FALL CONFERENCE AT WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
in WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Saturday, October 20, 2007
SECOND CALL

The 79th meeting of the Association will be held on October 20 at WPI in Worcester (508-831-5438). The program is listed on pages 3-5 of this issue and was mailed earlier to all members along with registration, motel and travel instructions.

Vice-President Ballard Campbell (Northeastern University) arranged this splendid program. James P. Hanlan and the WPI Humanities Department will make the local arrangements. This is our first meeting in Worcester, the heart of the Commonwealth, since 2003, and it should be a popular location. We are very grateful for their hospitable efforts on our behalf. Please see our web pages for other details: http://www.wpi.edu/~jphanlan/NEHA.

The Fall conference begins with registration and continental breakfast on Saturday at 8:00 A.M. in the Campus Center building. Members are invited to bring copies of their own recent publications as well as timely professional literature for display or distribution at the book exhibit.

Please note that registration fee payment is required for everyone on the program (panelists, chairs and commentators) and all who attend the conference. Pre-registration by mail prior to October 12 is strongly recommended, but registration at the conference is possible. Please feel free to photocopy the conference registration form on the back page when inviting colleagues, graduate students and friends.

After the Plenary Session on Environmental History: Nature, Direction, Future from 10:30 to noon, luncheon will be served in the Campus Center building. Seating is limited so please reserve your place at lunch when you register by mail. Even if you do not join us at WPI, please use this form to pay your 2007 membership dues. Lunch will be followed by the awards ceremony and a brief business meeting.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

The Association suggests that members make early hotel reservations by phone because this will be a busy weekend in Worcester. Ask for a NEHA or WPI discount rate when you phone for a reservation by September 30. We recommend the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 700 Lincoln Street (508-751-6505) which is within walking distance of WPI. Rooms are $99.00 and parking is $5.00.
ADVANCE NOTICE

The Spring meeting will be held at Northeastern University in Boston on April 26, 2008. Vice-President Ballard Campbell will organize the program. The deadline for submitting proposals (one-page abstract and a brief C.V.) is January 15, 2008. For information about the program or submissions, contact: Ballard Campbell, Northeastern University, Department of History, Boston, MA 02115, Campbell@neu.edu

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEHA FUND

The Association Fund was created many years ago to support some of the Association’s activities not related directly to the annual conference, newsletter, mailings or other routine expenses. It has supported the annual NEHA book award and the NEHA Prize, and to subsidize graduate students presenting a paper, and costs associated with our joint sessions at the AHA. This modest fund is supported by the generosity of our members. Please consider making a donation, mail your check payable to NEHA to James P. Hanlan, the Executive Secretary, or add a contribution when you pay your annual dues or conference registration payment. Thank you for your generous support. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Driving from Boston (1 hour) Take I-90 West (Mass Turnpike) to Exit 11A onto I-290 heading west to Worcester. At Exit 18 (Lincoln Square/Rte. 9) take a right at the end of the ramp onto Rt. 9 and take the next right (before the traffic light). At the next light, proceed straight through, bearing right onto Salisbury St. At the WPI sign, turn left onto Boynton Street, then right onto Institute Road. Take the first right and park on either side of Bartlett Center, building directly ahead as you enter the Quadrangle area. Follow NEHA signs to the Campus Center building.

Driving from the North Take I-495 to I-290 and follow the directions above.

Driving from the South and West: Take I-90 to Exit 10 (Auburn), proceed East on I-290 to Worcester. Take Exit 17 (Lincoln Square/Rte. 9), turn left at the end of the ramp onto Route (West through Lincoln Square straight onto Highland Street. Turn right at the light onto West Street. Go one block and cross Institute Road.
The New England Historical Association

FALL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2007

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Registration and Continental Breakfast: 8:00-8:30 a.m. – Lobby, Campus Center Building

ALL SESSIONS WILL BE IN THE CAMPUS CENTER BUILDING

FIRST MORNING SESSIONS: 8:30-10:00:

8:30 Session 1: Recent Tales from the Job Market: Myths and Realities (roundtable)
Chair: Annika Frieberg, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Steven Seegel, Worcester State College
Patrice Dabrowski, Harvard University
Martin Menke, Rivier College

8:30 Session 2: Portraits of Nineteenth Century America
Chair: Jennifer Tebbe-Grossman, Mass. College of Pharmacy and Health
Dale Potts, University of Maine. "The Old Squire’s Farm: C.A. Stephens, Popular Literature, and New England’s Agricultural Decline, 1890-1930."
Comment: Kristen Peterson, Pine Manor College

8:30 Session 3: Symbols and Ritual in Latin America
Chair: Juan Carlos Grijalva, Assumption College.
Cristin Cleaton, Westfield State College. "Capes, Swords, and Shields: The Signs and Symbols of Caste and Imperial Power in Early New Spain"
Rosa E. Carraquillo, College of Holy Cross. "Of Death and Power: Rafael Cortijos and Ismael Rivera’s Funerals and the Rituals of Power"
Amanda Warmock, University of Texas. "The Symbolic Importance of Ice Consumption in Havana, 1801-1816"
Comment: Aldo V. Garcia Guevara, Worcester State College

8:30 Session 4: Perspectives on Education, Politics and Society: Bavaria, the United States and Hungary.
Chair: Luci Fortunato, Bridgewater State College
Joanne Schneider, Rhode Island College. "Girls' Schools in Early Nineteenth Bavaria: The
Reformed Government, the Curricula and the Parents"
Karl Benziger, Rhode Island College. "Restless Heroes, Textbooks and Legitimacy in the Hungarian Republic: The Meaning of 1956 in 2007"
Comment: Philip Pajakowski, Saint Anselm College

8:30 Session 5: Perspectives on Industrialization and Industry
Chair: John Brown, Clark University
John Murphy, Northeastern University. "Steam engines and early industrialization"
Gail Mohanty, "Unnoticed Craftsmen Noted: Commercial Handloom Weavers and Weaving in Essex County Massachusetts, 1690-1790"
Comment:

8:30 Session 6: Justice and Rights in History
Chair: William Nancarrow, Curry College
Sherri Mitchell, Maine Civil Rights Team. "The Quantification of Our Rights and National Resources: Contemporary Claims on Sovereignty."
Metasebia Woldemariam and Kylo-Patrick R. Hart, Plymouth State University. "The Rawandan Genocide and (Pop) Cultural Memory."
Carrie Pitzulo, CUNY Graduate Center. "Helping Along the Revolution? Playboy and Abortion Rights"
Comment: Neenah Estrella-Luna, Northeastern University

Break for Book Exhibit & Refreshments: 10:00-10:30 -- Lobby, Campus Center

PLENARY SESSION: 10:30-12:00:

Environmental History: Nature, Direction, Future
Chair: Anthory Penna, Northeastern University
Panelists:
Richard Judd, University of Maine
Karl Jacoby, Brown University
Kent Ryden, University of Southern Maine

LUNCH: 12:00 – 1:30: Campus Center

AFTERNOON SESSIONS: 1:30 – 3:00

1:30 Session 7: Methods and Accuracy in History
Chair: Anna Suranyi, Northeastern University
Kathryn Edney, Michigan State University. "Historical Accuracy vs. Dramatic Tenets in the Musical 1776."
Comment: Anna Suranyi
1:30 Session 8: Crossing Boundaries: New Methods, New Categories, New Questions: Digitized Voting Returns, USA, 1787-1820 -- ROUNDTABLE
   Chair: William Shade, Lehigh University
   Philip Lampi, American Antiquarian Society
   Andrew Robertson, Lehman College
   Krista Ferrante, American Antiquarian Society
   Comment: William Shade

1:30 Session 9: The Arts and Culture in the Early Modern Period
   Chair: Thomas J. Carty, Springfield College
   Nancy Steenburg, University of Connecticut - Avery Point. "Frances M. Caulkins: Poet, Reformer, Historian"
   Comment: Clifford Putney, Bentley College

1:30 Session 10: Portraits of European Society
   Chair: Tim Brown, Northeastern University
   Carla Lovett. Boston University, "A Tale of Two Cities: Vienna in the Age of Industrialization, 1875-1914"
   Katherine E. Hubler, Boston University. "The Rights of Woman and the Duties of Man: Men, Women, and the Grounding of the Modern German Women's Movement"
   Comment: Thomas Kuehne, Clark University

1:30 Session 11: Social Stresses in the Gilded Age-Progressive Era
   Chair: Peter Holloran, Worcester State College
   David Wagner, University of Southern Maine. "The View from the Bottom: Poverty and Downward Mobility in the Gilded Age"
   Constance Clark, Worcester Polytechnic Institute. "On the Meanings of Monkeys in the Jazz Age" [Scientists and the Controversy Over Evolution in the 1920s]
   Comment: Ed Rafferty, Boston University

3:00: Adjournment

3:15 Executive Committee meeting
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee announced the following candidates were elected on May 5:

President  Luci Fortunato  
(Bridgewater State College)
Vice-President  Ballard Campbell  
(Northeastern University)
Treasurer  Bruce Cohen  
(Worcester State College)

Executive Committee:
Susan Ouellette  
(St. Michael’s College)
Martin Menke  
(Rivier College)
Chuck Arning  
(NPS, Blackstone River Corridor)

Nominating Committee:
Marcia Schmidt Blaine  
(Plymouth State University)
Liam Riordan  
(University of Maine, Orono)

We congratulate those candidates elected and those nominated and thank those who made nominations. Any member may nominate himself, herself, or another member for election to any Association office by writing to the Executive Secretary. All dues-paying members are eligible to vote by mail or in person at the annual business meeting in April. Self-nominations are encouraged. Write-in candidates are permitted for any position on the slate. Those members interested in serving on the Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, NEHA Prize Committee, or NEHA Book Award Committee should contact the Executive Secretary.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met briefly at SNHU at the conclusion of the May 5 meeting. The discussion was on future meetings sites, the customary postmortem on the conference, and appointment of a new chair of the Nominating Committee. President Fortunato thanked George Dameron for preparing a calendar, timeline and check list for use by future officers and revision of the constitution. The members approved the constitution revisions and dues increase at the business meeting. Vice President Campbell will consider future thematic conferences.

The Executive Committee annual meeting was held at WPI on December 2, 2008. The agenda included reports on the treasury, membership, newsletter, website, Nominating Committee, selection of future meeting sites, conference programs, NEHA Fund contributions, NEHA Book Award, NEHA Prize, planning the Spring conference, as well as NEHA panels at the AHA and OAH.

President Fortunato will host the next Executive Committee meeting at Bridgewater State College on December 1. Association members may submit a question or agenda item for the next Executive Committee meeting by writing to the Executive Secretary.

THE NEHA PRIZE

At the October meeting, we will present the annual NEHA Prize for the most outstanding paper by a graduate student presented at a
recent conference. The winner is Dale Potts (University of Maine, Orono) for his October 2007 paper "Woods enough still: 'The Transformation of Henry David Thoreau's Recreational Landscape in Popular Tourist Literature of Maine in the Late-Nineteenth Century."

Each session chair may nominate one paper for this prize and a committee of three members appointed by the president judges all nominations. The criteria are scholarship, presentation and originality. This year the committee members are; Daniel C. Williamson (University of Hartford), chair; Sean Field (University of Vermont); and Susan Ouellette (St. Michael's College). The prize is intended to encourage and recognize outstanding research papers by graduate students at our conferences. Session chairs are invited to recommend papers presented by a graduate student at the Spring or Fall meetings. Contact the Executive Secretary for details.

NEHA BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE

On October 20 Kathryn Tomasek (Wheaton College), chair of the NEHA Book Award Committee, will present the 2007 NEHA Book Award. The winner is Harry S. Stout (Yale University) for his outstanding book Upon the Altar of the Nation: A Moral History of the Civil War (Viking).

Any publisher may nominate one book each year by writing to Executive Secretary James P. Hanlan, WPI, Department of Humanities, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609-2280 or email him at jphanlan@wpi.edu by June 1, 2008. Monographs on any historical topic, time or place published in 2007, written by an author who lives or works in New England (or has done so in the past two years), are eligible for the annual NEHA Book Award presented at the October 2007 conference. The nominated book should represent the best historical writing and scholarship in any era or field of history. The award certificate and $200.00 stipend are presented to the winner at the conference each Fall.

The members of the NEHA Book Award Committee for 2007 are: Kathryn Tomasek, chair (Wheaton College); Jacqueline Carr (University of Vermont); Michael Gesin (Worcester State College); Robert W. Smith (Bridgewater State College); and Aldo Garcia Guevara (Worcester State College).

CONFERENCE REPORT

The 78th meeting of the Association at SNHU on May 5 was well attended with 76 historians registered for 13 sessions with 34 papers. Michael McCormick, professor of Medieval History at Harvard University, gave a fascinating presentation on Disease, Health and History, Molecular Perspectives on the Middle Ages. We were pleased to join 56 members for lunch on a beautiful Spring afternoon. Association President George Dameron made an address at lunch (see page 9), The Future of the Past at NEHA, and conducted a brief business meeting after lunch and the annual election of Association officers.

This meeting was made possible by the outstanding efforts on our behalf by the program chair, Vice-President Luci Fortunato (Bridgewater State College), Executive Secretary James P. Hanlan (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), and the local arrangements committee headed by Mark Cheatham.
The Future of the Past at NEHA
George Dameron, NEHA President, Spring Conference, May 5, 2007

As President of the New England Historical Association, I wish to welcome you to our annual spring conference. First of all, I want to offer my sincere appreciation—on behalf of the association—to all those who have made this event possible: to Luci Fortunato, Association vice president and conference program organizer; to Mark Cheathem, our local arrangements coordinator; to the President of Southern New Hampshire University for the hospitality today; to the chair of our nominating committee, David Rawson, who is handling our election; to our Executive Committee for its help with the governance of this Association over the past year; to our plenary speaker, Michael McCormick, who has generously given us his time at a very difficult time in the semester; and finally, to James Hanlan and Peter Holloran, our association executive secretary and secretary, respectively, who, as usual, are most responsible for keeping this organization going.

All of us are here today because of our passion for the study of the past. The New England Historical Association, a one-of-a-kind professional organization of historians in New England, is a vehicle for the nurturing of that passion for history, but it is also an association that faces a unique set of challenges for the future. That is my subject today. First, a word about the passion for the past. As was probably true for all of you, childhood was the time when my love of History first emerged. When I was growing up in the South in the 1950's and 1960's, the past at times seemed more alive and tenacious than the present. Whether I was hearing stories about my great-grandfather, a Confederate veteran of Fredericksburg and Petersburg, whether I was walking the battlefield at Shiloh at springtime, or whether I was learning about how desperate some members of my family were to hide horses and silver from Buell's army as it passed through Gallatin, Tennessee in the winter of 1862, I always felt as if the past was like an aggressive visitor—someone who entertained, but also someone who never left and who became at times far too intrusive; someone who did and said things that were often too distasteful to mention out loud. Indeed, for many southern families like my own, both white and African American, the guest who just never seemed to go away was the corrosive legacy of slavery. As an adolescent living in Memphis, Tennessee, forced to live under martial law in the aftermath of the horrific assassination of Martin Luther King, I learned how persistent, intrusive, and nightmarish that legacy of slavery could be. A few years later, when I was working construction after my junior year in college, my supervisor was a man whose father had been one of William Faulkner's hunting buddies in nearby Oxford, Mississippi. One day, while eating lunch, when I brought up the topic of Faulkner's books, my supervisor loudly claimed that everything that Faulkner wrote regarding the people of Oxford was dead wrong. Then, and now, I am not so sure about that. There is a statement by Faulkner that has become somewhat of a cliché today, but it seems nevertheless no less true and no less apt: "The past is not dead", Faulkner wrote. "In fact, it is not even past." Perhaps it is precisely because the past seems so present to us all that we became historians—you in your fields, I in the field of medieval history.

The New England Historical Association is a unique organization that exists to help feed
and nurture that love of the past. "The past is not dead in NEHA; in fact, it is not even past." The charge of NEHA, as posted at its web site, is to "promote scholarly interchange and to enhance teaching and scholarship in history." What makes this organization unique is that it is the only major association of historians in New England that offers a venue for scholars and teachers from the entire spectrum of our profession to communicate with one another. Although I am not an American historian, I have to say that one of the most exciting and illuminating panels I attended at a past NEHA conference was a panel on King Philip's War, about which I had known very little previously. Ideally, therefore, NEHA facilitates sociability among historians as well as encourages communication on topics of common concern as varied as historical methodologies and new developments in scholarship.

At times, however, the promise of NEHA has exceeded its achievements. Many of you gathered here today may recall that last year (2006) marked our 40th birthday. Much has changed in the forty years since Franklin Friedel, our first President, first assumed the position that I hold now and that Luci Fortunato will assume later today. In 1966, Lyndon Johnson was president of the U.S.; Bob Dylan had just come out with Blond on Blond; Orson Welles had released Chimes at Midnight, and yours truly was beginning the eighth grade and starting Algebra I. In the 40 years between then and now, to the best of my knowledge, NEHA never formally evaluated itself. When my predecessor, Altina Waller, was President of NEHA last year, she initiated a process by which NEHA began to reflect critically upon its past, its present, and its future. As President, I have continued this process of critical self-reflection and evaluation in conversation with our Executive Committee, and today I wish to pass on to you what I think are some of the most salient findings.

First—what we (NEHA) do well. With over 800 members, we are a professional organization that is well known in the U.S. and New England. We are financially secure and well managed. For 40 years we have been consistently sponsoring two annual conferences, and over the past few years, we have been offering two annual prizes for the best book published by an historian in New England and for the best graduate student paper presented at one of our conferences. We produce a top-notch, comprehensive newsletter that goes to every member two times a year. Our conference sites circulate throughout New England, which means our members never have to drive too far from home and are able to acquaint themselves with colleges and universities and History Departments throughout the region. NEHA is an excellent setting for graduate students to present their first conference papers. This is an inclusive organization with a dedicated and knowledgeable core of officers (our Executive Secretary and our Secretary, in particular), and we have been blessed by a 40-year succession of capable and effective Vice Presidents, whose task to produce two conferences a year is the mainstay of our association. Our "call for papers" format is open-ended and welcomes presentations from a variety of fields and time periods, and the informal atmosphere of our conferences is far, far cry from the job market and interviewing environment of the AHA.

On the negative side, regarding our programs, perhaps we have become far less diverse over the past decade than we were several decades ago. It has taken a toll. Non-U.S. history is increasingly less and less represented at our conferences, and panels on American history continue to dominate. Senior faculty members at our major research universities in New England, both state and private, seem to be less and less involved in both the programming and the governance of NEHA. Some fields of study at our conferences remain under-represented. Regarding the governance of the
organization, perhaps we have been too dependent on our central core of officers, especially on our Executive Secretary and Secretary. Both Jim and Peter will move on at some point, and we need to be prepared for those eventualities. The level of commitment to the organization by the membership of our Executive Committee has been inconsistent over the past four decades, leaving decision-making in very few hands. Some members have argued that NEHA should move to a once-a-year format (rather than the current twice a year format). The twice-a-year format is too frequent, they argue, and it places too large a burden of responsibility on the Vice President to create two conferences, and it sometimes can lead to the inclusion of too many papers of mixed quality. However, other members take a contrary position, asserting that the twice-a-year format encourages frequent contact among members and instills loyalty to the organization.

So—where should NEHA be headed? What is the future of the past at NEHA? First, we need to organize more conferences that offer a broader and more diverse range of historical fields and time periods and that attract more scholars from our most productive research universities. Organizing more of our conferences around compelling themes—historiography, historical fiction, immigration, or gender, and perhaps even disease, again—with more plenary speakers to address them, may be a way forward. We should maintain and strengthen our ties to our larger sister organizations, the AHA and OAH. Regarding the governance of our organization, we need to plan for the eventual departure of our current executive secretary and secretary by beginning now to nurture a new generation of association officers. We need to transform our Executive Committee into a more pro-active organization in planning and governance, which means the President will need to ask more of its members. Two recommendations that we are already implementing this year are the following: we have generated a calendar timeline and job description of tasks that future NEHA officers will receive from the Executive Secretary, and we will be requiring each member of the Nominating Committee to forward to the chair of that committee a certain number of names as potential nominees for elective office by December of every year.

NEHA is truly a unique organization. I know of no other professional association of historians which offers such a consistent series of informal and stimulating conferences on such a wide variety of topics and issues. This is also an open organization, and if you believe otherwise, propose a panel or a series of panels on topics you feel have been neglected. I appeal to each of you today to consider running for elective office in the future, propose a panel, volunteer your name as a potential future vice president or executive secretary or secretary, or write a book review for our newsletter. We welcome your involvement. The past certainly does have a future here at NEHA, but it will depend on all of us to nurture the organization that exists to bring that past to life.

NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

John Gagliardo (Boston University), who taught early modern Germany history at BU from 1968 to 1998, died on August 2, 2007.

Jan Golinski (University of New Hampshire) was elected to the AHA Nominating Committee.

Jane Kamensky (Brandeis University) and Nancy Shoemaker (University of Connecticut) have joined the Journal of the Early Republic editorial board.
Simon Payaslian (Clark University) was appointed the Charles K. and Elisabeth M. Kenoasian Professor of Modern Armenian History and Literature at Boston University.

Philip Samponaro (Clark University) was appointed an assistant professor of History at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Steven Seegel (Brown University) was appointed assistant professor of European History at Worcester State College.

Emmett A. Shea (Worcester State College) will retire in May after 45 years of teaching Russian History.

David Underdown (Yale University) won the AHA Award for Scholarly Distinction.

Charles Capper (Boston University) published Volume II of Margaret Fuller: An American Romantic Life, The Public Years (Oxford University Press).

David Carey, Jr. (University of Southern Maine) published Engendering Mayan History: Kaqchikel Women as Agents and Conduits of the Past, 1876-1970 (Routledge).

Barbara Diefendorf (Boston University) won the AHA J. Russell Major Prize for From Penitence to Charity: Pious Women and the Catholic Reformation in Paris (Oxford University Press).

Alexandra Garbarini (Williams College) published Numbered Days: Diaries and the Holocaust (Yale University Press).

Gene R. Garthwaite (Dartmouth College) published The Persians (Blackwell).

Allen Guttmann (Amherst College) published Sport; The First Five Millennia (University of Massachusetts Press) which won the annual book award of the North American Society for Sport History.

J. William Harris (University of New Hampshire) published The Making of the American South: A Short History, 1500-1877 (Blackwell).

Blake Harrison (Quinnipiac University) published The View from Vermont: Tourism and the Making of an American Rural Landscape (University of Vermont Press).

John B. Jones (Brandeis University) published The Songs That Fought the War: Popular Music and the Home Front, 1939-1945 (Brandeis University Press).

Deborah Kisatsky (Assumption College) published The United States and the European Right, 1945-1955 (Ohio State University Press).

BOOK NEWS


Sarah Bilder (Boston College) won the AHA Littleton-Griswold Prize for The Transatlantic Constitution: Colonial Legal Culture and Empire (Harvard University Press).

Stuart Borsch (Assumption College) published The Black Death in Egypt and England: A Comparative Study (University of Texas Press).

Lance G. Lazar (Assumption College) published *Working in the Vineyard of the Lord: Jesuit Confraternities in Early Modern Italy* (University of Toronto Press) which won the American Catholic Historical Association’s Howard R. Marraro Prize in Italian History.

Kent P. Ljungquist (WPI), James P. Hanlan (WPI), and Rodney G. Obien (WPI) published *The History of Woodbury and Company* (Peter Lang).

B. Eugene McCarthy (Holy Cross College) and Thomas L. Doughton (Holy Cross College) published *From Bondage to Belonging: The Worcester Slave Narratives* (University of Massachusetts Press).

John F. McClymer (Assumption College) published *America First Hand* (Bedford/St. Martin’s Press).

Brendan McConville (Boston University) published *The King’s Three Faces: the Rise and Fall of Royal America, 1688-1776* (University of North Carolina Press).

David Mayers (Boston University) published *Dissenting Voices in America’s Rise to Power* (Cambridge University Press).


Francis Oakley (Williams College) published *Kingship: The Politics of Enchantment* (Blackwell).

Alan Rogers (Boston College) published *Murder and the Death Penalty in Massachusetts* (University of Massachusetts Press).

Douglas J. Slawson (National University) published *Ambition and Arrogance:*

Cardinal William O’Connell of Boston and the American Catholic Church (Cobalt Productions).

Cathy Stanton (Tufts University) published *The Lowell Experiment: Public History in a Post-Industrial City* (University of Massachusetts Press) which won the National Conference on Public History 2007 book award.

Reed Ueda (Tufts University) published *A Companion to American Immigration* (Blackwell).


Kim M. Williams (Harvard University) published *Mark One or More: Civil Rights in Multiracial America* (University of Michigan Press).


Stephanie E. Yuhl (Holy Cross College) published *A Golden Haze of Memory: The Making of Historic Charleston* (University of North Carolina Press) which won the Willie Lee Rose Prize from the Southern Association of Women’s Historians.

University in Providence on November 3-4, 2007 on the theme Sex Changes: Historical Transformation of Sex, Gender, and Sexuality. For more information, email: neasacouncil@gmail.com

The 14th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women meets at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis on June 12-15, 2008. For more information see: http://www.umass.edu/history/berks/berks.htm

The Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association (NEPCA) holds its 30th annual conference at Clark University on October 26-27, 2007. Contact the NEPCA program chair, Tim Shary, Clark University, 950 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01610; ts_shary@clarku.edu. For more information, see the NEPCA website: www.wpi.edu/~jphanlan/NEPCA.html

The Association for the Study of Connecticut History (ASCH) holds a one-day conference on Connecticut constitutional and legal history (1662-1965) on November 3, 2007 at Storrs. Proposals may be submitted by May 15. Contact Bruce P. Stark, Connecticut State Library, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106; bstark@cslib.org

The Boston Seminar on the History of Women and Gender, cosponsored by the Massachusetts Historical Society and the Schlesinger Library at the Radcliffe Institute, offers four meetings on Thursday evenings at 5:15 this academic year. For details see: www.radcliffe.edu/events/conferences/2008_bostonSeminar.php

The Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, the Slater Mill Historic Site and Rhode Island College will cosponsor a conference on The Mill Village: Industry, Transformation & Power on November 2-3, 2007. It meets at the newly
restored Slatersville Weave Mill in Slatersville, RI. For more information contact Chuck Arning at the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, 1 Depot Square, Woonsocket, RI 02895; Chuck_Arning@nps.gov

The 11th Annual Salve Regina University Conference on Cultural and Historic Preservation meets on October 18-20, 2007 in Newport on the theme Leisure, Tourism, and the Nineteenth-Century Resort. Contact Catherine Zipf, Salve Regina University, 100 Ochre Point Avenue, Newport, RI 02840; Catherine.Zipf@salve.edu

CONFERENCES MEETING ABROAD

The Seventeenth Annual World History Association Conference meets on June 25-29, 2008 at the University of London, Queen Mary College, Mile End Campus on the themes Global Cities and The Sea: Highway of Change. Proposals may be submitted by January 15 from the WHA website www.thewha.org

The Northeast Conference on British Studies holds its 2007 annual meeting on October 12-13 at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia on the theme Union and Disunion. Contact Joyce Malcolm, NECBS Program Chair, George Mason University, 1301 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22201; jmalcolm@gmu.edu

AUTHORS WANTED

The Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association (NEPCA) offers its annual Peter C. Rollins Book Award for the best book on any American culture or pop culture topic published in 2007 by an author in New England or New York. Publishers may nominate one book by June 1, 2008. The award certificate and $200 prize will be presented to the winner in October 2008 at the annual NEPCA conference. Contact the NEPCA Executive Secretary: Robert E. Weir, NEPCA, 15 Woods Road, Florence, MA 01062; weir.r@comcast.net

If you would like to write a book review for the NEHA News, please feel free to contact the Association’s Book Review editor, Thomas J. Carty, Springfield College, Department of History, Springfield, MA 01109; TCarty@spfldcol.edu We have books available for review or you may suggest a good new book you have in hand. Our reviews are 600 words and due in 60 days.

The Journal of Popular Culture, a scholarly journal published bimonthly since 1967 by the Popular Culture Association, seeks contributions (articles, book reviews, and guest editorials). For more information, contact the book review editor: Peter Holloran, Worcester State College, Department of History, Worcester, MA 01602; pholloran@worcester.edu

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

The Massachusetts Historical Association offers long and short term fellowships each year for scholars using their extensive materials. Contact Chryslinne Pina, MHS, 1154 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02115; cpina@masshist.org or see the MHS website www.masshist.org/fellowships.html

Dry Manhattan by Michael A. Lerner is a new book about Prohibition in New York. Prohibition was a serious issue that was cloaked in the rhetoric of social reform and structural change for a nation being redefined by World War I and its aftermath. But in the 1920s the nation was also dominated by 3 other “R’s”: reaction, racism and repression. Lerner uses New York City as the definitive example of Prohibition’s limits.

Pushed by William Anderson’s relentless use of pressure politics through the Anti-Saloon League, both the city and the state acceded to the Prohibition movement. By equating Catholics and immigrants with saloon keepers, however, Anderson led his followers down the slippery slope of support for the KKK. The conservatism of the 1920s that led to additional restraints on the citizens of New York City also inspired a “wet” movement by the late 1920s. With the passage in 1921 of the Mullan-Gage Enforcement Law, New York State went beyond the Volstead Act. While Mullan-Gage was repealed in June 1923, Prohibition’s limits were still not defined.

In 1925, “night club mayor,” Jimmy Walker addressed the establishments through a weakly regulatory measure, the cabaret law. He and his wet-leaning supporters benefited from Anderson’s decline as a prohibition leader in 1923-1924. The Anti-Saloon League was replaced by the Committee of Fourteen which focused on connections between speakeasies and prostitution. Mary Louise Cecilia Guinan, the “Queen of Nightclubs,” Louise Gross, and Pauline Sabin took up the call against the Committee of Fourteen, the Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), and Prohibition in general. These middle-to-upper class women eventually formed the Women’s Organization for National Prohibition Reform (WONPR) in 1929, “a national, bipartisan women’s group dedicated to repeal.” (193)

According to Lerner, the repeal issue in New York was led by Al Smith and Pauline Sabin and translated into congressional election victories in 1930. Smith pressured Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) to lead the “wet” fight as the Democratic presidential nominee in 1932. Lerner concludes that FDR was “the reluctant wet candidate of 1932 [who] took up the repeal campaign where Al Smith had left off in 1928.” (300). FDR’s presidential victory ended Prohibition quickly. The Volstead Act was modified in March 1933 to immediately legalize beer and wine. The Twenty-first Amendment was quickly passed and ratified before the year 1933 ended.

Lerner concludes that “the end of the Prohibition Era marks the demise of a moral crusade meant to impose a uniform standard of social behavior in the United States.” (307) The author adds “When Prohibition failed,…it revealed the limits of moral reform movements and specifically the paternalistic, prejudiced, and undemocratic ideals behind the dry crusade.” (308)

Perhaps no truer words can be used in analyzing the Prohibition debacle. Certainly the author should be given full-credit for following the story of the “noble experiment” in New York from the World War I years through 1933. There were many Byzantine, colorful and troubled phases of this story; yet
Lerner never lets the issue of Prohibition be separated from its component themes of reform, reaction, racism, and repression. He has dealt with a serious issue in a serious way and along the way has redefined the 1920s for us as a more complex period than a "Flapper" or "Jazz Age." This important book is organized and written well. If it has a flaw it would be the absence of photographs or illustrations. **Dry Manhattan** is recommended as a classic social and cultural study of Prohibition, the less than noble experiment.

**Bruce Cohen**  
Worcester State College

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Susan Eva O’Donovan, an Associate Professor of African and African American Studies and of History at Harvard University, compellingly recounts black people’s multifaceted struggle for freedom. She studies seventeen counties in southwest Georgia because their late settlement and relative isolation from the Civil War facilitates understanding the relationship between the rhythms and routines of slavery and freedom. O’Donovan extrapolates how southwest Georgia relates to the national and transnational story of slavery and freedom based on military records, planter manuscripts, newspapers, church minutes, Freedmen’s Bureau records, and much more.

Although never eschewing black people’s agency, she reminds readers that people’s choices are still conditioned by their past and their present. **Becoming Free** focuses especially on how the gendered experience of slavery influenced freed men and women’s understanding of their social, productive, and political roles. During slavery, planters often sent black men out to work in neighbors’ fields, labor at saltworks, and serve as postmen while keeping black women close to home. As a result, male slaves’ protests often transcended individual plantations while a female slave’s defiance was usually limited to the physical and social space of her master’s property.

By spring 1864, southwest Georgia’s relative seclusion ended as refugee planters and slaves overran the region. Slaves found a new social space for protest in the “frictions of war” as the Confederate government eroded planters’ authority by appropriating food and tools, mandating specific crop mixes, and “borrowing” slaves for military projects.

**Becoming Free** emphasizes that emancipation was not a sudden liberation but an organized and drawn-out affair. Most ex-slaves, reluctant to leave home and family, stayed on or near their old plantations but under much different circumstances. Planters now wanted little to do with families but only desired to hire young sturdy males. O’Donovan never explicitly explains how she finds that freedwomen, and not freedmen, encouraged an agricultural wage-labor system based on family, but she argues that this enabled women to carve out a livelihood. This livelihood came at an extremely high cost as sharecropping became a permanent part of Southern culture.

Initially, ex-slaves believed that freedom guaranteed them the right to seek impartial legal justice. Former slaves successfully used the courts to dramatically decrease employer violence and to encourage planters to fulfill their contractual obligations. Although agencies such as the Freedmen’s Bureau

This volume consists of eleven papers originally presented by an impressive list of American scholars at the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University in Michigan during a 2004 conference on religion and the American presidency. The director of the center, Gleaves Whitney, and Mark J. Rozell of George Mason University, are the editors, and contributed a concise summary of each chapter in their introduction. Endnotes are provided for each chapter and a helpful index has been assembled. This is an instructive work that demonstrates the importance of a consideration of religion and religious commitment in any assessment of the American presidency and of the occupants of that office.

James M. Penning of Calvin College demonstrates particular insight in the chapter entitled, “The Religion of Bill Clinton,” when he notes “that the term ‘religion’ may be used in multiple ways” (192). Often enough, recent scholarship which considers the “religious factor” in historical analysis fails to identify in which of these ways the term “religion” is to be understood. While it might well refer to theological or denominational affiliation and traditions, it is often used to describe a much more vague personal spiritual or moral commitment. Religious practices are easier to identify, but what they might mean for an individual, and how they influence his or her worldview and decision-making require not only close historical investigation, but significant theological knowledge. Unfortunately, scholarly
competence in the latter is often enough the missing link in these kinds of historical investigations.

Happily, this volume has several examples wherein sophisticated historical and theological tools have been brought to bear on the subject. While more time is required for objective analysis and the study of documents not yet available, Penning’s paper on Bill Clinton attempts to analyze the available threads. Looking to both Mark Silk and Stanley Hauerwas, he concludes that President Clinton was “a profoundly spiritual man,” who was “among the most skillful practitioners of American civil religion” (210). In a like manner Gary Scott Smith, (on George Washington), Vincent Phillip Muñoz (on James Madison), and Lucas E. Morel (on Abraham Lincoln), all provide balanced historical studies combined with theological acumen and insight.

Less satisfactory is the chapter on Jimmy Carter by Jeff Walz of Concordia University. While providing helpful information about Carter’s religious background and moralizing tendencies, Walz provides little theological analysis of Carter’s “deep faith.” Though critical of his “lack of management abilities,” (170), this study approaches hagiography. The chapters on Harry Truman (by Elizabeth Edwards Spalding), Dwight Eisenhower (by Jack M. Holl), and Ronald Reagan (by Paul Kengor) all provide superior analyses of the kind of faith and religion to which these executives gave evidence. Carin Robinson and Clyde Wilcox provide much food for thought in their early analysis of George W. Bush’s public statements about his religious convictions.

Thomas J. Carty offers a good analysis of John Kennedy’s “balancing act” as a “Catholic hero,” so effectively manipulated in some regional campaigns, and as a “secular icon,” which gained for him the support of the liberal secularists of the day. (N.B. This reviewer read this particular paper and provided commentary prior to publication). Finally, Thomas E. Buckley, S.J., writes on Thomas Jefferson and the “myth of separation,” contributing to an understanding of the thought of the third president and his times, and arguing that Jefferson might have been very accepting of a more contemporary government support of faith-based initiatives. This volume should be a welcome addition to any college library and to a graduate course syllabus. If republished as a paperback, it would serve well for undergraduate history, religious studies, and political science syllabi.

James F. Garneau
Mount Olive College


This book offers an almost behind-the-scenes look at the American Revolution. Readers who thought they knew all about America’s Revolution of 1776 will find themselves surprised by the wealth of information and telling detail that Nellis brings to this study. Unlike most treatments of the Revolution, Nellis begins not with the pivotal point of 1763, but with 1750. He argues that to fully understand the Revolution one has to consider the steady growth of the British-American colonies that had proceeded virtually unabated since the first days of settlement – a growth that had produced thirteen “mature and self-conscious communities” – followed by what seemed to be a sudden and severe policy reversal by the British Parliament. As King and Parliament
would soon realize, their colonial holdings developed a mind of their own.

By the end of the Seven Years War, these colonies had come to expect loose monitoring from the mother country and the right to share in the benefits gained from removing both France and Spain from colonial America. When that gain was not realized through the infamous “Proclamation of 1763” (partly due to Britain’s overwhelming war expenses) colonists were denied access to any of the newly-acquired western lands, and felt a sort-of second-class citizenship. When this decision was quickly followed by the mother country’s need to raise revenue (through the Revenue or Stamp Act) to reduce their national debt, colonists were poised to act.

Unlike traditional works, Nellis provides an informative background and setting for the American Revolution (and beyond). His first chapter includes “Wars of Empire” and how they affected the colonial American world. Nellis gives an interesting and understandable explanation of what was happening in the wider world and how it affected Britain and her colonies in particular. Subsequent chapters look at the various colonial responses, and at the background that they drew on for their responses. These insights into the minds of the revolutionary “luminaries” are invaluable. Few appreciate the depth and degree of education and enlightened common sense, especially with respect to basic human nature, that went into the formation of our early governmental foundation.

While most studies of the Revolution end with the ratification of the Constitution or with George Washington’s presidency, Nellis takes his readers further. His contention is that the revolutionary era covered more than the years of war, or even the years leading up to it. Nellis believes a process that began about 1750 and was not fully complete until after the War of 1812 helped to solidify the claims made and the gains won in the Revolution itself and in the subsequent peace agreement of 1783. In fact, Nellis does not conclude his study until the Epilogue: “The Generation of 1820.” Nellis brings “a cautionary reminder” that the “development of American democracy stretched over 70 years.”

Each chapter begins with a brief timeline of events, and is sub-divided into sections that make it quite accessible. A “Conclusion” follows each chapter, as well as a list of “Suggested Readings.” This book might be more helpful, especially to the researcher, with footnote references for the sources. Although they are probably contained within the “suggested readings,” individual reference sources on recent scholarship would be beneficial. Nevertheless, this is definitely one of the better overviews on the American Revolution, and should be useful in many undergraduate courses.

Serena L. Newman
Bay Path College


Diane P. Koenker, a professor of History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Anne E. Gorsuch, an associate professor of History at the University of British Columbia, have edited an in-depth study of tourism in Russia and Eastern Europe prior to the Communist takeover and the differences in tourism after the Communists came to power.

This book is a series of essays by American, British and German historians, focusing on topics such as Russian tourists in the 19th
century and Yugoslav travels to Czechoslovakia in the 1920's and 1930's. During the Communist era, topics touched upon include marketing, socialism and Soviet tourism to Eastern Europe. As the editors indicate, tourism can be defined as part of the history of consumption, the history of leisure, the attitude toward work, and the sense of being elsewhere. The Russian word туризм has both a broad and a narrow definition. A tourist was anyone who followed a leisure travel program of cultural and material consumption. The book reveals the differences and similarities between tourist practices under capitalism and socialism in the 19th and 20th centuries in Russia, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

In both the capitalist and the socialist east, tourism was too important to leave to the private sector. Russian commercial tourist agencies followed the model of Thomas Cook in seeking clients among the rising middle classes. Access to tourism in the USSR came primarily through the granting of a travel voucher. Authoritarian socialist regimes facilitated state controls over guidebooks, highlighting historical accomplishments and economic achievements. Travel accounts encouraged tourists to imagine themselves sharing in the fraternal friendship of socialist peoples. Travel writings and tourism educated socialist citizens about the wider world within a framework that emphasized the superiority of socialism.

Comparing tourist experiences under socialism and capitalism reminds us that consumerism became part of the modern world in the 20th century that transcends ideological or economic systems, but socialism distinguishes itself especially in the early years of the regime. Working together in small groups, the emphasis was on gaining knowledge. This source emphasizes the distinctive contradictions of tourism in dividing socialist societies and creating socialist citizens. A case in point was Hungary, which had a higher standard of living than the USSR since 1956.

Many of the essays demonstrate that tourism did not always create a greater sense of belonging to an often materialistic homeland but contributed instead to an increased feeling of alienation. During the cold war, it was considered important to provide good tourist experiences both for the people at home and for international visitors. The Soviet travel agency Intourist tried to model itself after western tourist firms in order to do a better job of selling socialism to its foreign guests.

In East Germany, tourism was used to bolster the legitimacy of the regime in competition with West Germany. The major model for most East European socialist regimes was the Soviet Union, not the west. A sharp change in tourism emerged during the Stalinist era. It kept most tourists at home, and limited travel to western Europe to Soviet cultural and political elites. With de-Stalinization and in Tito's Yugoslavia, some travel was permitted to western Europe.

Having traveled throughout the Soviet Union, the new Russian Federation and Eastern Europe, I would like to have seen additional essays on the experiences of American and western tourists behind the Iron Curtain. This tourist found, until very recently, accommodations limited, services inadequate and too many restrictions. Itineraries often changed without notice and many cultural highlights were overlooked. This reviewer also discovered that some Intourist guides were either KGB officers or affiliated with the KGB. Any tourist who has traveled in the Soviet Union, Russian Federation or Eastern Europe, could relate to this book while a specialist in the field of popular culture may find this source a welcome addition to his library.

Emmett A. Shea
Worcester State College
PLAN AHEAD

American Historical Association
2008 * Washington * 3-6 January
2009 * New York City * 2-5 January
2010 * San Diego * 7-10 January
2011 * Boston * 6-9 January
2012 * Chicago * 5-8 January
2013 * New Orleans * 3-6 January

Organization of American Historians
2008 * New York * 28-31 March
2009 * Seattle * 26-29 March
2010 * Washington * 7-10 April
2111 * Houston * 17-20 March
2012 * Milwaukee * 19-22 April
2013 * San Francisco * 11-14 April
2014 * Washington * 2-5 April

American Studies Association
2008 * Albuquerque * 16-19 October
2009 * Washington, DC * 5-8 November

American Conference for Irish Studies
2008 * St. Ambrose University * 16-19 April

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association
2008 * San Francisco * 19-22 April

Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association
2007 * Clark University * 26-27 October

Oral History Association
2007 * Oakland * 24-28 October

National Conference on Public History
2008 * Louisville * 10-13 April

North American Conference on British Studies
2007 * San Francisco * 9-11 November
2008 * Cincinnati * 3-5 October

Social Science History Association
2007 * Chicago * 15-18 November
2008 * Miami * 23-26 October
2009 * Long Beach * 12-15 November
2010 * Chicago * 18-21 November

Society of Historians of the Early American Republic
2008 * Philadelphia * July
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WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

OCTOBER 20, 2007

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The Newsletter of the New England Historical Association

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CALENDAR
Fall Meeting
WPI
October 20, 2007

Spring Meeting
Northeastern University
April 26, 2008
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