

NEHA News

The Newsletter of the New England Historical Association

SEPTEMBER 1, 1982

VOL. IX, NO. 2

FALL MEETING: OCTOBER 23, 1982
NEW ENGLAND CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The University of New Hampshire will host the Fall Meeting on October 23 at the New England Center. The program is printed on page three. Pre-registration and luncheon reservation forms have been mailed to the membership. Vice President Emiliana Noether has arranged the program. President John Voll is in charge of local arrangements.

Directions to the New England Center in Durham, along with a list of local motels, are included with the pre-registration forms. Some rooms are available at the New England Center. Reservations should be made well in advance by calling 603-862-2800. There is limousine service from Logan Airport directly to the New England Center.

FUTURE NEHA MEETINGS

April 16, 1983
Fitchburg State College
Fitchburg, Massachusetts

October 22, 1983
Roger Williams College
Bristol, Rhode Island

CALL FOR PAPERS

Proposals for papers and sessions in all areas of history for the Spring and Fall 1983 meetings should be sent to the Vice President and Program Coordinator: Professor Emiliana Noether/Department of History/University of Connecticut/Storrs, Connecticut 06268.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1983-84

Election of officers for 1983-1984 will take place at the Fall Meeting at Durham on October 23. The slate of candidates for offices prepared by the Nominating Committee appears in this issue. A brief biography of the nominees is appended. Election will be by written ballot.

DUES INCREASE PROPOSED

Rising costs of printing and mailing warrant an increase in dues. The Executive Committee voted to increase dues by one dollar across all categories. Since an increase in dues requires approval by the membership, a motion will be introduced at the forthcoming Business Meeting to raise dues for regular members to \$5.00 and for retirees and students to \$3.00. Pending approval of the membership, the new scale of dues will take effect in January 1983.

NEHA TAX-EXEMPT STATUS

The United States Internal Revenue Service has granted tax-exempt status to The New England Historical Association. Contributions from individuals and organizations are thereby deductible.

NEW ENGLAND LECTURES

Readers response to the summary of Christopher Hill's lecture on The Poor and the People in Seventeenth Century England was positive and enthusiastic. Anyone wishing to submit a similar summary or commentary on a distinguished lecture delivered at any New England institution is invited to communicate with the editor. Articles should approximate 500 - 600 words in length.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

OFFICERS FOR 1982-83

President: John Voll, University of New Hampshire
Vice President: Emiliana Noether, University of Connecticut
Executive Secretary: Kenneth F. Lewalski, Rhode Island College
Secretary: Paul Fideler, Lesley College (May 1984)
Treasurer: Joshua Stein, Roger Williams College (May 1983)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Roger Howell, Jr., Bowdoin College (May 1983)
Charles A. Watson, Roger Williams College (May 1983)
Fred Cazal, University of Connecticut (May 1983)
Joseph Harrington, Framingham State College (May 1984)
Robert J. Imholt, Albertus Magnus College (May 1984)
Darrett Rutman, University of New Hampshire (May 1984)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Helen Mulvey, Connecticut College (May 1983)
Mary Morgan, N.E. Historical Genealogical Society (May 1983)
Barbara Solow, Boston University (May 1984)
Douglas Sweet, U.S. Equal Opportunities Commission (May 1984),
Chair
Gwendolyn Jenson, University of New Haven (May 1985)
Caroline Sloat, Sturbridge Village (May 1985)

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Kenneth F. Lewalski
Rhode Island College
401 + 456-9714

OCTOBER 23, 1982

FALL CONFERENCE
THE NEW ENGLAND CENTER

DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

REGISTRATION, COFFEE AND DANISH RECEPTION: 9:00 - 10:00

MORNING PROGRAM 10:00 - 11:45

- Session I PERIODIZATION: A PROBLEM IN WESTERN HISTORIOGRAPHY
Presiding: Ridgway F. Shinn, Jr., Rhode Island College
Ancient History: Meyer Reinhold, Boston University
Medieval History: Dean Ware, University of Massachusetts/Amherst
Modern History: Harry J. Marks, University of Connecticut
Commentator: Ridgway F. Shinn, Jr.
- Session II MEN IN TRANSITION: JOHN CABOT AND THE BEVERLY MERCHANTS, 1745 - 1821
A synchronized slide-tape program on the origins and rise of the Cabot family in Salem and Beverly
Presiding: John MacLean, Director, Beverly Historical Society
Presentation and Commentary: Harold Pinkham, Salem State College
- Session III ETHNIC DIMENSIONS IN AMERICAN HISTORY
Presiding: Brian C. Mitchell, Anna Maria College
"Northampton's Irish, 1846-1883: The Emergence of an Immigrant Community"
William W. Millett, Johnson and Wales College
"The Social Bases of Ethnic Organization"
Dale B. Light, Jr., East Carolina University
Commentators: Brian C. Mitchell
Dolores Liptak, RSM, Archivist Historian

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

SHERRY RECEPTION 12:00 Sponsored by the University of New Hampshire

LUNCHEON, ADDRESS, BUSINESS MEETING 1:00 - 2:30

"CLIO -- REFLECTIONS ON HER PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE"
Ambassador Samuel R. Gammon
Executive Director, American Historical Association

PLENARY SESSION 2:30 - 4:00

HISTORY AS A CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT AND ITS PROTECTION
Presiding: Michael E. Roberts, Area Vice President, Soils Systems Inc.

Presentations and Discussion by:

Michael E. Roberts
Warren Riess, University of New Hampshire (Nautical History)
Ellen Rosebrock, Freelance Historian in Historical Preservation
Allen McArdle, University of Massachusetts (Demography and Archaeology)

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

THE NEW SOCIAL HISTORY: ENTHUSIASM REVISITED AND FOUND WANTING

D A R R E T T B. R U T M A N
S P R I N G 1 9 8 2

The nature and tone of my title should be obvious. I want to be personal -- autobiographic if you will -- and critical, even harshly so. I know I have a mixed audience of historians from a variety of fields and that in being personal I will have to talk of people and books which are particular to my own field and unfamiliar to many. I will try to cover this by generalizing and by identifying the characters as they appear. But I suspect that the things which have been happening in my own field over the past ten to fifteen years have also been happening in yours, that the trends will be familiar, and that to at least some extent my criticisms will be applicable.

I am an early American historian, specifically a social historian; even more specifically a social historian who is as at home with a computer as with a library, who is almost as familiar with classic sociologists and anthropologists -- Durkheim and Redfield, for example -- as with classic historians -- Charles Beard and Frederick Jackson Turner. And I would like to take you back, at least in the mind, to a time of enormous enthusiasm in my professional life, to the late 1960s when, in the words of another historian, himself looking back from 1975 at what had happened, I was "a brash young social historian" leading "the attack on intellectual history." My particular bête noire, it has been said, was Perry Miller, probably the premier historian of American ideas during the twentieth century. And while I admit that I sometimes envisioned Miller as having resolved the problem of the American mind while meditating on the banks of the Congo, then rushing home to Harvard and into print with simply an elaborate, multi-volume gloss on his meditations, I put on record here that neither Miller nor the ruling intellectual history of the 1950s and 1960s was ever very much on my mind.

The problem to me was -- and remains -- history itself. What good is this discipline of ours? Cotton Mather as a historian I could understand. There is a decided and announced purpose to his Magnalia Christi Americana, for Mather wrote of New England and its ministers and magistrates because they were "worthy to be made the example of after-ages." In effect, he told stories from the past as moral lessons for his present. But long before I went to graduate school, historians had abandoned morality and established the fact itself as Clio's goal. And Auguste Comte's hundred-year-old prediction had come true: An "irrational spirit of specialization" had ultimately led "to a vain accumulation of unrelated monographs"; "all idea of the real and simultaneous connection between diverse human events" had been "lost in the midst of the sterile encumbrances of these confused descriptions."

What of the historian's method? His standards of proof for those facts of his? There really was none. To nineteenth-century historians -- and I am paraphrasing from several of them -- emotion and subjective intuition were necessary for true understanding. The historian, like the artist, feels the reality of his subject, feels the essence of truth, and transmits that feeling to his readers. A methodologist of 1967 had come no farther: "The power of meditating upon a series of separate facts and forming a general opinion of them is, in fact, one of the most valuable and mysterious which the human mind possesses....When it is well developed in an historian it is called the 'historical imagination', that is the power of imagining the conditions, the men, the actions of a past period as a convincing whole distilled from the disparate evidence available." There is "no adequate substitute for the historical imagination and the historian's insight. For no accumulation of detail, however massive, no mathematical procedures, however ingenious, can alone produce the general picture

of a group, a situation or a man."

Not Miller, not intellectual history, but the utter purposelessness and the absence of discipline and method in so much of history bothered me. Indeed, Miller -- my alleged bête noire -- was on at least one occasion a refreshing contrast, bolstering and encouraging me, even, I add, giving direction to the research which led to my first book! Listen to him in 1953: "Frankly, did I regard this investigation as no more than an account of the intellectual activity in colonial New England I would long since have given it over as not worth the effort. But the fascination of this region...is that it affords the historian an ideal laboratory... as nearly perfect as the student is apt to find, for extracting certain generalizations about the relation of thought or ideas to communal experience." There is an altogether different kind of history embedded in this quotation. The past is a laboratory; the subject matter is a question -- the relationship of ideas to human experience, that is to say, behavior; and the goal is a generalization applicable beyond the particular time and place. Not even the Landes and Tilly report of 1970 -- an avowed argument for history as a pure social science -- put the matter of a new kind of history in such succinct terms.

But to return to the heady days of enthusiasm: the late 1960s. They were heady and enthusiastic because it seemed to me that just this new kind of history was in the offing. Word of the French Annales had crossed the Atlantic and entered early American history, largely through the efforts of Philip Greven, another "brash young man." In England, the Cambridge Group for the Study of Population and Social Structure was forming. Peter Laslett's The World We Have Lost was published in the same year as my Winthrop's Boston. The ideographic edifice which had dominated my field since the Second World War had swayed a bit with the publication in 1963 of Sumner Chilton Powell's Puritan Village, a book which dealt with a New England town while mentioning its minister only peripherally as one of a large cast of characters. It swayed again (I like to think) with the appearance of my own early efforts in 1964, 1965, and 1967. Then, abruptly, in 1970, it toppled. Some have given credit to the general radicalism of the times, the "history from the bottom up" syndrome, the fulminations of such as Christopher Lasch against "elitist" history. But in early American studies the real work was done by three books, all published that year: Greven's own study of Andover, Massachusetts; John Demos's study of Plymouth; and Kenneth Lockridge's Dedham. In each case -- at least at first glance -- the time and place seemed to be simply a laboratory in which questions were asked for the purpose of testing or extracting generalizations as to human behavior.

And yet, enthusiasm revisited: What has happened since that landmark year? On the surface, a great deal. We live and work today in the era of the "new social history." After all, the Journal of Social History was founded only in 1968, the Journal of Interdisciplinary History in 1970; Historical Methods as a newsletter in 1971; the Journal of Family History in 1975; and Social Science History itself in 1976. Every serious work of the last ten years -- certainly in my own field -- has paid at least obeisance to an interdisciplinary or quantitative approach, or both. Tables and figures abound. Footnotes are replete with references to erudite theoretical works from anthropology, sociology, psychology.

But beneath the facade, what? Those few historians -- and I truly mean few -- who actually know their statistics are regularly outraged. Daniel Scott Smith for one: Not too long ago, reviewing early American demographic studies under the title, "Two Steps Forward, One Step Back," made the point by listing a dozen-odd statistical absurdities cropping up in one work after another. Simply because it impinged upon some of my own research a year or so ago, I put a series of tables from a highly statistical article through standard tests of significance. The tables looked beautiful, but not a single one offered any foundation for generalization, although that fact had not prevented the author from rushing to generalization at the very highest level. Another example, this time from the current issue of the William and Mary Quarterly, the premier journal for early Americanists in general and, in this case, a

select issue devoted to "The Family in Early America." Again we have a piece ostensibly based upon a recondite statistical analysis. The author carefully tabulates male age at first marriage on the basis of whether or not the groom's father was alive at the time of the marriage, this in order "to reveal the impact, if any, of fathers' deaths on son's marriages." The difference between the age of marriage of those with and without living fathers turns out to be -- in the author's words -- "quite small." But small as it is, it is -- still the author's words -- "the crucial point" for a particular interpretation. The crucial statistical point -- the first point to be established before rushing to any attempt at interpretation -- should have been whether the tabulation showed anything at all! Was the "quite small" difference between groups large enough relative to sample size to bear the burden of any inference? The author had not asked the question. It took me all of ten minutes of interactive "conversation" with a computer to get an answer from what he had presented: Whether or not the father was alive accounted for only two percent in the variation in marriage age, and even that two percent was statistically insignificant. The author could interpret at will, but his statistical apparatus pointed in no particular direction.

What of our interdisciplinary stance? -- the other half of our new social history. In this regard it is instructive to note the assessment of those actually in the disciplines from which we borrow so lavishly. The Annual Review of Anthropology for 1979, for example:

Although the [recent] research of historians has certainly yielded much of substantive interest and significance for discussions of the history of the Western family, the implications of these results for our understanding of family change are obscured by the absence of a coherent theoretical framework. A rather odd grab-bag of conceptual tools and analytic strategies has been lifted from the social sciences by historians....The most popular import...has been a somewhat loosely conceptualized, Parsonian equilibrium model of society. In general, family structure and function are seen as adjusting to the external conditions of the economy and political organization....It is somewhat ironic that historians would find a static functionalist perspective so appealing just at a time when anthropologists and sociologists are searching for more dynamic models of society.

To me the real irony here is that the author's allusion to a "Parsonian equilibrium model" would probably escape most of those historians who are said to be using it. For the operative phrase -- indeed, the literally operative phrase -- is "odd grab-bag of conceptual tools and analytic strategies." We read in the sister disciplines casually and, childlike, grab at whatever strikes our fancy to dress up our own work. The fashionable phrase is "to use" a social science concept "to inform" the historical study. Leaving aside for the moment how adequately this is done, the very attempt violates the nature of the concept borrowed. For concepts are hypothetical constructs -- hypotheses -- things that are at one and the same time accepted as true and suspected of being false, hence subject to test and dismissal when they fail to accommodate empirical data. To "use" such constructs "to inform" a historical study is to assume their truth without ever suspecting their falsehood.

But then, we do not even "use" the borrowed concepts very well, largely because we have so casual an understanding of them. The absurd application of a peasant model to early America is a prime example. Another is Richard Beeman's use of Victor Turner's notion of "communitas." No anthropologist would recognize the American peasant as first presented by Lockridge, adopted briefly by Rutman -- yes, I too, have sinned! -- and now clung to so tenaciously by John Waters. Turner himself would be aghast at Beeman's misconstruction of the transient mood of institutional negation functioning to make institutions bearable to which he (Turner) refers when he uses the word "communitas." For his part, Beeman would undoubtedly be aghast to read Turner in the Master's most esoteric moods. Were Beeman truly

modeling himself upon Turner, the pupil would ultimately read that "poets, writers, religious prophets" are "the unacknowledged legislators of mankind" and abandon social history altogether, returning to the very worst kind of intellectual history -- to Richard Schlatter and the notion that "it was the Puritan leaders who shaped the culture of New England, whatever the rank and file may have wanted."

In the end it is the attractiveness of anthropologists such as Turner, Clifford Geertz, Mary Douglas and the like to so many erstwhile social historians which is the most dismaying phenomenon of the last few years. Anthropologist John W. Adams put the point neatly: In seeking to be interdisciplinary, historians have gravitated toward those very anthropologists who are most like traditional historians, that is to say, toward anthropologists concerned for the structure of ideas, loose in method, and tending to disregard (but not deny altogether) the existence of discernible regularities and patterns in human behavior. Why this should be the case -- why Turner and not Mark Cohen? why Geertz and not Marvin Harris? -- is a conundrum. Perhaps it lies in a disenchantment with the labor involved in a rigorous approach to materials. It was, after all, an early pathfinder in statistical analysis (James Henretta) who a few years ago complained about "the quest for technical exactness and statistical finesse," then turned his hand to the loose ideography of structural Marxism -- that curious emasculation of dialectical materialism by massive injections of Claude Levi-Straus's rarifications. Perhaps, too, it is impatience with the numerous small questions which need answering before what we generally take to be the larger questions can be approached. Another commentator on the state of our affairs has hinted at this. Pointing to the fact that "scholars have been less interested in the measurable facts...than in...cultural values and psychological states," he sadly concludes that the "individual researcher must choose between solid evidence peripheral to the main concerns and interesting speculations supported by snippets." It is a sad commentary on the path we have traveled since the 1960s.

There is a poem by Leigh Hunt which begins:

Jenny kiss'd me when we met,
Jumping from the chair she sat in;
Time, you thief, who love to get
Sweets into your list, put that in!

Enthusiasm revisited calls Jenny to mind. For me, personally, there still is purpose and method in history. The past is a laboratory within which particular problems are to be explored. To borrow the language of Landes and Tilly's History as Social Science: I assume that there are uniformities of human behavior that transcend time and place and can be studied as such; I choose problems with an eye to discovering, verifying, or illuminating such uniformities. I intend general statements of sufficiently specific content to permit analogy and prediction (or, to use Harris' word, retrodiction). In the enthusiasm of a decade or so ago I thought a great many of us were embarking on such a history. But as it turned out, there were only a few. For the rest, the results of the new social history have been almost a travesty. And the scorn heaped upon us by anthropologists such as Marvin Harris (he wrote of our "'fact'-oriented, micro-focused, piecemeal approach"), the audacity of anthropologists who refer to themselves, not to us, as practicing the "science of history" -- all remain quite warranted. For in the main historians -- so many of them lodged behind their tables and figures, their interdisciplinary allusions -- are unrepentant Kantians, proclaiming perpetually: I think, therefore it is!

Still, I do not begrudge my moment of enthusiasm. Jenny again:

Say I'm weary, say I'm sad,
Say that health and wealth have miss'd me,
Say I'm growing old, but add,
Jenny kiss'd me.

Thank you.

SESSION SUMMARIES

SPRING MEETING

April 17, 1982

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

ANTI-SLAVERY AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE CIVIL WAR ERA: THE CHURCH AND THE POLITICAL PARTY

John R. McKivigan of the Frederick Douglass Papers at Yale University presented the first paper entitled "The Church Anti-Slavery Society and the Role of Religious Abolitionists in the Civil War-Time Emancipation Drive." In discussing the various streams of the abolitionist movement, McKivigan argued, historians have devoted considerable attention to the activities of Garrisonian and political abolitionists, but have largely ignored those who worked "to transform the churches into active antislavery agencies." To correct this imbalance, the paper explored the history of one such religiously oriented abolitionist group, the Church Anti-Slavery Society founded in 1859. Largely the inspiration of George and Henry Cheever, two Congregational ministers, the Society sought "to enlist [the churches] as active participants in the anti-slavery crusade." Before the Civil War, it held conventions, prayer meetings, and lobbied within the Protestant churches and mission societies to bring them to commit to abolitionism. After 1861, it concentrated on "enlisting the moral authority of the churches behind the political emancipation drive." While unable to secure the selection of a strongly abolitionist candidate in the 1864 presidential election, the Society was successful in bringing northern churches to support immediate emancipation and thus make "an important contribution to ending slavery during the civil war."

The second paper, "Broadening the Basis of Republicanism, 1857-1860: The New York Example," was given by Robert J. Imholt of Albertus Magnus College. The paper explored the relationship between state and local issues and the national question of slavery expansion. By looking at transportation and electoral reform questions in New York State, Imholt argued that the rise after 1856 of these "alternative issues supplemented and broadened the crusade against slavery . . . [by giving the] Republican party's already strong moral attack on slavery a basis in empirical reality." The "new" issues also gave greater cohesion to a party that began as a desperate collec-

tion of former Whigs, radical Democrats, and nativists.

Both commentators raised points which stimulated a lively exchange. Jane Pease of the University of Maine, Orono, argued that historians are too often preoccupied with success and questioned whether the evidence could support the view that the Church Anti-Slavery Society actually "made a significant difference." Perhaps more light might be shed if we asked why the Society failed. Imholt's paper, she found, suffered from a blurring of focus and a failure "to delve more deeply" into the patterns of popular voting. The second commentator, Ronald Formisano of Clark University, summarized some of the arguments of the two papers and then explored a variety of questions. For example, "why was it that so many church members or affiliates, so many religious men with strong anti-slavery convictions, did not vote as they prayed?" Formisano was also struck by the "populist" nature of the New York Republican party and provided an analysis of the interplay of groups and issues in the formation of the Republican party.

Robert J. Imholt
Albertus Magnus College

NEAR EAST OVERVIEWS: CRITICAL MODERN ISSUES

Dedication: The papers have been presented in memory of Professor Sarkis S. Sarkisian of Salem State College who had been selected as one of the panelists and whose paper was to have examined Armenian nationalism.

Islam's Cultural Dilemma: The difficult process of dealing with cultural influences from the west has provoked an Islamic militancy that has astonished and perplexed western society.

Professor Piemonte, in his historical review of Islamic faith and culture, described Islam as a totality; a system unlike the west, which does not separate the sacred from the secular.

The implied dangers of western secularism and the fear of "cultural suicide" of the "Islamic Way" has produced internally a defensive posture as well as a critical analysis of the Islamic paradigm. The Islamic

reaction has been expressed by a melange of movements and categorized as conservatism, fundamentalism, modernism, and secularism. These schools and their leading exponents have addressed the problem; but if any movement reflects the potential for an Islamic dynamism and viability that can accommodate acculturation with the west, the modernists hold the key. It is because, according to Professor Piemonte, they have reasserted Islam's early legal tradition and practice: the right to filter and weave into the cultural fabric those heterogeneous civilizational influences that can be absorbed into the Muslim model.

It was this resiliency that contributed to Islam's early glory but it was the later theological-philosophical stand to reject change based on the premise that the Islamic tapestry had been perfected that has led to the current problem for cultural adjustment. It is this early principle of ijtihad, the right to (re) interpret, which the modernists espouse that can safeguard the core of the faith and its "revealed way."

James T. Doyle
Salem State College

The Mandates: Before and After. Standing on the main bridge of land along coastal Lebanon facing the Mediterranean Sea one observes carved along the mountain side six centuries of conquerors from Ramses II to famed Esarhaddon, rivalries hushed by long shadows of time, a lesson learned that nothing endures forever, if one cares to learn. The last carving is a plaque placed by Australians in 1945 during a safe-keeping mission in that area: "Peace". How long will it last? Phoenicians and Canaanites explored the West from the East---Europe, Africa, the Western world. They gave "Britain" her name in search of "tin". In later centuries the developed West would move in series of waves to absorb its economic and early culture; many would settle in these rich cultural areas. Three religions would spread to the West--Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, in a trinity of similarities. The "Bible" is traced to the city of Byblus from whence paper was shipped. The city gave its name to the "Bible", an anthology of certain recorded events, dating back to ancient Babylon. From the Crusades to the mid-nineteenth century, the English and French, later joined by the United States, economic in-

terest increased. Traders from Salem, Massachusetts, initiated commercial ties, followed by American Missionary teams (with few conversions). The main interest turned to education in the English language and medical centers. The American University at Beirut emerged. Wealthy Judaic adherents, such as the Rothschilds, reverted to the "Biblical" thesis of the right of return to the area that had given them their religious base. Earlier, during the Thirty Years' War in central Europe, the Ottoman Empire had opened her doors to about 100,000 persons of Judaic faith within her Empire. Some went as farmers, but many later left to come to the promising United States. Islam links itself with the Old and the New Testament, with Abraham and Jesus whom they call "the Soul of God." Many use the name Essa as a middle name, which in Arabic means "Jesus."

When Sir Arthur Balfour's plan to settle European Jews in Palestine failed, Balfour came to the United States. At the end of the conflict, Woodrow Wilson faced this demand in France. He sent the King-Crane Commission with the historian William Yale to the Arabic leaders (called "Sheikh" which means senior leaders). The reply came sealed by their thumbs: "They are welcome in the home of the Arab." From this point on until the outbreak of World War II events spurred the demand for settlements and Statehood. Under previous arrangement to assure both new settlers and Palestinians right of waterfronts, Haifa was designated to the Jewish State and Jaffa to the Palestinians. This was ended in 1950. Over a million Germans of Jewish faith left for the new frontier in Israel. Houston Steward Chamberlain of a distinguished English family had gone to Vienna. There he developed his so-called "Aryan" philosophy in line with Adolph Hitler (whom he called the "Messiah"). The consequences are well known.

The Federal German Republic went through a soul-searching and religious revival. To their fellow members of the Judaic faith, consolation came in restoring in money a debt of conscience. Marshall Dill, Jr., in Germany, A Modern History, comments: "...about two billion dollars has been made out of funds collected by the German government as reparation taxes." German Jews or their heirs can apply for restitutions. About the time this

book was published in 1961, 30,000 German Jews had accepted the invitation to return to their homeland and built synagogues and centers. Aid to Israel in machinery and other needs amounted to millions of dollars.

World history has known many nightmares. World War II was the costliest in human losses and suffering. Yet, hope is not lost. Faith and good may yet overcome evil forces. These are lessons history teaches, if one listens and learns.

Adele L. Younis
Salem State College

ITALY FROM LIBERALISM TO FASCISM, 1890-1925

The first paper, "Vilfredo Pareto and Liberal Italy," by Armand Patrucco (Rhode Island College), argues that Pareto was the most important critic of parliamentary liberal government in Italy during 1890-1925, and that his theoretical critique served as a prelude to Fascism. Not only did his ferocious attacks do much to undermine confidence in the liberal regime, but his active support for the rightwing nationalism of Enrico Corradini gave it a prestige which it would otherwise never have acquired. Both the nationalists and the Fascists were fully justified in claiming him as one of their prophets.

The second paper, Fascism and Labor Culture: The Experience of an Italian Town, 1918-1922," by Donald H. Bell (Harvard University), dealt with Fascism and its origins in a northern Italian industrial town--Sesto San Giovanni, in the hinterland of Milan--as well as the relationship of Fascism with the local working-class movement. The paper examines recent attempts to study "urban" and "industrial" Fascism, at specific strategies adopted by Fascism with the local working-class movement. The paper examines recent attempts to study "urban" and "industrial" Fascism, at specific strategies adopted by Fascism in an industrial setting, and at the linkage between working-class culture and Fascist popular culture. Three conclusions are reached. First, Fascism in Sesto San Giovanni adopted cultural policies which often imitated working class (and also Catholic) cultural innovations, and that it attempted to collaborate with local Socialism in order to win a consensus in an industrial community. Second, the working-class movement in the industrial north collapsed less through Fascist attack or the loss of the general strike of

1922, than for reasons of internal schism which were both local and national in nature. Third, Fascism cannot be understood as merely "urban", "industrial," or "agrarian," but was an extremely diverse movement which must be studied in a myriad of local settings in order to reach a valid assessment of its reality at the national level.

The third paper, "Continuity in Change: The Parallel Evolution of the PSI and the PCI," by Spencer di Scala (University of Massachusetts/Boston), argues that the two parties of the Italian Marxist Left, the PSI (Italian Socialist Party) and the PCI (Italian Communist Party) have traversed through stages that were remarkably similar, and responded in essentially the same way to similar challenges. Both started with a "stage of affirmation," during which each was concerned to establish its own identity by adopting a policy of rigid separation from and hostility to other parties on the Left: for the PSI, this took place during the 1880's, the rival being the Radical Democrats; for the PCI, during the 1920's, against the PSI. This was followed by a "stage of defense": for the PSI during the 1890's, for the PCI, during the 1930's, during which each sought alliances against a threat to democracy, but whereas the PSI acted in time and helped save the liberal regime, the PCI waited too long and thus helped bring about the triumph of Fascism. Finally, each party then entered a phase of reformism, the PSI after 1900, the PCI after 1956.

Comments on the papers were made by Richard R. Drake (Princeton University).

Alan J. Reinerman
Boston College



COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Douglas Sweet, Chair; Helen Mulvey; Mary Morgan; Barbara Solow; Gwendolyn Jensen; Caroline Sloat)

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for offices in The New England Historical Association for 1983 - 84. Elections will be held at the Fall Meeting, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire on October 23, 1982.

Vice President (one position, one year term)

Ronald Paul Formisano, Clark University

Treasurer (one position, two year term)

Catherine M. Prelinger, Benjamin Franklin Papers

Executive Committee (two positions, two year terms)

William Brayfield, University of Hartford

Miriam Usher Chrisman, University of Massachusetts

William H. Pease, University of Maine, Orono

Alan J. Reinerman, Boston College

Nominating Committee (two positions, three year terms)

James S. Leamon, Bates College

Gary T. Lord, Norwich University

Mary Morgan, New England Genealogical Society

Martha Tolpin, Bentley College

BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES

Ronald Paul Formisano: Professor and Director of American Studies, Clark University. Brown University, B.A.; University of Wisconsin, M.A.; Wayne State University, Ph.D. Publications include: The Birth of Mass Political Parties: Michigan, 1827-1861 (1971); The Transformation of Political Culture: Massachusetts Politics, 1790s-1840s (1982); co-editor, The Evolution of Urban Politics: Boston, 1750-1980 (1982); articles in American Political Science Review, American Quarterly, Journal of American History, American Historical Review, Michigan History. NEHA Nominating Committee, chair. Consultant, National Endowment for the Humanities.

Catherine M. Prelinger: Benjamin Franklin Papers, assistant editor. Visiting Lecturer and Associate, Women's Studies and Divinity School, Harvard University. Vassar College, B.A.; Yale University, Ph.D. Publications include: Papers of Benjamin Franklin, vols. XXII and XXIII; coauthor, Women and Religion in America (1982); The Woman Question (1982); articles in Church History, William and Mary Quarterly, Western Society for French History, Consortium on Revolutionary Europe (1976). NEHA Executive and Nominating Committee. Berkshire Conference of Women Historians. Coordinating Committee for Women in the Historical Profession. Organization of Women Historians. American Society for Church History.

William Brayfield: Assistant Professor of History, University of Hartford. Stanford University, B.A., M.A. Publications include: co-editor, Introduction to the History of Civilization (5 vols.); reviews in Choice, Southeastern Europe. Vice President, Connecticut Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History.

ASSOCIATION MINUTES

Miriam Usher Chrisman: Professor of History, University of Massachusetts. Smith College, A.B.; American University, M.A. (Economics); Smith College, M.A. (Education); Yale University, M.A., Ph.D. Publications include: Strasbourg and the Reformation: A Study in the Process of Change (1967); Lay Culture and the Culture of the Learned: Books, Men and Ideas in Strasbourg, 1480-1599 (1982); editor, reading series, University of Massachusetts; articles in American Historical Review, Religious Studies Review, Catholic Historical Review, Sixteenth Century Journal. President, American Society for Reformation Research 1975-77.

William Henry Pease: Professor of History, University of Maine, Orono. Williams College, B.A.; University of Wisconsin, M.A.; University of Rochester, Ph.D. Publications include: co-author The Fugitive Slave Law and Anthony Burns: A Problem in Law Enforcement (1975); They Who Would Be Free: Black's Search for Freedom, 1830 - 1861 (1974); Bound With Them in Chains: A Biographical History of the Antislavery Movement (1972); Black Utopia: Negro Communal Experiments in America (1972); co-editor, Austin Steward: Twenty-Two Years a Slave and Forty Years a Freeman (1969); The Anti-Slavery Argument (1965); articles in Journal of Southern History, New England Quarterly, Journal of Negro History, Journal of American History, American Quarterly, Phylon. NEHA Nominating Committee. Research awards: ACLS, American Philosophical Society, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Science Foundation.

Alan J. Reinerman: Associate Professor, Boston College. Xavier University, B.S.; Xavier University, M.A.; Loyola University, Ph.D. Publications include: Austria and the Papacy in the Age of Metternich, 1809 - 1848 (1979); articles in The Historical Journal, Central European History, Journal of Modern History, Catholic Historical Review. Advisory Board, Risorgimento: Revue Europeenne. Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Society for Italian Historical Studies. Member Istituto per la Storia del Risorgimento (Rome).

James S. Leamon: Professor of History, Bates College. Bates College, B.A.; Brown University, Ph.D. Publications include: articles in William and Mary Quarterly, Maine Historical Society Newsletter; work in progress, The American Revolution in Maine. Member Organization of American Historians, Maine Archeological Society, Organization of Maine Historians.

Gary T. Lord: Associate Professor of History and Department Chair, Norwich University. University of New Hampshire, B.A., M.A.; University of Virginia, Ph.D. Publications include: Belknap's New Hampshire: An Account of the State in 1792; articles in Vermont History, Historical New Hampshire. Trustee, Vermont Historical Society. Committee for a New England Bibliography.

Mary F. Morgan: Assistant Archivist, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston. Radcliffe College, B.A.; Harvard University, M.A.; Simmons College Graduate School, M.S.; University of Massachusetts, M.A. (History and Archival Methods). Publications include: reviews and editing for Library Bulletin. Library exhibits, catalogs, archival reference. Society of American Archivist Award Subcommittee. NEHA Nominating Committee. American Library Association. New England Museum Association. Trustee, Nahant Public Library.

Martha Tolpin: Associate Professor and Chairperson of History Department, Bentley College. Barnard College, B.A.; Radcliffe College, M.A.; Harvard University, Ph.D. Publications include: A Woman's Guide to Academe: Moving In, Moving Up, Moving Over (1982); articles in Current Issues in Higher Education; scholarly papers presented at Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, American Historical Association, American Sociological Association. Associate Director, Project HERS. Consultant, National Endowment for the Humanities. Career Workshops for Academic Women. American Association for Higher Education.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: APRIL 16, 1982. COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS.

President Darrett Rutman convened the meeting at 8:00 PM in the Hogan Center, Holy Cross College. Attending were Jonathan Leibowitz, Douglas Sweet, Gordon Jensen, Charles Watson, Joshua Stein, John Voll, Barbara Solow, Roger Howell, Robert Imholt, Gwendolyn Jensen, Kenneth Lewalski, Fred Cazal, Catherine Prelinger, and Paul Fideler. Darrett congratulated Executive Secretary Kenneth Lewalski on his auspicious debut as editor of NEHA NEWS. The minutes of the December 5, 1981 Executive Committee Meeting were accepted as was the Executive Secretary's financial report, which showed current cash assets of \$1,181.09.

Mailings and Dues. Executive Secretary Lewalski pointed out that some mailings were not getting to association members and department heads. After an extensive discussion on whether all mailings should be sent first class and dues raised to cover the additional expense, Fred Cazal moved that association dues be raised to \$5.00 for regular members and \$3.00 for students and retirees. The motion passed unanimously. Since changes in dues require action by the membership, the proposal will be brought to the fall business meeting for consideration.

Future Meetings. President Rutman reported that preparations for the Fall 1982 Meeting at the New England Center at the University of New Hampshire were well under way. The Executive Secretary announced that the Spring 1983 Meeting is set for Fitchburg State College and that the Fall 1983 site was tentatively set for Roger Williams College with some thought still being given to Mystic Seaport. It was agreed to confirm the Roger Williams location and to defer consideration of Mystic. President-elect John Voll suggested that either Deerfield Village or Plimoth Plantation would be an attractive setting for the spring meeting in 1984. In the absence of Emiliana Noether, John reported on the plenary session planned for the afternoon of the Fall 1982 Meeting, "Historians and Archeological Preservation in the Seacoast District." He thought this topic would be of interest to the southeastern New Hampshire community and sought approval to announce the session in local newspapers. It was agreed that John should give notice of the session and that no admission be charged to non-association members who attend.

Awards Committee. Fred Cazal, who was appointed head of the awards committee by President Rutman in December, reported that he has invited Helen Mulvey, Gordon Jensen, and Kenneth Lewalski to serve on the committee with him. In June the committee will meet to consider suitable awards for the association to sanction. Robert Imholt suggested an award for graduate student essays. John Voll thought a session of graduate student papers at each meeting might be considered. Cazal pointed out that a similar experiment several years back attracted one paper, but that his committee would consider this option and any other suggestions received before June.

Nominations. Douglas Sweet, chair of the nominating committee, reported that Deborah Clifford had resigned from the committee. It was decided that President Rutman would ask Mary Morgan, archivist at the New England Historical Genealogical Society, to fill the remainder of Clifford's term (May 1983) and to stand for election to a new term.

Student Memberships. At the December meeting of the executive committee several options had been put forward to encourage more student participation in association conferences, and Executive Secretary Lewalski had been instructed to look into the matter further. He reported that he had not yet arrived at a policy recommendation, because of the ambiguities of "student" status and the difficulties inherent in keeping track of student addresses for mailing list purposes. After a searching discussion on the matter, President Rutman moved that students with I.D.'s be admitted to conference sessions free and that they pay for luncheons should they choose to attend. The motion was passed.

ASSOCIATION MINUTES

Mail Ballots. The Executive Secretary had been asked at the December meeting also to explore the feasibility of a mail ballot for association elections. Kenneth's report was generally unfavorable to the idea from both an operational and a philosophical standpoint. A mail ballot would require the expense of at least two additional first-class mailings to members and the extra labor of maintaining separate mailing lists for members and non-members. Perhaps more importantly, he felt that elections have been carried out effectively at fall meetings each year, a setting in which active members of the association have the opportunity to meet and talk with candidates. The matter would seem to be closed for the present, as no one suggested that we move forward with a mail ballot plan.

Gender Designation in Association Programs and Publications. After objections were noted concerning the use of terms such as "chair", "chairman", and "chairperson" in association programs, Douglas Sweet moved that henceforth it be NEHA policy that "inclusive language" be used in all association publications. It was suggested that designations such as "moderator" or "presiding" would reflect the spirit of the motion. Joshua Stein objected to the motion on the grounds that the term "chairman" was acceptable usage and that to adopt a policy that puts severe restraints on language usage is a significant precedent. President Rutman and Catherine Prelinger urged that the committee not move to a vote on the issue, but that it be agreed that sensitivity and civility should prevail in making editorial decisions for association programs and publications. The motion was withdrawn.

Anniversary, Sponsors, and Fund Raising. The Executive Secretary called attention to the coming twentieth anniversary of NEHA in 1985 and the possibility of initiating fund raising efforts for the association around that occasion. He noted the provision for a "sponsor" designation in the association by-laws, although the sum to be contributed has not been stipulated. Kenneth suggested that a \$25 donation would be suitable. Jonathan Leibowitz proposed that we should consider also seeking financial support from outside donors and corporations. Roger Howell cautioned that we not pursue fund raising actively until the association's tax-exempt status has been confirmed with the IRS. It was moved that, subject to the association achieving tax-exempt status, the Executive Secretary be authorized to initiate fund raising. Further discussion indicated the need for Kenneth to ascertain if plans had been formulated in earlier years on sponsorship provisions and fund-raising. The motion was withdrawn, and the business was tabled. President Rutman adjourned the meeting at 9:46 P.M.

Paul A. Fideler
Secretary

BUSINESS MEETING: APRIL 17, 1982

The meeting was convened at 1:30 P.M. in the Hogan Center, Holy Cross College, by out-going President Darrett Rutman. He thanked Holy Cross College, its History Department, and particularly Edward Wall and John Anderson for the local arrangements. John Anderson welcomed NEHA to Holy Cross and to Worcester, "the birthplace of George Bancroft." Executive Secretary Kenneth Lewalski encouraged members to identify upcoming distinguished lectures for summary in the NEHA NEWS and took note of the approaching twentieth anniversary of the association in 1985. The recently appointed awards committee will be considering suitable commemorations of this milestone. Send any suggestions you have on this to Kenneth or to Fred Cazal, who heads the awards committee. In-coming President John Voll announced that the program for the fall meeting in 1982 was reasonably complete, but that sessions were still needed for the spring meeting in 1983 which will be held at Fitchburg State College. He also pointed out that this fall's meeting at the New England Center will feature a session on history and archeological preservation. John then introduced Darrett Rutman, who delivered the Presidential Address.

The meeting was adjourned by President Voll at 2:10 P.M.

Paul A. Fideler
Secretary



NOTICES



The Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association will be held in Washington, D.C., December 27 - 30.

TAPESCRIBE, a professional transcribing service which assists oral historians in the completion of projects by providing skillfully prepared transcripts, is now in operation at the Center for Oral History at the University of Connecticut. Special arrangements may be made for editorial assistance and indexing as well. Bruce M. Stave is the Director of the Center. Recent projects of the Center include: "Connecticut Workers and a Half-Century of Technological Change, 1930-1980," "The Political Activities of Fully Enfranchised Connecticut Women," and "Holocaust Survivors in the Connecticut Region." Inquiries should be directed to Sharon Youland, TAPESCRIBE, Box U-170, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06268.

Charles A. Watson, Roger Williams College, has published The Writing of History in Britain: A Bibliography of Post-1945 Writings about British Historians and Biographers (New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1982). The bibliography (3,862 items; 726 pages) lists and describes books, articles and dissertations that deal with British (including Irish) historians and biographers from the sixth century to the present.

The Institute for Massachusetts Studies and the J.F. Kennedy Library will cosponsor a series of three symposia on Massachusetts During the Gilded Age, to be held in October 1982, and February and May of 1983. Each symposium will consist of two sessions of four papers on political, social, cultural, economic and other aspects of the Gilded Age. Persons wishing their papers to be considered should send completed papers to the Institute for Massachusetts Studies, Westfield State College, Westfield, MA 01086.

The NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE PROMOTION OF HISTORY has circulated a proposed draft for a revision of its charter. This recommended statement of purpose and or-

ganization comes as a response to the profession's need for a central advocacy office and to the NCC's need to formalize its structure and policy guidance. The NCC will continue to be involved in the activities and concerns of public historians, but the major focus will be on advocacy and the state committee network. The Steering Committee is recommending that the policy direction of NCC be shifted from its former ad hoc mode to a National Policy Board. Other issues under consideration include: changing the name of the NCC to the National Coordinating Committee for the Preservation of the Nation's Heritage; a single membership category instead of constituent and institutional members; adopting a new statement of purpose (to serve as a central advocacy office; to develop a state committee network for the promotion of history at the state level). The final steps in this reorganization process will take place at the NCC meeting on December 28 in Washington during the AHA Annual Meeting.

The Fifth Annual Conference on the History of Massachusetts will be co-sponsored by the Institute for Massachusetts Studies of Westfield State College and the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum in Springfield. Tentative date is March 26, 1983 at the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum. Persons wishing to participate should send completed papers on any aspect of Massachusetts history to John W. Ifkovic, Conference Director, Institute for Massachusetts Studies, Westfield State College, Westfield, MA 01086. Deadline: November 15, 1982. All conference papers will be published in the HISTORICAL JOURNAL OF MASSACHUSETTS.

The MAINE HUMANITIES COUNCIL invites scholars with relevant interests to a Symposium on Maine in the Early Republic held on December 3 - 4 in Portland. The symposium will discuss the current state of political, economic, social and cultural research as it relates to Maine during the period 1783-1820. Contact James F. Leamon/Department of History/Bates College/Lewiston, ME 04240.

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Editor: Kenneth F. Lewalski

Contributions and suggestions are welcome and invited. The deadline for the April issue is January 11; the deadline for the September issue is June 15. Address inquiries and correspondence to the Editor and Executive Secretary.

THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION is an organization of and for all historians in New England. Its membership is drawn from professional, academic and free-lance historians in all areas

and periods of history. It is not restricted to American or New England studies. The purpose of The New England Historical Association is to promote historical studies and to provide historians with the opportunity to present on-going research and to exchange ideas and information about the study and teaching of history. Two conferences, one in the Fall and one in the Spring, are sponsored by the Association. The conferences are held at various host institutions in southern and northern New England. Membership is open to all persons in New England as well as other geographic areas. The annual dues for regular members is \$4.00 and \$2.00 for retirees and students. The Executive Office and Executive Secretary is located at Rhode Island College, Department of History, Providence, Rhode Island 02908.