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# NEHA News

The Newsletter of the New England Historical Association

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September 1, 1974

## MEETING DATES

October 5, 1974, Clark University,  
Worcester, Mass.

May 5, 1975, Pine Manor Junior College,  
Chestnut Hill, Mass.

## PROGRAM FOR THE FALL MEETING

Morning Sessions:

### I. The British Empire on Two Continents: An Introduction to the Bicentennial

Neil Stout, University of Vermont,  
"A New Look at the Boston Port Act of  
1774"

Mary Wickwire, University of Massachusetts,  
Amherst, "The Anglicization of Bengal,  
1786-1793"

Benjamin Labaree, Williams College  
Chairman

Thomas C. Barrow, Clark University  
Commentator

### II. Family Structure and Family Change in 19th Century Societies

Bengt Ankarloo, University of Lund,  
Sweden, "Patterns of Familial and Demo-  
graphic Change in 19th Century Sweden"

Andre Plokans, Boston College, Joel  
Halpern, University of Massachusetts,  
Amherst, "Family Structures in East  
European Peasant Societies in the 19th  
Century"

Howard Chudacoff, Brown University,  
"Marriage Patterns in Nineteenth-Century  
American Cities"

Tamara Hareven, Clark University, Chair-  
man and commentator

### III. Ideas of Race

Emiliana P. Noether, University of  
Connecticut, "Latin Decadence and In-  
tellecturl Apologia (Italian Racial  
Theories in the 1890s)"

Peter Slater, Dartmouth College, "Franz  
Boas and the Environment-Heredity Problem"

William H. Pease, University of Main,  
Chairman

Andrew Lyons, Department of Sociology,  
Newark College of Arts and Sciences,  
Rutgers University, Commentator

Afternoon Panel:

Econometric history and American slavery:  
William Fogel and Stanley Engerman,  
Time on the Cross

Claudia Goldin, Department of Economics,  
Princeton University

John Bracey, Department of Afro-American  
Studies, University of Massachusetts,  
Amherst

Stephen DeCanio, Department of Economics,  
Yale University

Stanley Elkins, Smith College, Chairman

Proposals for the spring meeting are very  
much in order and should be sent to Jane H.  
Pease, Department of History, University of  
Maine, Orono, Maine 04473.

## FROM THE EDITOR

This issue is more ambitious than the last.  
In the first place, a regular part of the  
duties of chairing sessions at NEHA meetings  
will include writing up those sessions for  
the News. This issue includes the first of  
these session summaries, which should give  
greater permanence to what is often an  
ephemeral experience.

A second innovation in this issue is the inclusion of a book review. The NEHA News would surely be foolish to attempt to duplicate the reviewing provided by the national journals. But there is a dearth of review articles that survey a number of books in what amounts to an historiographic essay on recent literature of a subject. And there is very little reviewing of materials from the point of view of teaching. It is reviews in these two general categories that I am particularly anxious to include in the News. In this issue, Bill Brayfield of the University of Hartford has reviewed recent literature on the history of population. In the spring issue there will be three review articles, one on western civilization textbooks, two that survey recent literature, one on the history of science, the other on the history of bureaucracy. Please give me your ideas for review articles, especially if you are willing to write one yourself.

Finally, a member of the Executive Committee, James Owens, of the Federal Archives in Waltham, has agreed to be in charge of a regular feature on archival holdings in New England. His report in this issue details a recent acquisition by his own archives. In future issues he hopes to include reports from other archivists.

Unfortunately, the report of the nominating committee could not be available for this issue because so many of the people nominated have gone away for the summer. That report will be mailed to you in time for the voting at the fall meeting.

Anyone who is not on the regular mailing list who would like to attend the meeting at Clark should write to the secretary-treasurer, William F. Allen, at the University of Bridgeport for detailed information.

Please send me suggestions, complaints and announcements. The deadline for the spring issue is February 1, 1975. Gwendolyn Evans Jensen, Editor, NEHA News, University of New Haven, P.O. Box 1306, New Haven, Conn. 06505

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The second Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, sponsored by Radcliffe College, will meet in Cambridge, Mass. from October 25 through October 27, 1974. Registration forms

and information are available from the Berkshire Conference, c/o The Office of Women's Education, Radcliffe College, 10 Garden Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02138.

The New England History Teachers Association will meet Friday evening, September 27 and Saturday, September 28. The Friday night program will be at the Treadway Inn in Williamstown, Mass. The Saturday program will be a visit to the Hancock Shaker Village in New York state. For information, write Henry Hicks, 127 Marked Tree Road, Needham, Ma. 02191.

Essays in Arts and Science, a regular publication of the University of New Haven, is accepting scholarly articles in all fields for consideration for its next issue. Please send material to the editor, Professor Thomas Katsaros, University of New Haven, P.O. Box 1306, New Haven, Conn. 06505.

"1774: Watershed of the Revolution," is the title of a Bicentennial symposium to be held at the Old South Meeting House in Boston on Thursday, September 12, 1974. Sponsored by the National Archives and Records Service, the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission, and the New England Archivists the symposium will emphasize those events of 1774 which led inexorably to the final break with England. The speakers include Neil Stout of the University of Vermont, Charles R. Morris of the Milton (Mass.) Historical Society, L. Kinvin Wroth of the University of Main Law School, and Kenneth E. Harris of the Center for the Documentary Study of the American Revolution of the National Archives. For additional information contact James K. Owens, Federal Archives & Records Center, 380 Trapelo Rd., Waltham, MA MA 02154.

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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS, May 4, 1974: IMPERATIVES FOR HISTORIANS

My comments as I come to the end of my presidential term are brief. My thoughts focus on the question: what are some imperatives for historians in these anti-historical times? Like the man who found his way into the corridors of power and discovered that they do not lead anywhere, young historians find themselves entering a profession and a branch of knowledge laden with doubts about itself and its future. In the past several years we have grown apprehensive about the diminishing place of history in the curriculum, the shortage of jobs for initial employment, and the lack of upward mobility into tenured appointments. We have also become more conscious of the competition between history and the other social science disciplines. Still another threat is the familiar attitude that history has failed to serve our social needs. You would think that Cassandra had become a Must of History if you would listen to the wails and moanings of historians at their conventions, committees and cocktail parties. Some of our brethren have even suggested sending burnt offerings to the Oracle in order to exorcise academia from the triple curse of Relevancy, Retrenchment and Restructuring.

I don't could myself among the Cassandras. In spite of the hostile conditions facing the profession today, I find this an exciting and challenging time to be a historian. On the consoling side, let us rejoice at our success in pushing back the frontiers of Relevancy from May 1970 to the 1974 "Summer of '42" and now to the Gatsby Era of the '20s. There is even something deliciously Neo-Randian in Barbra Streisand's "The Way We Were."

My own commitment to the public and the private value of history has intensified and strengthened by the need to reassess what we teach, whom we teach and how we teach. We must all recognize that the revival of history in the curriculum and in the public concourse depends in large measure on the historian's own affirmation and commitment to the value of historical knowledge. Thus, the first imperative is simply: Stand Up For Clio! The process of renewal properly begins with the practitioner. Every historian has an obligation to himself and a responsibility to the profession to develop an articulate rationale for the study of history. This conviction must come from deep inside ourselves and blaze forth in the classroom, on the podium, and in our research. We had taken much for granted and have thus compounded our present woes. Following the admonition of Pericles, each of us needs to "fall in love" with Clio again.

The second imperative is more external: Reach Out beyond our departments and our majors to the hundreds of students who no longer elect to come to us. In many institutions, the point where we can compel students to take history courses has passed. Yet I am struck by the fact that students are now looking for the past that only a few years earlier they had rejected -- in the classics, in women's history, in ethnic and black studies, and in ecological history. I am also struck by the amount of history that is being taught in colleges and universities outside traditional departments in a variety of thematic colloquia and conference courses that are heavily laced with historical perspective and components. If we do not reach these students, others will; by failing to attract them, others have. It goes without saying that it is in our own interest that history be taught professionally. Unless we reach out, we may have to bow out.

As a corollary of Reaching Out, it is imperative that we Reach Across to those disciplines in the humanities and the social sciences that are our natural kin. The explosion of knowledge and the vast accumulation of specialized information have shattered the isolated containers that once delineated the separate disciplines. The policy-oriented social scientists and the textual critics in the humanities have out-

grown their rebellious anti-historicism. We have come at last to recognize the interrelatedness of substantive knowledge and to develop mutual respect for methodological pluralism. In short, we have a better grasp of human knowledge, not because we follow the same methodological model or because we assert our own at the expense of others, but because we work in the same vineyard, side-by-side.

Kenneth F. Lewalski  
Rhode Island College

SESSION SUMMARIES: SESSION I - PATTERNS OF FRENCH HISTORICAL THOUGHT SINCE  
THE JULY MONARCHY

Chairman's Introduction -

Most knowledgeable observers would agree that the French historical profession has surpassed that of all other European nations, both quantitatively and qualitatively, in the production of distinguished works of historical scholarship since the end of the First World War. Yet it may come as a surprise even to specialists in recent historiography that the formation of a historical profession and the transformation of historical study into an academic discipline in France did not occur until the closing decades of the nineteenth century, long after the German universities had established the tradition of academic historical scholarship. The three participants in this panel sought to analyze the transformation of French history writing from the purposive, didactic approach of the Romantic historians (typified by Jules Michelet and Edgar Quinet) to the putative "scientific" and "objective" tradition (represented by such university historians as Gabriel Monod, Ernest Lavisse, and Charles Seignobos), and finally to evaluate the great synthesis of these two traditions forged by Lucien Febvre and Marc Bloch, the founders of the "Annales school," in the twentieth century.

William R. Keylor  
Boston University

Normative History in Mid-Nineteenth Century France:  
Jules Michelet and Edgar Quinet

This paper analyzed the era of French history writing between the Enlightenment and the scientific era of the later nineteenth century, which has been variously labeled "liberal," "nationalistic," "romantic," or "amateur." In the writings of the historians of this period, events seemed to demand some broader historical significance, transcending their immediate importance. Jules Michelet and Edgar Quinet, in deeming freedom to be the threat of history, the nation its vehicle, the people its life force and individuals their agents, may stand as "ideal types" for this generation of historians. They uncovered meaning in history from the "ceaseless struggle of liberty against oppression, as epitomized by the great Revolution of 1789. History to them was a means to better understand and quicken this march of liberty. History was not impartial, but rather purposive, a weapon in a moral crusade.

It is therefore not surprising that Michelet, Quinet, and other historians of this period deliberately let contemporary political concerns play a determining role in their historical writing. History was subservient to the establishment of the extra-historical creeds of democracy and nationalism; it became a "function of politics." The past was appraised in the light of its present significance, and contemporary disputes were often replayed in their interpretations of the past. Michelet and Quinet elevated any precursor of their democratic and patriotic faith to the status of hero regardless of his actual position in the past. Any institutions, group, or individual

that impeded the success of their ideas faced historical destruction under the pen of these two men.

Both Michelet and Quinet, in their defense of what they thought was necessary and right, turned their college rostrums into pulpits from which they preached reform. Subjective involvement, not objective detachment, was the order of the day. History was the foundation of political science and the basis of progress. The disease diagnosed for France was a depression of the national ego, the therapeutic method, teaching, and the therapeutic dose, history.

Douglas T. Nelson  
Brooklyn College

#### The Origins and Development of the Academic Historical Profession

In this paper I sought to describe the establishment of history as an academic discipline in France between 1870 and 1900 and the formation of the "scientific" school of historical writing in the French university system. I attempted to explain the complex process by which the new discipline of history was organized, furnished with a set of professional goals, and provided with the theoretical and institutional means of achieving them. I discussed the multivarious problems that confronted the university historians as they sought to transform their craft from an avocation of amateurs into a scholarly discipline pursued by trained specialists employed by the university system: the growing tensions between the universitaires and the "literary" historians outside the academy; the conflict between the "scientific" claims of the French historical school and its commitment to employ history for patriotic and political ends; and the inter-disciplinary rivalries between academic and the fledgling discipline of sociology.

The paper concentrated on the important contributions of the small group of professional historians who achieved positions of prominence during the last quarter of the nineteenth century in the reformed university system, a system that they themselves had helped to modernize under the inspiration of the German model of higher education: Gabriel Monod, the founder of the Revue historique and the patron of dozens of distinguished historical scholars and researchers who revolutionized historical studies in France; Ernest Lavisse and Alfred Rambaud, who led the campaign to transform the Sorbonne into a center of "scientific" historical scholarship and co-edited the first major collaborative, multivolume work of historical synthesis; Charles Seignobos and Charles Victor Langlois, the coauthors of the first important handbook on historical methodology in France and "teach teachers" of the first course in historiography at the Sorbonne; and Alphonse Aulard, the founder of the scientific school of French revolutionary historiography and the occupant of the first chair in the history of the French Revolution at the Sorbonne.

The paper concluded with a brief analysis of the points of dispute between the founders of the academic historical profession and their forebears among the Romantic historians of the first half of the nineteenth century. The former believed that they had succeeded in liberating French history writing from the unscientific, literary, polemical tradition of the Romantic era. And brief mention was made of the growing resistance to the narrow conception of scientific history popularized by the founders of the French profession on the part of the followers of Henri Berr, two of the most influential of whom were Febvre and Bloch, later treated in Hilah Thomas's paper.

William R. Keylor  
Boston University

Lucien Febvre, March Bloch, and the Emergence of  
Annales School

This paper sketched the political background, human associations and personal ambitions out of which the new French historical review Annales d'histoire économique et sociale emerged in 1929 and developed under the joint supervision of Lucien Febvre and Marc Bloch until 1944. It emphasized the deep tie of friendship that had already linked the co-founders during a decade as colleagues at the University of Strasbourg and treated their contributions to the review as equal and inseparable. It noted that the professionalization of the historical discipline by the previous generation of academic historians in France largely exempted Bloch and Febvre from preoccupation with rigorous critical standards of historical scholarship. Indeed, it was as graduates and beneficiaries of a reformed university system that they challenged the nature of the historical problems to which the profession was devoting its hard won expertise.

The paper underscored H. Stuart Hughes's observation that Febvre and Bloch carried over to their work in the inter-war period the stability, hopefulness, and good conscience of academic circles in the pre-war Third Republic. It also asserted that they were responding to political and social influences in their historiography every bit as much as had previous generations of French historians. Bloch and Febvre shared a certain messianism about the possibilities of their craft with earlier historian-reformers, such as Michelet, Duruy, Monod, and Lavissee. In the Annales, however, it would take distinctive twentieth century forms. The Annales would call for international collaboration in research, for defining fundamental historical problems in economic terms, and for the opening of history to the methods and hypotheses of other disciplines.

The broadened "mission" that pervades the early Annales can be traced directly to Bloch's and Febvre's own experiences: to their double sense of knowing what sort of world they wanted and knowing that it had constantly to be fought for and could be achieved only through an open-ended program, international in scope, entailing cooperation among scholars in many fields. If the Annales was born partially out of an ardent intuitive program to remake the discipline of history in the image of an unsettled but interconnected world spinning out of the vortex of the First World War, it was born also out of a network of human associations and out of personal goals.

Hilah F. Thomas  
Brooklyn College

SESSION II - PARTIES AND POLITICS IN EARLY MASSACHUSETTS

Ronald Formisano chaired a session that presented two revisionist views of politics, one on the early national period, the other on the decade before the Civil War, both emphasizing the importance of local politics.

Thomas Davis of Middlesex Community College presented a paper entitled "Aristocrats and Jacobins in Country Towns: Party Formation in Berkshire County, Mass., 1790-1815." In his paper he examined individual towns and party leaders and concluded that there were no important social differences between Federalists and Republicans.

The second paper was presented by John Mulkern of Babson College who also criticized traditional views of politics that are not based on local sources. His paper, "The know-Nothing Victory in Massachusetts: A Triumph for Vox Populi," supported recent interpretations, for it stressed the anti-party, populist character of the movement and stressed nativism as the important factor behind party realignment

in the 1850's rather than anti-slavery sentiment and reaction to the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

Patrick Conley of Providence College commented on the papers, pointing out the themes common to both - especially a tendency of all parties to become oligarchical. In his comments he drew parallels with his own work on party formation, realignment, and nativism in nineteenth century Rhode Island, and with his experience in contemporary Rhode Island politics. The chairman opened the discussion to the floor after making remarks based on his work in antebellum politics.

Ronald P. Formisano  
Clark University

SESSION III - EUROPE AND COLONIAL AFRICA  
Chairman, Norman Bennett, Boston University

The Inhabitants of Tuat, The Tuareg, and the French 1890-1912

In recent years the study of European expansion in Africa has begun to pay more attention to African factors, i.e. to the policies carried out by Europeans "on the spot" and to the aims and actions of the indigeneous population. The French expansion in northwest Africa during the period 1890-1912 seems to show that the colonial government and the European colonists of Algeria were the main exponents of expansion. Their initiatives were repeatedly curbed by the metropolitan government of France, which was reluctant to embroil itself in expansion at the cost of serious diplomatic difficulties. Even so apparently an isolated area as the central Sahara fits into this pattern.

The inhabitants of the oases of Tuat, Djanet, and the Tuareg, which lay in the path of the Transsaharan aspirations of the French in Algeria, had the means to influence the outcome of that expansion. Although unable to offer much military resistance to a French thrust into the Sahara, their contacts with Ottoman Tripolitania and Morocco meant that any French advance would meet Turkish and Moroccan resistance. And as Turkey and Morocco had important European allies, French maneuvers in the Sahara ran the risk that Paris would be faced with serious diplomatic complications. Thus, the second French effort to open the Transsaharan route (the first was in 1880-81) precipitated direct Moroccan annexation of the Tuat oases, the strategic cross-roads of the Sahara. The governors general of Algeria, notably Jules Cambon and Laferrière, were, as a result, forced into a policy of gradual, covert advance that finally committed the Paris government to expansion by the capture of Insalah in 1899. The seizure of Insalah, which was planned in Algiers and not by the government in Paris, led to a confrontation with Morocco that paved the way for the gradual annexation of that country. On the opposite side of the French line of advance, a rivalry developed between the Ottomans and France after the Tuareg had been drawn into the French sphere. This rivalry was ended only by the Italian attack on Tripoli in 1911.

H. McKim Steele  
Trinity College, Hartford

European Rivalry and the Imposition of Colonial Rule  
in Upper Guinea

The economic demands of an industrialized Europe and some degree of humanitarian concern combined to transform relations between Africa and Europe, which prior to the nineteenth century had involved mostly the slave trade. The citizens and subjects of

France and England in Upper Guinea became increasingly involved in extending "legitimate commerce" and "civilization." From tiny settlements along the Atlantic coast, merchants, missionaries and soldiers extended their influence into western Sudan. Each nation vied for supremacy, leading to rivalry and ultimately the partition of Upper Guinea and the imposition of colonial rule.

Although African resistance was strong, internal divisions within African states and kingdoms and their inability to forge alliances with each other severely limited its effectiveness. Technological superiority and better organization facilitated European conquest, which continued well into the twentieth century. The brutality of the conquest had disastrous consequences for the African population, a subject that deserves greater study.

The evidence suggests that "local factors" determined the pattern of the partition, not the policy makers in London or Paris. Further research is still needed, however, in areas such as the failure of Ahmadu and Samori to unite against the French, the role played by British and French firms, and about the careers of less recognized leaders such as Bolearis, before final conclusions can be drawn regarding the nature of the European presence in Upper Guinea in the nineteenth century.

Gustav K. Deveneaux  
Boston State College

AFTERNOON SESSION: THEORY, PRACTICE AND PEDAGOGY OF  
WOMEN'S HISTORY

This session of the spring conference was planned in conjunction with the New England Association of Women Historians. Besides the chairperson, there were four participants: Claudia Koonz, a member of the faculty of Holy Cross, Robert Wheaton, a social historian whose principal work has been focused on Bordeaux in the seventeenth century, Charmarie Blaisdell, of the Northeastern University faculty, and her colleague there, Sherrin Wyntjes.

Ms. Koonz introduced her discussion, "Progress and Regress in Women's Western Civilization," with the reading of two graduation cards, one addressed to a boy, the other to a girl, to illustrate how very different are the expectations for men and for women even in twentieth century America. She described a few of the methodological problems of women's history that persist whether one adopts an elitest view of history, attributing the great changes in history to small and powerful group of people, or a mass-oriented view of history, assigning to large social conglomerates the task of historical modification. Periodization may differ from the perspective of women; so may progress, since it appears that women have made the greatest progress, both economically and in terms of the availability of diverse roles, during periods of cultural crisis.

Mr. Wheaton used a widow's account book from the seventeenth century to illustrate women's roles in the transmission of property. It is generally known that widows exercised important economic functions as a consequence of their legal status. Mr. Wheaton demonstrated that women also assumed extensive financial and managerial tasks as wives. His paper illustrated the importance of including women within the broader realm of social history.

Ms. Blaisdell and Ms. Wyntjes concluded the program with a selection of slides that they entitled "Seeing is Believing." By choosing a variety of visual representations of the Madonna and Child, for example, they demonstrated the changing under-



standing of both childhood and motherhood in the middle ages and Renaissance. Many of the illustrations Ms. Wyntjes discussed portrayed work roles for women and the influence of urbanization and industrialization. The slide demonstration suggested one method for introducing the themes of women's history into the broader context of Western Civilization courses, and, what's more, gave the members of the NEHA a delightfully colorful conclusion to their spring conference.

Catherine M. Prelinger  
Yale University

#### ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPT ACCESSIONS

Over two hundred cubic feet of customs and Coast Guard records for the ports of New London and Stonington, Connecticut, were recently accessioned into the Regional Archives Branch of the Federal Archives and Records Center in Waltham, Massachusetts. The records relate to the administration and operation of the two ports and cover the years 1789 to 1935, but the vast majority are of nineteenth century origin.

Like most of the ports in Connecticut and Rhode Island, New London served the surrounding agricultural area as a market place where surplus crops could be exchanged for manufactured goods, usually imported via New York or Boston. Direct trade was also carried out with the West Indies. But New London was unique because of its significance in American whaling. During the middle nineteenth century New London was second only to New Bedford in the size of its whaling fleet. In 1846, when whaling was at its peak, seventy vessels enrolled in New London were engaged in the trade. The large number of whaling vessels helps to explain why New London had the largest volume of home-owned shipping of all the ports in Connecticut and Rhode Island. During the 1840's and 1850's the tonnage of shipping registered, enrolled, and licensed in New London was equal to the combined total for the collection districts of New Haven, Middletown-Hartford, and Fairfield. Stonington also became significant in the whaling trade, and because of its increasing activities, it was separated from New London in 1842 and combined with Westerly, Rhode Island, to form a separate customs collection district. Stonington vessels were also engaged in sealing activities, and it was on one of these sealing voyages that Nathaniel B. Palmer, captain of the Stonington sloop Hero was credited with first sighting the Antartic Continent in 1820. In these records are quarterly and annual statements, showing the vessels employed in the whale fisheries and sealing trade abstracts of the amount and value of whale products, licenses, vessel manifests and crew lists of vessels engaged in whaling and sealing, and other records relating to the two activities.

Because the official customs records of American ports are often dispersed among a number of depositories, research has often been difficult for those engaged in maritime history. Frequently the records of a particular port are spread out among several archival or manuscript agencies, including the National Archives in Washington, the various Federal Archives and Records Centers, and historical societies or maritime museums. Fortunately the records of New London and Stonington are not dispersed, and the records in the Regional Archives Branch in Waltham provide a fairly complete documentation of the activities at these two ports.

The records include: registers, enrollments, and licenses of vessels, abstracts and indexes to the above, bills of sale and records of the change of ownership of vessels, admeasurement and inspection of vessels, records of revenue cutters including journals and log books of the cutters, returns of provisions received by the officers and crews, musters and payrolls of officers and crews, records relating to lighthouses

including accounts of the Superintendent of Lights for the District, correspondence concerning lighthouses, reports of the state of lighthouses, and estimates of funds needed and lighthouse vouchers, shipping articles and crew lists, list of seamen registered in New London, and descriptions of seamen prior to registration, wreck reports and other items. Records relating to imports and exports include impost books, abstracts of duties on goods imported, abstracts of goods exported, vessel manifests and surveyors, 'gaugers,' weighers, and measurers' books. Also included are records of tonnage duties, records of entrances and clearances of vessels, records relating to marine hospitals, cashbooks, ledgers, and journals, and correspondence of the Collector.

Although most of the above records have been stored at the Federal Archives and Records Center for a number of years, only recently has a more exact identification of the individual items been made and within the last several months the United States Customs Service and the United States Coast Guard have approved their accessioning into the National Archives.

James K. Owens, Chief of the Archives  
Branch of the Federal Archives and  
Records Center  
Waltham, Massachusetts

Announcements of acquisitions, additions to collections, or new finding aids should be forwarded to James K. Owens, Chief, Archives Branch, Federal Archives and Records Center, 380 Trapelo Road, Waltham, Ma 02154.

#### BOOK REVIEW: Pedagogy and Population Studies

I suspect that most of us are spending more and more time arriving at judgments about pedagogic matters that receive little coverage in our professional journals and that have less and less to do with our own specialized studies. This increasingly uncomfortable state of affairs is, in part, a product of the current crop of great crises and global problems that seems to be driving the contemporary social sciences ever deeper into futuristic preoccupations. As for us in history, the adjustment is doubly difficult, since we must acquire rapidly new perspectives and techniques with which to probe neglected pieces of the past -- and with fewer and fewer students! Of course, an occasional review article in the A.H.R. or elsewhere helps, but mostly we are left to search frantically through bibliographies, mountains of periodicals, and our own or our colleagues' memories for clues as to what might be appropriate for this mini-course or that special-topic listing that we never dreamed one day we would be teaching.

But beyond the personal angst and capricious pedagogy implicit in the above confession (and within limits, I am prepared to argue the real merits of such pedagogy for both faculty and students, but not here and not now...) there is a professional need that might well be services in the pages of the NEHA newsletter. I refer to the need for brief comparative reviews and notes on texts and teaching materials suited to the new undergraduate history. Such reviews might not be deeply informed by sophisticated or specialized scholarship, but they can certainly reflect our pedagogic experience and they can serve as temporary assists while we and our students await the appearance of some grand new syntheses by appropriate specialists.

Let me personalize my proposal. In my early undergraduate days, even before I was a history major, I first became intrigued with neo-Malthusian discussions of modern population problems. A decade later, I discovered that the discussion of these problems now centered on research into a "demographic revolution" somehow associated with a

beneficent process of "modernization." Then, among the apocalyptic rumblings of the 'sixties came noise of a world population crisis of super-Malthusian proportions, and for counterpoint, David Landes wrote in Daedalus (Spring 1968; vol 97, no. 2, p 378) asking politely that demographers "find the time to write general studies of population that are comprehensible and relevant to the general historian, while the latter "learn to understand and deal with numbers" so that we might eventually close the gap between the lagging generalists and the pioneering but purist demographers.

Then suddenly, I -- a historian of modern Europe with special training in political and diplomatic history -- found myself volunteering to teach a course on the history of world population, and for the past five months I have been piling up books and materials for the course. In all this, I got little assistance from professional journals, save perhaps The Journal of Interdisciplinary History, and much of that literature is well beyond the needs of capacity of most undergraduates. Nevertheless, I did find that in those years since Daedalus devoted its Spring number to "Historical Population Studies," several historians and demographers have heeded Landes's call.

From the pedagogic point of view, I find that Carlo M. Cipolla's little paperback, The Economic History of World Population (5th ed.; Penguin, 1970) is still the easiest introduction, but an equally brief complementary work is available in H.J. Habakkuk's Population Growth and Economic Development since 1750 (Leicester University Press, 1972). Habakkuk is significantly more sophisticated and seems to occupy a position half-way between the breezy generalities of Cipolla and the stolid historical demography of E. A. Wrigley's Population and History (World University Library, 1969). I only wish that Wrigley's work had been written by T. H. Holingsworth, whose Historical Demography (Cornell University Press, 1969) is far more readable but also much longer and written to a different purpose: "Studies in the Uses of Historical Evidence." One other short piece is useful if also somewhat dated (1961); that is the eighty-two page "World Population, 1800-1950," in the Cambridge Economic History of Europe, vol VI. The extensive footnotes there and in Habakkuk form a kind of ad hoc annotated bibliography, a feature not available in any of the other works mentioned above; although, Chapter I of the fourth volume of the same CEHE contains a sixteen-page bibliography and additional footnote references covering the period before 1800.

All of the above appear to be appropriate to an undergraduate initiation into population studies, and beyond them stand several respectable shelves full of new monographs and research articles that would support varying forms of student "post-holing." My favorite is the collection of working papers by Shelburne F. Cook and Woodrow Borah, Essays in Population History: Mexico and the Caribbean (University of California Press, 1971), for it gives a good sense of the way that research leads from one question to another, some easily understood illustrations of the new techniques for statistical analysis, and an object lesson in the crucial importance of comparative historical studies.

I presume to submit the above judgments, partly as example, partly as substance; although I would have preferred that I had had the benefit of a prior student try-out. I hope that we will begin to use the NEHA newsletter for various informal notes and reviews that will provide professional assistance without duplicating the services already available in the AHA and elsewhere.

Bill B. Brayfield  
University of Hartford

MINUTES: BUSINESS MEETING - Rhode Island College, Providence, Rhode Island  
May 4, 1974

President Lewalski opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. and after introducing those at the head table and acknowledging the help of many people, made special mention of the retirement of Professor Dan Thomas and of Professor Thomas's long support of the association.

Professor Kendall gave the financial report for the Secretary-Treasurer. The association has a balance of \$2,015.53, including receipt of \$963.00 after January 1, 1974 and disbursement of \$654.87 for mailing and luncheon expenses.

Professor Gagliardo moved the adoption of all amendments as printed on the ballot and Professor DePendleton seconded the motion.

Professor Gordon Jensen, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, moved that the slate of nominations selected by the committee be presented to the organization. Professor Noether seconded the motion. Professor DePendleton moved that nominations be closed, and Professor Thomas seconded the motion. All of the above motions were accepted by the members and ballots were passed out.

When those ballots were counted the results were as follows:

All amendments passed.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS. An annual meeting shall be held in the fall at a time and place to be set by the Executive Committee. The election of officers shall be held at this meeting and the installation will be at the spring meeting. Other meetings may be scheduled throughout the year. The place of meeting may be rotated from campus to campus.

APPROVED: 78                      DISAPPROVED: 0                      ABSTENTIONS: 0

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS. There shall be elected annually, by majority vote of the membership, a President and a Vice President. A Secretary and a Treasurer shall be elected, by majority vote of the membership, to serve for three year staggered terms. (At the first election, the Treasurer shall be elected for a two-year term and the Secretary for a three-year term.) The President shall preside at the meetings. The Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President and shall have the additional duty, in consultation with the other members of the Executive Committee, of arranging programs for each meeting.

APPROVED: 78                      DISAPPROVED: 0                      ABSTENTIONS: 0

ARTICLE VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the four elected officers, the immediate Past President for two subsequent years, the Vice-President designate, and four members elected by majority vote of the membership for two-year terms. The Executive Committee may appoint special committees as it sees fit.

APPROVED: 77                      DISAPPROVED: 0                      ABSTENTIONS: 2

BY LAWS I. Dues shall be assessed annually by vote at the annual meeting.

APPROVED: 79

DISAPPROVED: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

Elected were:

PRESIDENT

John Gagliardo (Boston University)

VICE PRESIDENT

Jane Pease (University of Maine, Orono)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

James K. Owens (Chief of the Archives Branch of the Federal Archives, Waltham)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Robert McNeal (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mary Ault Harada (Northern Essex Community College)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Darrett B. Rutman (University of New Hampshire)

After Presidential remarks, President Lewalski adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gwendolyn Evans Jensen  
Secretary Pro Tem

COMBINED MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE AND NOMINATING COMMITTEES  
May 4, 1974

1. President Gagliardo called the meeting to order.
2. The President noted that Professor Giles Constable has suggested that the President appoint someone to sit for him on the Nominating Committee for next year while he is on leave. Professor Gordon Jensen was proposed by the President to serve for Professor Constable. The members approved this suggestion and asked Professor Gensen to serve as Chairman of the Nominating Committee.
3. The members next discussed the meeting place for Fall, 1975. (The coming Fall and Spring meetings have already been arranged.) The members instructed the President to explore the possibility of a meeting in Portland, Maine, at the University of Maine.

4. The members agreed that in the future, participants in sessions and their spouses should be given free lunch.
5. The members agreed that the splitting of the position of Secretary and Treasurer approved by the membership should make it possible for the Secretary to coordinate several jobs: the usual secretarial duties, membership drives, and the Newsletter.
6. The Fall program was discussed with the Vice-President and Program Chairman, Jane Pease.
7. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gwendolyn Evans Jensen  
Secretary Pro Tem

#### LETTER FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT

Dear Colleague:

I take this opportunity to issue to you and your colleagues a cordial invitation to membership in the New England Historical Association. Many of you are already members, and will therefore know something about the NEHA and its programs. For those of you who are not, let me sketch a brief outline of the organization and its activities.

The New England Historical Association, now just over a decade old, was founded as a regional association for persons residing in New England, primarily. Our membership, however, includes individuals not only from all six New England states, but from a number of adjacent states as well.

Membership is open to all who have an interest in history, whether professional or not, regardless of field of occupation. In addition to a number of interested individuals with no institutional affiliation at all, the membership includes graduate students, archivists, librarians, and faculty members of educational institutions from secondary school through two- and four-year colleges, universities, and graduate schools.

The NEHA presently schedules two one-day meetings a year -- in early October and early May. The meetings are hosted by various New England institutions of higher learning. The format of programs varies somewhat, but normally includes a coffee and registration hours, followed by three simultaneous morning sessions devoted to different fields and topics; a luncheon (with a guest speaker once a year); an afternoon session or sessions, frequently devoted to problems of general interest relating to historical methodology or pedagogy; and a cocktail or "social" hour to end the meeting. The NEHA News, which was begun this year and which we hope to expand from its present format, contains not only the program for this fall's meeting on October 5, but also summaries of sessions from last May's meeting at Rhode Island College.

While annual membership dues may well have to be increased this year merely to cover postage costs, they are presently set at only \$2.00. In view of the increased expense of attending national meetings of such associations as the AHA, the OAH, and many others, together with the decreased ability of institutions to pay all or even part of the cost of individuals' attendance at such meetings, I believe that a regional association such as the NEHA, while in no sense attempting to compete in their spheres

with the various national historical associations, now takes on increased importance as a stimulating, congenial, and inexpensive forum for meeting socially and discussing the ideas and activities of New England historians.

We are eager to expand our membership with individuals who share our concerns, and to that end I urge you to publicize the existence and activities of the NEHA among your colleagues. A sample membership form is enclosed, but should more be needed, please write to our Secretary-Treasurer, Professor William F. Allen, Department of History, University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, Connecticut, 06602. I will be delighted to see you -- whether again or for the first time -- at our fall meeting on October 5 at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Sincerely yours,

John G. Gagliardo  
Boston University  
President

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DUES 1974-1975. . . . . \$2.00

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to The New England Historical Association to mail to:  
William F. Allen, Sec.-Treas., University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, Conn. 06602