historical Association

April 1, 1977

Vol. IV, No. 1

MEETING DATES

April 30, 1977, Harvard University,
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

If you are not a member of the association you will not receive formal notification of this meeting unless you write the Secretary, Professor John Voll, History Department, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire 03824.

October 8, 1977, University of Connecticut,
Storrs, Connecticut.

PROGRAM FOR THE SPRING MEETING

Morning Sessions:

I. Medieval Monasticism

1. Repentance or Virtue? Monastic Damages and Reparations in Twelfth Century England

Thomas Callahan, Jr., Rider College

2. Cluniac Political Ideas: Gregory I or VII?

Daniel J. Kelly, Waterford (Ct.) High School

3. The Economics of Medieval Monasticism
Richard Roehl, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Donald Logan, Emmanuel College, Commentator. Fred A. Cazel, Jr., University of Connecticut, Moderator.

II. New England History

1. Religious Life In New Hampshire in the Era of the American Revolution
Douglas H. Sweet, Columbia University

2. Organized Voluntarism: The Catholic Sisters in Massachusetts, 1870-1940
Mary J. Oates, Regis College

3. The Strike of 1922 at the Waterville Shops of the Maine Central Railroad
George H. Merriam, Fitchburg State College

James Hanlan, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Commentator. Nancy Norton, Wheaton College, Moderator.

Luncheon Address:

The Times History Survey: Data and Significance

Bernard Bailyn, Harvard University

Afternoon Sessions:

III. A Measure of Democratic Effectiveness: How Individuals and Groups Can Matter under Certain Historical Circumstances

1. Popular Power and Institutional Reconstruction: Massachusetts, 1774-1778
Ronald McCarthy, Brandeis University
2. The Lawyers' Lobby and Opposition to the Red Scare, 1920-1921

W. Anthony Gengarely, North Adams State College

3. Government and the Role of Popular Involvement

Kenneth Wadoski, Merrimack College
Nell Painter, University of Pennsylvania, Moderator.

IV. Mathematical Models

1. A Historian's Perspective
Jonathan J. Liebowitz, University of Lowell

2. A Mathematician's Perspective
Thomas M. Costello, University of Lowell

Winifred Rothenberg, Brandeis University, Moderator

The spring meeting will be a joint meeting with the Harvard-Danforth Experiments in History Teaching and the New England History Teachers Association. The Harvard-Danforth group will offer a concurrent program of their own, concentrating on issues concerned with the teaching of history, at which members of the NEHA will be welcome. Their members will likewise be welcome at the NEHA sessions. The social hour, lunch, and luncheon address will be joint. Further information on the program of the Harvard-Danforth session and practical information concerning the times and meeting places of both sessions will be sent out soon to all NEHA members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Individuals interested in presenting papers at either the fall, 1977, or spring, 1978, meetings of the NEHA should contact Professor Gordon Jensen, Department of History, University of Hartford, West Hartford, CT. Most welcome are proposals for integrated session of three twenty-minute papers or two half-hour papers on particular themes or problems in American, European, and Third World History.

The Victorian Studies Bulletin, an interdisciplinary journal serving as a clearing house for news about Victorian Britain, will begin publication this spring. For further information, contact Lynne Sacher, Editor, Victorian Studies Bulletin, 820 West End Avenue, New York, NY 10025.

Radcliffe College has received a two-year grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to support a biographical oral history project on the lives of black women. The final selection of the women to be interviewed will be made by an advisory committee whose members welcome suggestions of possible interviewees as well as information on other oral history projects in similar areas. Suggestions can be sent to Patricia M. King, Director of the Schlesinger Library, or Betty S. Leonard, Coordinator of the Black Women Oral History Project, The Schlesinger Library, 3 James Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138.

Contributions to support the work of the National Coordinating Committee on the Promotion of History in which the NEHA participates are still being accepted. They should be sent to Armand Patrucco, Treasurer, New England Historical Association, 151 Borden Avenue, Johnston, Rhode Island 02919.

The State of Connecticut has established an Historical Records Advisory Board to "cooperate with and encourage" agencies and non-profit institutions in collecting, preserving and publishing historical papers and documents. The program is broad enough to encompass all kinds of historical records--governmental, business, institutional and private, manuscripts, films, tapes, and photographs. Grant request forms and information can be obtained from Robert Claus, Archivist, State Library, 231 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06115.

NEHA News is the newsletter of the New England Historical Association. It appears twice a year, in April and September. The deadline for the April issue is January 1; the deadline for the September issue is June 1. Contributions and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to: Robert J. Imholt, Editor, NEHA News, Albertus Magnus College, 700 Prospect Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06511

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SESSION SUMMARIES: SESSION I - RELIGIOUS CHANGE AND REFORM: DIFFERENT AGENTS AND THEIR IMPACTS

The papers in the panel aimed at providing a basis for cross-cultural and comparative discussion of religious change and reform. Each paper examined the role of one particular agent acting in a situation of socio-religious change and reform.

Gwendolyn Jensen (University of New Haven) presented a paper on "The State: The State and Ecclesiastical Reform in 19th Century Prussia and England." In this presentation Erastian tendencies in Prussia and England were compared. One conclusion reached was that state-sponsored efforts at ecclesiastical reform in the long run had the effect of widening the gap between sacred and secular in the two societies. The state churches tended to retreat from secular life as a reaction against Erastianism.

Marc Schwarz (University of New Hampshire) presented a paper entitled "Laymen: Lay Participation in the English Reformation." Aspects of lay involvement in religious change in England ca. 1529-1640 were examined. While much attention has been paid to the work and ideas of the clergy during the English Reformation, not enough thought has been given to the implications of lay participation. The dimensions of this lay involvement may be seen in the growth of lay religious awareness and concern; the lay patronage and political support of such movements as Puritanism; the active lay involvement in religious writings and polemics; and the direct participation of lay people as religious activists. It was argued that the attempt of Archbishop Laud to revive and enhance the power of the clergy and Church failed because it collided with an already well established tradition of lay religious control and participation in England.

John Voll (University of New Hampshire) presented a paper named "Religious Leaders: Reform by Religious Leaders without a Church--Islamic Messianism in the Sudan." This paper started with a general discussion of the role of the religious professional as a reformer in Islam, a society where there is no formal church institution. The specific example of the Mahdi in the Sudan during the late 19th century was used to illustrate the paper's thesis. The paper concluded with the suggestion that, in the absence of a "church", religious reform tends to create theocratic attitudes where the activist religious reformer attempts to capture the state as the way of accomplishing his religious reforms.

Discussion on the papers followed the presentation.

Charmarie Blaisdell, Chairman
Northeastern University

SESSION II - BRITISH DIPLOMACY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

This session included three papers: "Prelude to Entente Cordiale: The End of Anglo-French Rivalry in Morocco in 1902-1903," by Professor Minton F. Goldman of Northeastern University; "British Diplomacy and the Possibility of Dutch Entry into World War I," by Professor Charles A. Watson of Roger Williams College; and "Britain and the Jews of Danzig, 1938-1939," by Professor Joshua Stein of Roger Williams College.

In the opening paper, Professor Goldman argued that the end of Anglo-French rivalry in Morocco was an essential precondition to the negotiation of the Entente Cordiale Agreements of 1904. Between 1900 and 1903 Britain and France came to recognize that global challenges from other powers made Anglo-French cooperation more and more attractive. As a result, during these years and accompanied by intense diplomatic maneuvering, the two Powers moved from a policy of confrontation to one of detente concerning Morocco. Professor Goldman traced in detail the halting development of British policy as it moved slowly toward a policy of accommodation, a position toward which they were encouraged by the initial conciliatory attitude of Paul Cambon and subsequently by Theophile Delcassé. This shift was made more difficult because of severe opposition from the Colonial Office, Military Intelligence and the Admiralty, as well as the Foreign Office's own representatives in Morocco, Arthur Nicolson and Henry MacLean. Nonetheless, it is clear that by the middle of 1903 the two powers had moved to a policy of cooperation in Morocco.

"The subsequent hard diplomatic bargaining involved in the negotiation of the 1904 Entente Agreements could not have taken place without the reservoir of friendly sentiment between the two Powers generated in the early months of 1903, as they moved from confrontation to cooperation in Morocco."

Professor Watson, in his examination of the possibility of Dutch entry into World War I, dealt mainly with British Foreign Office efforts to maintain the neutrality of the Netherlands. In the early days of August, 1914, Sir Edward Grey momentarily tried to convince the Dutch that they should enter the war. He made an offer of "common action" but within a matter of hours withdrew it. For the rest of the war Grey, and his successor at the Foreign Office, A. J. Balfour, took the position that Britain should not encourage the Dutch to join the conflict until the British could guarantee that the Netherlands would not be overrun by German armies. Since this could never be the case, the maintenance of Dutch neutrality was accepted as the prudent policy by the majority of the British cabinet, though the War Office on occasion, and especially in 1918, urged unsuccessfully that Dutch entry would be more helpful to the Allied cause. Overall, the British successfully encouraged the Dutch to maintain a reasonably strict policy of neutrality throughout the course of the war, using both diplomatic reassurances and economic pressures to achieve this end.

In the final paper, Professor Stein demonstrated through his case study both the political inadequacy and moral bankruptcy of British policy in the face of Hitler's rapidly intensifying anti-Semitic policies in the years immediately preceding World War II. When the Jews of Danzig were informed in December, 1938, by the local Nazi government that they had to evacuate the city by April 1, 1939, both the Foreign and Home Offices were thrown into a turmoil. The former viewed both the Danzig government and the Jews (who were willing to flee anywhere, but preferably to Palestine) as disturbers of international order. Moreover, they were forcing Britain to make hasty and dangerous decisions. The Home Office consistently opposed Jewish entry into England, even on a temporary basis. The Colonial Office, fearing an influx of refugees into Palestine, simultaneously attempted to pressure the Foreign Office into using its influence to keep the Jews in Danzig and the Home Office into accepting any that got out. The result was that the Foreign Office at every turn sought to discourage any mass migration and to block through diplomatic moves any escape route that had as its final goal Palestine. Ultimately, British policy failed. With few exceptions, those who "irrationally" left Danzig in mass emigrations survived. Those who followed Britain's advice and did the responsible thing, awaiting proper facilities for their exit, did not. The British government never seemed to realize that the enemy was unreasonable and that therefore reasonable reactions were simply a prescription for suicide.

In his comments, the chairman noted that each of these papers, while dealing with a specific and limited topic, shed light on major diplomatic issues, namely: the achievement of the Entente Cordiale; the complex issue of belligerent-neutral relations during World War I; and the specific implication that continued support of an appeasement policy had in the post-Munich period, as well as the continuity of British policy in the interwar and post-war period regarding Jewish immigration into either Great Britain or Palestine. In addition he commented on the need for greater attention to policy formulation, to the working out of internal differences at the departmental and cabinet level. Attention to this area can often uncover links to other problems and concerns that up until now have not been suspected of being important in explaining the whys and wherefores on international relations.

The session concluded with nearly thirty minutes of spirited questions and discussion on issues raised by many members of the audience. In particular it was pointed out that because of internal policy formulation problems, British diplomacy often appears to be one of waiting until the last possible moment to take any action on a major issue, and that in this limited sense the British often appear to be perpetually engaged in something approaching "crisis" diplomacy.

Paul C. Helmreich
Chairman and Commentator
Wheaton College

LUNCHEON ADDRESS

Professor Owen Chadwick of Cambridge University, England, examined the latest evidence, from the Vatican archives and from the Weizsäcker papers, on the kidnapping of Jews from the city of Rome on October 16, 1943. At last it is possible to follow in reasonable detail the working of the minds inside both the Curia and the German embassy to the Vatican in the effort to save the lives of Jews, whether those already kidnapped or the still larger number still sheltering in Rome. Much seems to depend on the interpretation of Weizsäcker's letters to Berlin, and this in turn depends on the view taken of Weizsäcker as a person. The Vatican archives show the large measure of cooperation between the embassy and the officers of the Curia, and the way in which the protest to Berlin and the form which it took was concocted by cooperation from both sides. The question whether or not Pope Pius XII was right to keep "silence" against a shocking incident under his windows (the problem raised by Rolf Hochmuth in his play The Deputy) can only be understood in relation to this inward background of cooperation, especially to help the refugees left hidden in Rome.

Professor Owen Chadwick
Cambridge University

SESSION III - LINCOLN THROUGH NEW LENSES

At the session "Lincoln Through New Lenses," the Lincoln theme was approached in a "traditionalist" way and also through psychohistory and computerized content analysis. In his paper "Lincoln in the Computer," G. S. Boritt of Memphis State University described his current work at Harvard on the quantitative analysis of Lincoln's writings and reported speeches. The Collected Works, edited by Roy P. Basler, is an outstanding achievement, but determining the authorship of specific writings by analyzing the frequency of certain words and literary characteristics can add some important items and eliminate others. In documents jointly signed by Lincoln and Seward, for example, the question of chief authorship bears not only on Lincoln's thought about foreign affairs but also on his religious feelings. Not only may some writings attributed to Lincoln be exposed as spurious and the accuracy of Lincoln's speeches as reported by the press and others be tested, but also, more positively, important unsigned newspaper articles may be identified as Lincoln's work. Further, the successful use of the methodology in studying Lincoln may encourage its application otherwise in history and other scholarly disciplines.

Charles B. Strozier of Sangamon State University used a psychohistorical approach as well as extensive documentary evidence in studying "The Search for Identity and Love in Young Lincoln." In New Salem, Lincoln's relatively unsuccessful dabbings in surveying, storekeeping, postmastership, and various part-time jobs marked a search for professional identity. The explicit ambivalence of his courtship of Mary Owen suggests a parallel search for sexual identity. Though he was later established as lawyer and politician and genuinely drawn to Mary Todd, his dramatic breaking off of his engagement to her on January 1, 1841, cannot be fully explained by Ruth Randall's thesis of Todd family opposition. It seems likely that Lincoln was unready to surrender his still tentative identity to the commitment implied in a sexual relationship. Further plausibility is given this view by Lincoln's relationship with Joshua Speed, who had befriended him at a moment of forlorn uncertainty, shared a bed with him for three years (a common arrangement of convenience in that frontier-tinged time and place), and became the most intimate personal friend Lincoln ever had. The Speed relationship may have encouraged Lincoln to postpone a resolution of his sexual hesitancy. Speed's own ambivalence toward an approaching marriage and its happy outcome largely released Lincoln from his fears. These conflicts operated at an unconscious level and can be only a partial basis for understanding Lincoln's development. Nevertheless, spread over eleven of Lincoln's formative years, they played an important part in what he eventually became.

Mark Neely, director of the Lincoln National Foundation and Museum (Fort Wayne), gave his paper "'To Distinguish Myself': Lincoln and the Mexican War" as an example of traditional history. Boritt has shown that, contrary to the conventional view, Lincoln's opposition to the Mexican War was entirely acceptable to his Whig constituency and did not cause his temporary withdrawal from politics. Boritt sees Lincoln's motive as idealistic. Neely evaluates Lincoln's position from the view point of practical politics by comparing its effect with that of similar stands by Whig congressional candidates in four Indiana districts, politically and socially comparable to Lincoln's. In the two districts already in the Whig camp, the candidates publicly opposed the war without apparent detriment to the Whig margin; in the other two, the Whigs, who leaned against

the war while soft-peddalling the issue, wrested the seats from Democrats. Lincoln was in line with Western Whigs and (contrary to Boritt's opinion) more expansionist than most, though more outspokenly anti-war than some. His decision not to run again came chiefly from a previous understanding with other Whigs to let the seat rotate, but also, as his letters to his wife and the heretofore uncited recollections of his congressional crony Richard W. Thompson show, because he disliked the tedious and trivial routine of a junior Western congressman. Perhaps he already had a larger role in view.

Roy P. Basler, unable to attend, sent written comments which were read by the chairman. Commending Boritt's purpose, Basler will "await the results with eager, and, to speak figuratively, eagle eye!" He questioned Strozier's characterization of the New Salem years as "unsuccessful" and his acceptance of Lincoln's virginity at the time of his marriage, but praised the paper's cogency and penetration, and its depth of understanding and appreciation of Lincoln.

Richard N. Current of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, saw the session as showing that the Lincoln theme is still unexhausted and as suggesting future directions in pursuing it. While Boritt's work will clarify and enlarge our understanding of Lincoln's thought, areas of speculation and controversy will remain. Strozier is more careful, restrained, and sophisticated than earlier writers in his psychological conjectures, but they remain conjectures. Neely is also conjectural about Lincoln's political motives. Was he expansionist or not? Could not his denigration of Washington life have been a way of reassuring his wife back in Illinois? Neely professes a traditionalist approach, but in fact exemplifies a third fresh tack, that of comparative history. All three papers are "well conceived, researched, and thought out."

The social hour having already begun, the chairman invited members of the audience to speak informally and face-to-face with the panel members after the general dispersal, rather than formally from the floor.

Robert V. Bruce
Boston University

BOOK REVIEWS: Portraits of a Nineteenth Century Family: A Symposium on the Beecher Family, Edited by Earl A. French and Diana Royce, Hartford, CT: The Stowe Day Foundation, 1976.

We have the portraits and photographs, a record in sepia tones and black and white. The men are solemn, usually bearded, stiff and formal in their dark clothes. The women, scarcely less formal, wear the long, heavy dresses of the nineteenth century, hair drawn back, ringlets framing their severe ordinary faces. But the look belies the fact, for Lyman Beecher's large brood of children, fathered on three wives, was an unusual family by any account.

Two hundred years after his birth, Lyman Beecher, as well as his remarkable family, was honored by a two-day symposium held by the Stowe-Day Foundation in Hartford in 1975. The scholars who participated were well acquainted with their subject, since all had done research and published materials on various members of the family. This volume gathers their papers together, and it is exactly what the title suggests, an attempt at some portraits of the group. The scholars are varied in the approaches they take to their topics, but they are consistently interesting in their presentations. One comes away from the papers desiring to know more about the Beechers and their world.

Stuart C. Henry's "Lyman Beecher: An Unvanquished Puritan" attempts, in a very brief space, to give some impression of what the patriarch of the family must have been like. It ranges over a wide variety of topics- the character of Beecher's puritanism, his conception of Providence, his marriage, his love of music, his acceptance of the infallibility of the Bible, his relationship with Calvin Stowe, and the intense industry and energy with which he conducted all the business of his life and all matters in the world about him. The piece reads well, and it must have been an effective paper, read aloud to an audience as a kind of keynote to the symposium. Lyman Beecher is the kind to strike awe into the souls of lazier people. While we consider how best to arrange our lives, he moves worlds. Strength of will, strength of body, and a kind of stubborn forbearance mark his character; he preached seven times a week when well into his seventies.

The paper presented by Kathryn Kish Sklar, "Catharine Beecher's A Treatise on Domestic Economy: A Document in Domestic Feminism," is a perceptive account of an early feminist career, for the Treatise is a book worth studying for the light it casts upon the nineteenth century woman's attempt to gain control of her personal and domestic situation. It deals with women's work, health, economic problems, house construction and furnishing, and budget keeping. Here, Sklar quotes a central thesis of the book:

Without attempting any such systematic employment of time, and carrying it out, so far as they can control circumstances, most women are rather driven along, by the daily occurrences of life, so that, instead of being the intelligent regulators of their own time, they are the mere sport of circumstances. There is nothing, which so distinctly marks the difference between weak and strong minds, as the fact, whether they control circumstances, or circumstances control them.

There seems little doubt that Catharine was powerfully affected by the example of her sister Harriet who had decided to carve out a place for herself and used whatever means she thought necessary to achieve her goals. Determined "not to be a mere domestic slave," as she put it in her correspondence, Harriet worked out a system which allowed her time for writing and earning money while she managed a household and her children. She knew she must not yield to the unspoken requirement of a new baby every year, and so she engaged in a "matrimonial warfare" to insure autonomy and personal control of her life. Births must be limited, controls must be set; and yet, methods of overt contraception were held to be unnatural. So she resorted to a device practiced by many nineteenth century middle-class women, a pretended invalidism. In an era when health was improving dramatically, women conscientiously became ill and separated from their husbands for long periods of time to take water cures. Catharine, a spinster, found this a plausible pattern of behavior and made a point of acknowledging that the women of her time and class were a fairly unhealthy lot.

Harriet Beecher Stowe is the subject of a paper by Professor E. Bruce Kirkham that deals with the various biographical treatments accorded to her. The record is revealing. Since she controlled the materials, she could dictate to her son, Charles, what should and should not appear in the earliest biography, which he was writing. Similar controls vitiated later books. They continued to commemorate rather than analyze her, and nothing definitive was produced till Forrest Wilson's Crusader in Crinoline in 1941. There is still a real Harriet to be displayed, and Kirkham, who is preparing an edition of letters from the some 1500 available, shows how the texts printed in the biographies differ significantly from the originals, generally smoothing down the portrait that is allowed to emerge. For she must have been a different woman than the one who makes her appearance in the carefully genteel studies--tougher, stronger minded, harder headed, a good business woman unafraid of speaking her mind--and she emerges in this way in Kirkham's paper to demonstrate to us what sort of person it must have taken to write Uncle Tom's Cabin.

The last two papers in the symposium treat Isabella Beecher Hooker (Anne Farnam, "Woman Suffrage as an Alternative to the Beecher Ministry") and a number of other members of a large family (Joseph S. Van Why, "Crusaders of the Pen and Podium"). They offer impressive testimony to the intelligence, industriousness, and social consciousness of the Beecher household. Prominent in the woman suffrage movement, Isabella in 1868 published A Mother's Letters to a Daughter on Woman Suffrage. She was considerably younger than Catharine and Harriet and took up her work long after they had been identified with the social issues of the day. She spent a useful life of eighty-five years in advancing her cause, lecturing, writing, and petitioning. Her speech on The Constitutional Rights of the Women of the United States (1888) demonstrates her single-minded efforts at gaining the vote for women.

Other members of the family were, to say the least, prodigious. Except for James, who dies early at the age of fifty-eight, they all survived into their seventies, eighties, or nineties, to become college presidents, ministers, and, in some instances, writers. Edward published a Narrative of Riots at Alton (1838) and The Conflict of Ages; or, the Great Debate on the Moral Relations of God and Man (1853). Charles, musically minded, preached, taught, played the organ, and edited The Plymouth Collection of Hymns and Tunes in 1855. Henry, the most famous of all, a splendid orator, was greatly admired in his time. The Beecher-Tilton scandal caused an immense uproar in the press to bring his name before the whole populace. Thomas lived out an obscure life in Elmira as a preacher and an extraordinarily learned man.

In every possible way, this was a family bound to stand out above the crowd and make its imprint upon the times. They were fiercely independent in forming their opinions and making their influence felt. One senses a highly developed competitive instinct in them. What this symposium does, with considerable sympathy and skill, is to put them before us stripped of the sentimentality of the early lives and reminiscences. It is better so. They had a rich ability to live fully and push against the constraints imposed by a time and place, and their successes were measurable and substantial.

Douglas Robillard
University of New Haven

Texts in Twentieth Century European History: A Review Article

It is always a great temptation when teaching a course in twentieth century European history to dispense with a formal textbook and to rely exclusively on paperbacks which offer an ever-increasing selection of specialized studies, memoirs, and first-hand accounts of events that are still fresh in the author's mind. But, while for the instructor this approach may offer more scope and breadth, students are often lost when confronted with what often appears to them as disconnected bits and pieces of information. The results can be disastrous as students flounder, unable to grasp the inter-relationships of twentieth century politics, ideologies, society, and war. It is at this point that the value and usefulness of a good textbook become apparent.

Many years ago Benns and Langsam were the standard texts for twentieth century European history. Both were heavily political and both provided excellent surveys. But with the growing importance of social and intellectual history, textbook treatments have become more diversified. Authors, according to their interest and inclination, tend to emphasize different aspects of contemporary European history and to avoid long and detailed accounts of often obscure, though important conflicts, such as the Macedonian question during the 1920s. For the purposes of this article five recent texts and a dual selection of readings will be reviewed.

Written in the tradition of political history, Twentieth Century Europe by C. E. Black and E. C. Helmreich, now in its fourth edition (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1972), is the longest of the five, reaching a hefty 1008 pages. Originally published in 1950, the subject matter in the latest edition has been revised and rearranged. Well-organized in five parts, broken down into thirty-four chapters, dealing with the first world crisis, the great powers and the search for equilibrium, the smaller powers in the interwar period, the second world crisis, and post World War II in Europe, it is better suited for a one-year course in which there is time to balance its heavily political and diplomatic emphasis with supplemental readings in social and intellectual developments. Among its pluses are good treatment of the subject matter as developed by the authors, appendices with useful documents and other data, and a fairly exhaustive topical bibliography. If students are able to cope with this text, they will know European political history in the twentieth century when they have finished the course.

Three texts, by judicious cuts in their treatment of political and diplomatic events, manage to integrate into their narrative a more diversified treatment of Europe's trials, tribulations, and survival in our century. The shortest of them and the only one in paperback is Felix Gilbert's The End of the European Era, 1890 to the Present (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1970). The last volume of the Norton History of Modern Europe, it brings this series to a brilliant conclusion. In 417 pages Gilbert sketches the course of Europe's history in this troubled time, mingling information on the new industrial society that was emerging at the end of the nineteenth century with thumb-nail sketches of the great powers and their political problems. He surveys the period between wars and discusses the Europe that emerged from the second truly global struggle. The book ends with an overview of Europe in the 1960s. A short, but well-selected critical bibliography matched

to each chapter concludes the book, which also has a goodly sprinkling of illustrations and useful maps. The advantages of Gilbert's treatment, despite its lacunae--inevitable given the space limitations--are that precisely because it is relatively brief, the instructor still can use selected paperback works to illustrate other areas of development. On the negative side, there are instances where one may disagree with Gilbert's interpretation of events, interpretations often couched as too-sweeping generalizations. However, as a basic treatment making available to the student a modicum of necessary information on twentieth century Europe, Gilbert serves the purpose admirably.

The other two are in some ways similar, varying as to degree of emphasis in their treatment of discrete topics. Europe in the Twentieth Century (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1975) by Robert O. Paxton is the most recent in the field, and consequently perhaps the most oriented towards a broader historical presentation. It also carries the "story" up to such contemporary issues as polycentrism in the communist world and Europe in the 1970s. As Professor Paxton notes in his preface "historians nowadays pay more attention than before to matters outside the familiar realms of war, diplomacy, and politics. Social mobility, family relationships, deep-seated popular values, and the lives of common men and women are beginning to be more frequent subjects for serious historical enquiry than... (previously). These new concerns are reflected on many pages of this book... At the same time, the traditional matters of war, revolution, economy, and struggles over liberty and authority still occupy a large place here." Judiciously chosen illustrations and annotated lists of suggested readings of basic recent books at the end of each chapter further enrich the book and make it a very attractive and informative text of 629 pages for use on the undergraduate level.

Also up-to-date is the fourth edition of H. Stuart Hughes' Contemporary Europe: A History (Englewood Cliffs; Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1976). When the first edition of this work appeared in 1961 it opened up new vistas since it did precisely what Paxton describes in his preface as being the new direction in which historians have been moving. In this fourth revision Hughes advises that he believes that Europe's history in the past sixty years requires "a less detailed and more sharply pointed treatment" and that he will not hesitate "to express opinions and to pass judgments." Like Paxton, Hughes starts with Europe in 1914, and through twenty-two chapters and 595 pages guides us through a presentation that discusses politics, diplomacy, technology, society, culture, economics totalitarianism, wars, revolution, and ends with an analysis of Europe's self-awareness in the mid-1970s. An attractive format, short annotated bibliographies at the end of most chapters, as well as the author's evident mastery of the period make this a more sophisticated and perhaps more difficult book conceptually than Paxton's. Both, however, are successful examples of an approach that views all of man's activities as history.

The most penetrating, yet least informative about historical facts, is George Lichtheim's Europe in the Twentieth Century (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1972). A Marxist and a humanist, Lichtheim knew and felt the Europe about which he wrote. His work is presented in three parts, in turn divided into fifteen chapters totaling 375 pages. The first part surveys pre-1914 Europe's baggage of ideas; the second sorts out the political and intellectual climate of the twenty years between wars; and the third discusses the Second World War and its aftermath through the early 1970s. Moving easily

from politics to Einstein, Lichtheim's approach is interpretive rather than narrative. Political, military, and economic affairs are not neglected but are dealt with summarily. His aim, in his own words, "has been to bring into view the totality of European civilization, the heaviest emphasis falling upon the transformation of inherited life styles under the impact of social and technological change." This is not a book to use with students who know little or nothing about twentieth century Europe, but it is a very exciting text to give more advanced students who will understand and profit from a synthesis that integrates the ideas, passions, and pursuits of Europeans at a crucial time in their history. The usual accoutrements of bibliographies and notes and a fine set of maps add to the book's value.

The dual selections of readings mentioned earlier are the two versions of An Age of Controversy, edited by Gordon Wright and Arthur Mejia, Jr. Both are published by Dodd, Mead & Co. The first and longer collection originally came out in 1963 and went through numerous printings. In 1973 the authors released a so-called "alternate edition" of the same collection, with the subtitle, "Discussion Problems in Twentieth Century European History." Both editions are available and it is the instructor's individual preferences to determine which one is used. The first version is more inclusive, presenting reading selections on fifteen topics in 506 pages. In my opinion, while the original edition does, to be sure, offer more readings and cover a wider range, the "alternate" edition has been brought more sharply into focus, its emphases more clearly defined, so that it offers more unity and continuity than the first edition. Choice should depend on the instructor's own view of important topics to be covered. The readings are drawn from a wide spectrum of specialists in various aspects of twentieth century history, and while the selections tend to lean towards politics, economic and intellectual issues are not totally neglected. Both editions (many readings appear in both) present a balanced selection of appraisals and interpretations on issues identified as basic in twentieth century European history.

None of these texts has serious flaws. Probably none is completely satisfactory. All are eminently useable if chosen to meet the needs of the students in any particular course and the interests of the instructor. It would be ideal if one could find a text that precisely paralleled one's own view of the period, but until we all decide to write our own texts, these five books and two somewhat different collections of readings presented under the same title by the same editors should offer enough choice.

Emiliana P. Noether
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Manuals of Quantitative Methods: A Practical Guide

Charles M. Dollar and Richard J. Jensen. Historian's Guide to Statistics: Quantitative Analysis and Historical Research. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1971. Pp. xii, 332. (now available from Krieger reprints)

Roderick Floud. An Introduction to Quantitative Methods for Historians. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1973. Pp. 220.

Edward Shorter. The Historian and the Computer: A. Prentice-Hall, 1971. (also Norton paperback) Pp. x, 149.

The rapid growth of interest in quantitative methods among historians has created a situation in which many perplexed humanists have felt themselves to be on an obscure path in the wilderness with threatening least-squares regression lines on one side and nine-track blocked tapes on the other. A number of guides have appeared, but now a further dilemma arises--how to choose the guide. I shall try to suggest which guides are most useful for which purposes.

Aside from differences in emphasis arising out of the backgrounds of the authors of the three manuals, the difficulty in selecting among them comes from the fact that so many varying needs have to be met. In the first place, the whole quantitative enterprise has to be justified. If the justification is successful or convincing, the historian will then want to know how to go about using statistical methods and computers, so he or she needs an introductory (and later more advanced) text. Other historians may be looking for a text to use in teaching undergraduate and graduate students. Ideas about possibilities for research may be obtained from summaries of work that has already been done. Once engaged in research, the historian will find it essential to possess a handbook of different statistical procedures with indications of their appropriateness for various data and questions.

The three handbooks under review attempt to satisfy most, if not all, of these needs. Inevitably, each does well with some, shortchanges others. Perhaps it would be better to publish separate volumes to meet the different needs, as is done in the other social sciences. Yet because most historians still come to the field with little background, comprehensive texts are probably best.

The historian who feels hesitant about entering the world of numbers and machines will probably be most comfortable with Shorter. Avoiding mathematical formulas and equations, he leads his reader from the familiar to the unknown with plenty of encouragement and step-by-step guidance. Shorter thus starts, after a brief introductory justification with a survey of historians like Aydelotte, the Baillyns, Rabb and Wrigley, who have used statistics and computer methods. Many of the works cited will already be familiar even to those who have stuck to what Shorter elsewhere calls "plain old history".

Then Shorter, drawing on his own experience as a social historian studying strikes in France, develops useful hints on coding. Among these are keeping as close to reality and wasting as little data as possible. From here Shorter goes on to key-punching and the computer with a brief discussion of different types of machines. He discusses programming but is of the opinion that most historians should not bother to learn how to do it. Instead they should hire a programmer or use packaged programs, such as Harvard's DATA-TEXT.

In this section, Shorter reveals some of the difficulties present in his book, as well as in the others being reviewed. He is essentially familiar with one type of historical research, has performed it at one type of institution and writes at a time when computer development was rapid. For people in different circumstances certain aspects of his discussion will be at least misleading. His advice that acquiring even a rudimentary

knowledge of programming is unnecessary may not apply to historians in other fields or at institutions where assistance and facilities are limited.

Shorter bases his approach to statistics on verbal description and the wide use of tables. Yet, as he himself writes (p. 103), his book is not an introductory statistics text, and, sooner or later, equations will have to be faced, except possibly by those whose only goal is a general understanding of some of the work being done by others.

The statistical methods that Shorter does emphasize are those that are best suited to situations where individuals ("cases") being studied can be placed into different categories (e. g., Protestants and Catholics). He concentrates on cross-tabulations ("cross-tabs"), also known as contingency tables, declaring that "the historian will want to make cross-tabulations the central device for getting results from the machine." (p. 89) The chapter on "correlation" thus devotes considerable attention to the statistic chi-square, which is used with cross-tabs. Other fundamental statistics like the mean, standard deviation and correlation coefficient are discussed, but the best presentation covers the techniques that Shorter has used in his own research.

Historians interested in the sort of social history that Shorter does will find his book of considerable practical value, and all beginners could profit from it. On the other hand, the author's tone ("great grey machines" for computers (p. 49), "super-statistics" for multiple regression and analysis of variance (p. 112)) may turn off some, while his determination to keep everything simple may lead others astray. An example of the latter problem is the discussion of chi-square. It is the only contingency table statistic he explains, yet for most historical research lambda, tau or gamma would be more appropriate. They are also easier to understand. Shorter certainly knows this, but the unwary reader may be misled.

When all is said and done, Shorter's book is strongly recommended for beginners, especially those timid about statistics, and social historians. It would also make a useful text in an introductory course in quantitative methods if supplemented with other books.

Roderick Floud is a British economic historian, and his Introduction to Quantitative Methods reveals the preoccupations of that field, though it is far from being an introduction to quantitative economic history (cliometrics) in the style of Robert Fogel or Stanley Engerman. Thus the most valuable sections in the book are those that deal with the series, a favorite subject of economists. A time series is "a set of data which is ordered chronologically" (p. 85), for example, British exports between 1820 and 1850. A whole chapter of some forty pages (pp. 85-124), as well as a good part of the section on graphs, is devoted to the analysis of time series. Since all history, not only economic history, deals with change over time, historians of many persuasions will benefit from these sections in Floud.

Floud treats statistics more thoroughly and more mathematically than does Shorter. Believing, correctly I think, that a few mathematical techniques are necessary to explain the concepts of statistics, Floud begins with brief presentations of matrix and summation notation. He then goes on to summary measures, rates and measures of relationship

between variables, devoting more space than Shorter to correlation and regression but less to cross-tabs. Like Shorter, Floud ignores the contingency table statistics like tau, phi and lambda in favor of chi-square and its offshoots.

Any historian who masters the statistics presented by Floud is well on the way toward commanding the basic methods she or he will need in research. More complicated or specialized techniques like multiple regression, analysis of variance or Guttman scaling are just touched upon. On the other hand, the material on computation, especially the use of logarithms to simplify it, is unnecessary. It is important to understand the formulas for the various statistics that one might use. Yet today the actual calculations should be done on a calculator or, if large quantities of data or complex operations are being handled, a computer.

Computers and coding are covered in the final chapter. Though Floud has some useful advice about the latter, his treatment is much less thorough than Shorter's. The same is true of his discussion of calculators and computers. (And calculator prices in pounds are not very helpful for Americans.) Floud agrees with Shorter on the usefulness of package programs but also recommends some acquaintance with programming languages. His point here is well taken. Very few historians, indeed, will want to become expert programmers, but there are times when knowledge of BASIC or FORTRAN comes in handy, and they're not hard to learn, as the FORTRAN sample in Floud (pp. 202-203) shows.

To sum up, Floud is outstanding on time series and provides a useful introduction to statistics for those willing to accept a modest amount of mathematics. It has little on the operations of computers, and the bibliography is skimpy and of little use, suffering especially in comparison with the next volume.

One of the best features of Historian's Guide to Statistics by Dollar and Jensen is in fact its bibliography, or "Guide to Resources of Value in Quantitative Historical Research." (pp. 236-297) Included in this listing are not only scholarly writings and printed source materials but also machine readable data available from archives around the country. Analysis of data already in this form is enormously time and money saving and should be considered by all historians, especially those at smaller institutions where resources are limited. The extensive bibliography of the Dollar and Jensen volume hints at what the book really does most effectively. It serves best as a reference manual for finding the proper statistical method for a particular problem.

The other strength of Dollar and Jensen is that their mathematical presentation is totally accurate. They feel at home in the math and explain to the reader what formulas mean without oversimplifications that may be distorting. On the other hand, I wonder how successful the books will be in introducing historians to statistics. The authors "have not assumed that our readers are trained in mathematics" (p. vii), yet they present some complicated equations and proofs, including one involving calculus, without any prior explanation. Summation notation is explained, but only in a note found at the end of the chapter in which it is introduced. Proofs are placed in paragraphs of text, making them hard to follow. Like Floud, Dollar and Jensen waste effort on various shortcut methods of calculation, including the use of a slide rule, now obsolete. Because of all these flaws, Dollar and Jensen cannot be recommended as a text from which to learn or teach statistics, despite its qualities as a reference work.

More immediately accessible to the quantitative novice are some of the other sections of the book. The "Introduction" has an interesting history of quantitative history in America and a good defense of quantitative methodology. The chapter on data processing is straightforward and thorough, though there could be more about package programs. The authors agree with Floud that the historian should have a "working knowledge of the fundamentals of programming." (p. 184)

Examples from political history form the bulk of Dollar and Jensen's "Computer Applications in Historical Research." In addition to the usual statistical procedures, Guttman scaling, content analysis and cluster analysis receive attention both here and in the chapter on "Special Purpose Statistics". Just as Shorter is good on social history and Floud on economic history, so Dollar and Jensen concentrate on political history. Political historians will want to have a copy of the book, as will all those intending to do extensive quantitative historical research.

If the three manuals meet some of the needs of historians, they do not, either separately or together, satisfy them all. Most scholars will want to turn elsewhere, for both statistics and other needs.

While it may be possible to learn statistics from the books examined here, I would strongly recommend supplementing them with an elementary statistics text. Even better would be sitting in on a course. In either case, historians should avoid courses or books that concentrate heavily on inferential statistics, which are only useful in dealing with samples. The summer training program of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan provides highly concentrated training. While the program accepts beginners, those who have some background will probably get more out of it.

As a handbook of basic and advanced statistical procedures to supplement Dollar and Jensen, Hubert M. Blalock's Social Statistics (New York, 1972) is invaluable. Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) manual (New York, 1975) is more than just a guide for the SPSS programs; it also describes in detail the statistical procedures available. For specialized statistics, see the references in Dollar and Jensen, Blalock and the SPSS manual. Kenneth Janda, Data Processing: Applications to Political Research (Evanston, Ill., 1969) is valuable for computers and coding, not only in a political science context.

Outside statistics, the historian's needs are met by numerous books. Ernest Nagel, The Structure of Science (New York, 1961) argues for the view that history does not "differ radically from the generalizing natural or social sciences" (p. 575) and is therefore amenable to similar treatment. A number of books including Don Karl Rowney and James Q. Graham, eds., Quantitative History (Homewood, Ill., 1969) and Robert P. Swierenga, ed., Quantification in American History (New York, 1970) collect articles using quantitative methods. The Journal of Interdisciplinary History and Social Science History have many such articles, while the Historical Methods Newsletter prints both substantive and methodological contributions. The Dimensions of the Past: Materials, Problems and Opportunities for Quantitative Work in History (New Haven, 1972), edited by Val R. Lorwin and Jacob M. Price, is an extensive examination of quantitative sources and the research that has been based on them. Its chapters cover most of the globe, excluding the United States.

Opportunities in quantitative research are great. Modern computers and package programs enable all historians to undertake such research. A little study in the books reviewed here will permit one to begin. Expertise will come with doing.

Jonathan J. Liebowitz
University of Lowell

ASSOCIATION BUSINESS: BUSINESS MEETING - Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire, October 16, 1976
MINUTES

President Robert Lougee called the meeting to order after lunch. Ronald Formisano of the Nominating Committee made that committee's report and introduced candidates for election. The nominations were closed. Professor Mason and Professor Merriam were named as tellers and counters and the ballots were distributed. The new officers elected are:

Vice President: Gordon Jensen, University of Hartford
Executive Committee: Albert C. Ganley, Phillips Exeter Academy
Paul Tedesco, Northeastern University
Nominating Committee: Richard D. Brown, University of Connecticut
Sherrin M. Wyntjes, University of Massachusetts
Treasurer: Armand Patrucco, Rhode Island College

The Treasurer, Armand Patrucco, presented his report and there were no questions. Giles Constable, program chairman, asked for proposals for panels and papers to be presented at the spring session. He also announced a change in the date of the spring meeting, which is now to be held at Harvard University on April 30, 1977.

President Lougee informed the members of the work of the National Coordinating Committee for History, which has been organized by the Organization of American Historians and the American Historical Association. NEHA is a participant in the committee and the NEHA Executive Committee has expressed its willingness to support the National Coordinating Committee's work. This will include efforts to encourage the study of history and the hiring of professional historians. NEHA has been asked to solicit funds for this work. Frank Friedel spoke of the importance of NEHA participation. It was moved, and unanimously approved that the New England Historical Association participate in this activity if the Executive Committee approves.

President Lougee and the members attending expressed their appreciation to Exeter Academy and the local arrangements person, Stephen Smith, for the pleasant conditions that they had provided for the NEHA meeting.

The meeting was adjourned and Professor Owen Chadwick was introduced and delivered the luncheon address.

Respectfully submitted,
John Voll, Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - Exeter Academy, October 16, 1976

President Lougee called the meeting to order following the social hour of the fall meeting. He reported that the resolution passed at the spring meeting had been carried out and letters had been sent to the appropriate Connecticut officials concerning the removal of documents from the state archives. However, because of clerical difficulties, letters had not been sent to every member of the legislature.

The committee discussed handling of solicitations for the National Coordinating Committee and agreed that President Lougee would draft the letter, John Voll would send it out, and Armand Patrucco would be named to receive contributions for the Association.

Coming meetings were discussed. The spring meeting at Harvard on April 30, 1977 is set, and arrangements are being made for the fall meeting to be at the University of Connecticut on the second Saturday in October. The spring 1978 meeting may be in Massachusetts.

Armand Patrucco reported that progress has been made in formally securing tax exempt status for the Association. There was general agreement that we should have institutional or supporting members in addition to the regular membership categories. A motion was made and approved that the New England Historical Association create a new membership category of patron institutional members. Armand Patrucco will continue to work in this area.

Gwendolyn Jensen reported on the NEHA News. She announced her resignation, stating her belief that the newsletter should not be tied too closely to one individual's leadership. There was discussion concerning the appointment of a new editor and the committee instructed President Lougee to explore the possibility of a number of different people and to appoint a temporary editor, if this seemed suitable.

In order to make the work of the nominating committee easier and more efficient, the executive committee agreed that President Lougee should appoint a chairman and help facilitate the initiation of the work of the new committee.

The meeting was adjourned at about 6:30 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,
John Voll, Secretary

ANNUAL DUES..... \$4.00

STUDENT DUES..... \$2.00

NAME _____

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() Office _____

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AFFILIATION _____

Please make checks payable to the New England Historical Association and mail to: Armand Patrucco, Treasurer, New England Historical Association, 151 Borden Avenue, Johnston, Rhode Island 02919