SPRING CONFERENCE IN NASHUA AT RIVIER COLLEGE

Saturday April 17, 1999
SECOND CALL

The 62nd meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday, April 17 at Rivier College in Nashua, New Hampshire (603-888-1311). The program is listed on pages 3-4 of this issue and was mailed earlier to all members along with a map and travel instructions.

Vice-President Alan Rogers arranged this excellent program, and Martin Menke and the Rivier College Department of History made fine local arrangements with the expert assistance of James P. Hanlan. This is the Association's sixth meeting in the Granite State and we are very grateful for the splendid efforts on our behalf.

The conference begins with registration on Saturday morning at 8:00 A.M. in the Education 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. Registration is required for everyone (all members, non-members, graduate students and panelists) who attends the conference. Pre-registration by mail prior to April 5 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 a wine and cheese reception at 12:15, luncheon will be served, but seating is limited. Please purchase your lunch ticket when you register by mail before April 5. Even if you do not join us in Nashua, please use this form to pay your annual membership dues. The election of Association officers will be conducted at the luncheon during the business meeting.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION

Motel rooms at special rates for members have been reserved for those who wish to stay overnight in Nashua. You must reserve your room as early as possible by calling the Sheraton Nashua, 11 Tara Boulevard (603-888-9970) but no later than March 17. Ask for the NEHA rate at $89.00. The motel will provide travel directions when you register.
ADVANCE NOTICE

The Fall meeting will be held at Suffolk University on historic Beacon Hill in Boston on October 16. Our new Vice-President will be the program chair, and will organize the program. The deadline for submitting proposals (one-page abstract and a brief c.v.) is June 15, 1999. For information about the program or submissions contact James P. Hulan, NEHA Executive Secretary, WPI, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609-2280; jghanlan@wpi.edu

TRAVEL INFORMATION

If you drive from Boston and the East, take Route 3 to exit 4. Then take a right at the light onto East Dunstable Road. Take a right at the second light (about one mile) onto Main Street. Take the first left onto the Rivier College campus. Follow the familiar NEHA signs to the parking lot.

From the North, take Route 3 to Exit 4. Then take a left at the lights onto East Dunstable Road. Then take a right at the third light (about one mile) onto Main Street. Take the first left onto the campus.

Nashua is a one hour drive from Boston and Worcester, and two hours from Providence, Hartford and Portland. Nashua is served by major airlines at the Manchester Airport. Taxi, limo, or car rental from the airport should be made in advance. Bus service to Nashua is by Greyhound (800-231-2222). A map was enclosed in the pre-registration materials mailed a few weeks ago to all members.

The New England Historical Association

SATURDAY
APRIL 17, 1999

SPRING CONFERENCE PROGRAM

8:00-8:45 Registration and Coffee
8:45 10:15 First Morning Sessions

Room ED 301

8:45 Session One Catholics and Uniates (Greek Catholics) and the Problems of Church Unity in Imperial Russia
Chair/Comment: James Flynn (College of the Holy Cross)
Stanimir Obinov, S. J. (Belgrade University, Belgrade): "Peter Starga, the Jesuits, and the Union of Trent (1564)"
Richard Schurr (Georgetown University): "True and the Rule of Law: Conflicting Values in 18th Century Uniates and Orthodox Catholics"
Jeff Bednich (Notre Dame University): "Germans and Eunuchism in the Russia of Nicholas I"

Room ED 303

8:45 Session Two Ideologies: Fops, Feminists, and Foreigners
Chair/Comment: Alita Weller (University of Connecticut)
Thomas Foster (Yale University): "Fops in 18th Century Massachusetts: Masculinity and Male Sexuality on Display and in Dispute"
Howard Batch (Boston Community College): "Carolines Dall, Mary Wollstonecraft, and the Path Toward Liberal Feminism"
Sonora McCarthy (Saint Anselm College): "Shaping Ethnic Identity in Late 19th Century Boston: The British-American Association"

Room ED 307

8:45 Session Three Science and Reform in Early Republican Philadelphia
Chair/Comment: Martin Quinn (University of Massachusetts, Boston)
Donald Schuyler (Director of Educational Programs, East Hampton) "Native Americans Through the Eyes of Philadelphians in the Early Republic"
Morup Kjekshus (University of Pennsylvania): "Silkwork and Science: The Promotion of Sericiculture and the Development of American Identity"
Sean Taylor (Northern Illinois University): "A Social Disease: Yellow Fever in Philadelphia, 1793-1805"

Room ED 308

8:45 Session Four The Political Ideas and Activities of Abolitionist Daughers
Chair/Comment: Melanie Gurevich (University of Vermont)
Barthelemy (Exeter State College): "A Second Generation Abolitionist Faces the Civil War and Reconstruction"
Sheryl Brown (Fitchburg State College): "Dedicating the First Gifts to the Cause of Freedom: Sarah Parker Redmond and Caroline Redmond Palms, Two Abolitionist Sisters"

Room ED 310

8:45 Session Five John F. Kennedy and the Cold War
Chair/Comment: Vincent Lugaromo (College of the Holy Cross)
Tom Carr (University of Connecticut): "John F. Kennedy and Catholic Anti-Communism"
Guenter Dausch (Mount Holyoke College): "John F. Kennedy and Cold War Policies, Two Abolitionist Sisters"

Room ED 302

8:45 Session Six Native American Men and Women
Chair/Comment: Emerson Beker (Saint Mary College)
Kristen Rees (University of Ottawa): "Women and Wampum in Coastal Algonquin Communities"
Todd Rzoms (Boston College): "John Eliot’s Maccabees and the Conversion of the Natives"
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

James O'Toole, chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the following candidates will be presented for election on April 17 at Rivier College:

President
Alan Rogers (Boston College)

Vice-President
Joanne Schneider (Rhode Island College)

Treasurer
Robert Imbold (Albertus Magnus College)

Executive Committee:
David Ballfour (St. Joseph's College)
Theresa McBride (Holy Cross College)
Thomas McMullin (University of Massachusetts-Boston)
Frederick Paxton (Connecticut College)

Public History Seat:
John Warner (Massachusetts State Archives)

Nominating Committee:
Ballard Campbell (Northeastern University)
Anne Clark (University of Vermont)
Patrick Hutton (University of Vermont)
Robert Weir (Bay Path College)

We thank those members who stand for election and all those who made nominations. Any member may nominate himself or herself or another member for election to any Association office by writing to the chair of the Nominating Committee chair, James O'Toole (Boston College), or to the Executive Secretary. All dues-paying members are eligible to vote in person at the annual business meeting in April. Self-nominations are encouraged. Write-in candidates are permitted for any position on the slate.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee held a brief meeting on October 17 at Connecticut College. The work consisted of planning the agenda for the annual Executive Committee meeting at WPI on December 5. The agenda items at the December 5 annual meeting of the Executive Committee included reports on the treasury, membership, nominating committee, book award and media committees, the newsletter, the website, AHA affiliation, selection of meeting sites, and IRS status for the Association.

The "Report of the Media Awards Ad Hoc Committee" focused on the difficulties of administering the Media Award. The film prize has not had the same problems as the exhibit prize. There was some discussion about eliminating the Media Awards.

Any member may send a question or agenda item for the next Executive Committee meeting at Nashua on April 17 by writing to the Executive Secretary.
AT THE SESSIONS

The 61st meeting of the Association at Connecticut College on October 17 was very well-attended with 115 historians registered for 15 sessions with 37 papers. At the luncheon on a warm and sunny Connecticut Saturday afternoon, we were joined by 80 members in the impressive Bluestein Center building overlooking the campus in autumnal colors. Following the introduction of new Association officers, President Borden Painter held a brief business meeting and the Book Award was presented to Charles S. Maier (Harvard University), for Dissolution: The Crisis of Communism and the End of East Germany. Professor Maier accepted the award with some eloquent remarks on the origin and scope of his research and the opportunities available for research by young scholars in recently opened East German archives.

This 61st meeting of the Association was made possible by the splendid efforts on our behalf by the program chair, Vice-President Alan Rogers (Boston College), Executive Secretary James P. Hanlan (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), and an industrious local arrangements committee headed by Lisa Wilson and the Connecticut College History Department chair.

The final two sessions were a revival of a NEHA tradition, the Roundtable discussion: in this case, a lively and well-attended session on The Profession and Part-Time or Adjunct Faculty and another entitled A Seamless Web: Researching and Teaching History in Cyberspace. Both roundtable sessions were quite popular and successful, and Association members may look forward to others at future meetings. Suggestions on roundtable topics and panels are invited.

NEHA MEDIA AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Association's Media Award Committee has been subject to review and reconsideration by an ad hoc committee: Robert E. Weir (Bay Path College), chair; Bruce Cohen (Worcester State College); and Patrick Leducy (Paul Revere House). This committee reported on suggested changes to the Executive Committee in April. After much discussion, Association President Borden Painter made the following report:

At the Executive Committee meeting of December 5 we decided to make a change in the nature of the Media Awards Committee. Our main conclusion was that the pitfalls, problems and purposes of the annual awards for exhibitions and films suggest that it is time to abolish the committee. We came to this conclusion based on the discussion both at this meeting and at the meeting last April at the University of Vermont, both discussions largely devoted to reviewing the issues as presented in the "Report of the Media Awards Ad Hoc Committee."

The gist of our recommendation is to establish a new committee to deal with films, videos and exhibitions. This committee would have the responsibility of recognizing noteworthy films and videos that it wishes to bring to the attention of the NEHA membership and historians generally. It will also have the charge of bringing to the membership's attention exhibitions in New England historical societies and museums. In some cases the committee may wish to recommend that NEHA publicly recognize films, videos and exhibitions by formal citations to be awarded at one of the semi-annual NEHA meetings.

This recommendation is consistent with both the letter and the spirit of the report of the ad hoc committee. Indeed the report proposes changing the name of the committee to the New England Historical Association Public History and Media Awards Committee. The major change now recommended by the Executive Committee is that NEHA get out of the business of soliciting annual submissions for annual awards and instead concentrate on informing the membership and recommending public citations whenever moved to do so by the new committee.

I hope there will be both volunteers and suggested names for the new committee from Executive Committee members. I suggest we begin work on compiling a list of potential committee members now with the intention of announcing the new committee at the April meeting.

--Borden Painter, NEHA President

Members who have comments or suggestions about how NEHA honors films, videos or museum exhibitions are invited to contact the Executive Secretary or any Association officer.
NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

Regina Blaszczyk (Boston University) was awarded a fellowship from the Harvard University Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History.

William Collins (Harvard University) won the 1998 Allan Nevins Prize of the Economic History Association for the best dissertation in U.S. or Canadian History, "Labor Mobility in American and Indian Economic History."

Robin Fleming (Boston College), a specialist in medieval history, was promoted to professor of history.

James P. Hanlan (WPI) was elected to the Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association (NEPCA) Executive Council in November.

Donald Kagan (Yale University) is the recipient of the Harwood F. Byrnes/Richard B. Sewall Teaching Prize.

Marianne LaFrance (Boston College) is the first professor to hold a tenured position in the Yale University Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Howard R. Lamar (Yale University), the dean of American frontier historians, received the William Clyde DeVane Medal for distinguished scholarship and teaching.

Joseph M. McCarthy (Suffolk University) is the new president of the Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association (NEPCA).

Heather Munro Prescott (Central Connecticut State University) received a Schlesinger Library honorary visiting scholar award to study "Student Bodies: A History of College and University Health."

Jennifer D. Selwyn and Cynthia Van Zandt are new members of the Department of History at the University of New Hampshire, not at the University of Connecticut as misstated in the last issue.

Hans P. Vought (University of Connecticut) received a fellowship from the Herbert Hoover Presidential library for dissertation research.

BOOK NEWS

Michael Burns (Mount Holyoke College) published France and the Dreyfus Affair: A Documentary History (St. Martin's Press).

Collin G. Calloway (Dartmouth College) published First Peoples: A Documentary Survey of American Indian History (St. Martin's Press).

Joseph J. Ellis (Mount Holyoke College) published What Did the Declaration Declare? (St. Martin's Press).


William M. Fowler (Massachusetts Historical Society) published Samuel Adams: Radical Puritan (Longman).

David Fromkin (Boston University) published The Way of the World: From the Dawn of Civilizations to the Eve of the Twenty-First Century (Knopf).

Gerald Gamm (University of Rochester) published Urban Exodus: Why the Jews Left Boston and the Catholics Stayed (Harvard University Press).

Mark I. Gelfand (Boston College) published Trustee for a City: Ralph Lowell of Boston (Northeastern University Press).

Daniel Horowitz (Smith College) published Betty Friedan and the Making of The Feminine Mystique: The American Left, the Cold War & Modern Feminism (University of Massachusetts Press).

Paula E. Hyman (Yale University) and Deborah Dash Moore (Vassar College) published Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia (Routledge) which won the American Library Association's Dartmouth Medal.

Akira Iriye (Harvard University) published Pearl Harbor and the Coming of the Pacific War (St. Martin's Press).

Patricia Johnston (Salem State College), who published Real Fantasies: Edward Streichen's Advertising Photography (University of California Press), won the 1998 award for best communication history book from the History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Communication. She will also be an NEH fellow this year.

Vera Krelkamp (Pine Manor College) published The Anglo-Irish Novel and the Big House (Syracuse University Press).

Felix V. Matos-Rodriguez (Northeastern University) and Linda C. Delgado published Puerto Rican Women's History: New Perspectives (M.E. Sharpe).


Anthony N. Penna (Northeastern University) published Nature's Bounty: Historical and Modern Environmental Perspectives (M.E. Sharpe).


Bruce M. Stave (University of Connecticut) and Michele Palmer published *Witnesses to Nuremberg: An Oral History of American Participants at the War Crimes Trials* (Twayne).

Bruce M. Stave (University of Connecticut) and John Sutherland published a new paperback edition of *From the Old Country: An Oral History of European Migration to America* (University Press of New England).


K. Scott Wong (Williams College) and Sucheng Chan published *Claiming America: Constructing Chinese American Identities During the Exclusion Era* (Temple University Press).

CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY, 501 Crescent Street, New Haven, CT 06515; email: womenstudies@csu.ctstateu.edu.

The Norlands Living History Center and the University of Maine invite proposals for the annual Norlands Conference on New England in the Nineteenth Century at Livermore, Maine in July 1999. Contact Billie Gammon, Norlands Living History Center, Box 3395, Livermore, ME 04254; (207) 897-2236.

The 23rd Annual NEASECS Conference will meet at the University of New Hampshire on December 9-12 on the theme "Projects and Projects: Inventions of the Enlightenment." Submit proposals to Edward T. Larkin, Department of Languages, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824; (603) 862-3549; cdt@christa.unh.edu.

The New York State Association of European Historians holds its annual meeting on September 17-18 at SUNY Cortland. Proposed papers may be submitted by April 15 to James S. Valone, Canisius College, 2001 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14208-1098; valone@canisius.edu.

The Eighth Annual World History Association International Conference meets at the University of Victoria in British Columbia on June 24-27 on "Colonialism, its Impact and Legacies." Contact Ralph Crouzier, History Department, University of Victoria, PO Box 3045, Victoria, BC V8W 3P4; phone 250-721-7404; fax: 250-721-8772; email: whaconfl@uvic.ca.

The American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) holds its annual meeting in Philadelphia on April 12-16, 2000 on the interdisciplinary theme "The 18th Century Seen Around the World." For further information, see the ASECS web site: http://calliope.jhu.edu/associations/assecs or email the program committee at assecs.wfu.edu.

CONFERENCE TO MEET

"There's No Place Like Home: Public and Private Life in America's Places" is the Second Annual Graduate Student Conference sponsored by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities and the Boston University American Studies Program in Boston on April 9-10, 1999. Contact Carolyn Wahto, Harrison Gray Otis House, SPNEA, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02108; (617) 227-3957; annesgac@bu.edu.

The Historical Society holds its national convention at Boston University on May 7-29. For information contact The Historical Society, 656 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2010; Historic@bu.edu.

The North American Conference on British Studies (NACBS) will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Northeast Conference on British Studies (NECBS) in Boston on November 19-21, 1999. Contact Chris Waters, Williams College, Department of History, Williamstown, MA 01267; christopher.m.waters@williams.edu; (413) 597-2524.

The Center for Millennial Studies will hold an interdisciplinary conference at Boston University on November 7-9 on the theme "New World Orders: Millennialism in the Western Hemisphere." Contact Beth Forrest, Center for Millennial Studies, Boston University, 704 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215; (617) 358-0226; cms@mile.org or see the web site: http://www.mile.org.

The Melville Society holds a special conference on "Melville and the Sea" at Mystic Seaport on June 17-19. Contact Mary K. Berca Edwards, PO Box 367, Mystic, CT 06355; maryk@ mystic.org.

The 25th New Hampshire Symposium meets in Conway on June 23-30 on the theme "From Unification to Unity? East Germany Ten Years after the Fall of the Wall." Contact W. Christopher Schmauch, World Fellowship Center, Conway, NH 03818; (603) 356-5208.

"Art and Life in America: A Celebration of the Legacy of Oliver Larkin and American Art at Smith College" is a symposium to be held on October 16 at Smith College. For registration information visit the Museum website at www.smith.edu/artmuseum/ or contact Maureen McKenna, Smith College, Museum of Art, Northampton, MA 01063; (413) 585-2770.

SHEAR, the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, holds its 21st annual meeting on July 15-18, 1999 in Lexington, Kentucky on the theme
CONFERENCE MEETING ABROAD

On June 23-25, 1999 a conference on “David Herlihy e la storia della Toscana del tardo medioevo e rinascimento: ricordo di uno storico e prospettive di ricerca” meets in Italy. It is sponsored by the Fondazione centro studi sulla civiltà del tardo medioevo San Miniato. For further information contact George Dameron, Department of History, St. Michael's College, 1 Winooski Park, Colchester, VT 05446; fax: 802-654-2630; gdameron@smvt.edu.

The Third European Social Science History Conference meets in Amsterdam on April 12-15, 2000. Contact the Conference Secretariat ESSHIC 2000, c/o International Institute of Social History, Cruquiusweg 31, 1019 AT Netherlands; email: ESSHIC@isq.nl.

The British Association for American Studies 1999 Conference meets at the University of Glasgow on March 26-29. Proposed papers may be submitted to the conference secretary, Simon P. Newman, Department of History, 2 University Gardens, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ UK; S.Newman@modhist.arts.gla.ac.uk.

The 18th International Conference on the History of Cartography meets in Athens on July 11-16, 1999. For further information, contact the National Hellenic Research Foundation, 48 Vasileos Konstantinou Avenue, GR-116 35, Athens, Greece; phone: +301 721 0554; fax: +301 724 6212; email: George Tolas at gtolias@eie.gr.

“The Irish in the Atlantic World” is the theme of the tenth annual meeting of the Southern Regional ACIS on February 4-7, 2000. This interdisciplinary conference will take place on a cruise ship departing from Miami to Nassau and back. Contact Mary Donnelly, Department of English, University of Miami, PO Box 248145, Coral Gables, FL 33124; (305) 284-2182.

AUTHORS WANTED


Contact the Executive Secretary: Peter Hollloran, 41 Linnaeus Street, Cambridge, MA 02138; pc@world.std.com; (617) 876-6635.

The European Studies Journal is a refereed publication devoted to research by scholars on all aspects of European social, political and cultural life in the past and present. Manuscripts may be submitted to the European Studies Journal, Iowa State University, 300 Pearson Hall, Ames, IA 50011; (515) 294-8749; nmatsson@iastate.edu.

The Colonial Society of Massachusetts offers the Walter Muir Whitehill Prize in Colonial History, an annual prize of $1,000 established in memory of Walter Muir Whitehill, for many years Editor of Publications for the Colonial Society and a moving force behind the organization. Any distinguished essay on colonial history, not previously published, with preference given to New England subjects, may be nominated. The winning essay may be published in the New England Quarterly. For further information, write to the Whitehill Prize Committee, Colonial Society of Massachusetts, 87 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, MA 02108.

The John Ben Snow Foundation Prize is an annual $1,000 award for the best book by a North American scholar in any field of British studies dealing with the period from the Middle Ages through the eighteenth century. Contact Kathleen Wilson, SUNY Stony Brook, Department of History, Stony Brook, NY 11794-4348.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships in Italian Historical Studies at the University of Connecticut are available. The James Rozentz Fellowship in modern Italian history since 1750 and the Aldo De Dominics Fellowship in Italian American history are both attached to the Emilliana Pasca Noether (a former NEHA president) Chair in Modern Italian History. Fellows will be doctoral students at UConn supervised by John A. Davis. Contact the Graduate History Office, 241 Glenbrook Road, Storrs, CT 06269-2193; jadavis@uconnvm.uconn.edu.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History invites applications for post-doctoral fellowships for scholars using materials in the Gilder Lehrman Collection at the Pierpont Morgan Library, the Columbia University Rare Book and Manuscript Collection, and the Library of the New York Historical Society. Maximum stipends are $2,500 per month for three months. Contact the Fellowship Program, Gilder Lehrman Institute, 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

The Friends of the Princeton University Library recently announced a new fellowship program in the Rare Books and Special Collections Department. For information contact John Delaney, Firestone Library, 1 Washington Road, Princeton, NJ 08544; delaney@princeton.edu or see the web site: www.princeton.edu/~rbsc/fellows.html.

The Hagley Winterthur Fellowships in Arts and Industries provide scholars, writers, curators, archaeologists, and graduate students with one to six month research opportunities (with housing and $1200 per month stipends) in the rich collections of the Hagley Museum and Library and the Winterthur Museum. For further information, contact Carol Resler Lockman, Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society, Hagley Museum, PO Box 3630, Wilmington, DE 19807; crl@udel.edu.
PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

1966-1967 Frank Fredel, Harvard University
1967-1968 Reinhold Dewar, University of Connecticut
1968-1969 Louis Morton, Dartmouth College
1969-1970 Daniel Thomas, University of Rhode Island
1970-1971 J. H. Hector, Yale University
1971-1972 Helen Maloney, Connecticut College
1972-1973 Sidney A. Barrell, Boston University
1973-1974 Kenneth F. Llewellyn, Rhode Island College
1974-1975 John G. Gaglianone, Boston University
1975-1976 Jane Pusey, University of Maine
1976-1977 Robert Louden, University of Connecticut
1977-1978 Giles Constable, Harvard University
1978-1979 Gordon Jones, University of Hartford
1979-1980 Neil Stuart, University of Vermont
1980-1981 Fred A. Cazel, Jr., University of Connecticut
1981-1982 Darrett Rutman, University of New Hampshire
1982-1983 John Voli, University of New Hampshire
1983-1984 Emilia F. Northe, University of Connecticut
1984-1985 Ronald P. Fornaisano, Clark University
1985-1986 Rudolph F. Shinn, Jr., Rhode Island College
1986-1987 Catherine M. Prelinger, Yale University
1987-1988 Paul A. Fidler, Lesley College
1988-1989 Roger Howell, Jr., Bowdoin College
1989-1990 Barbara Sowell, Harvard University
1990-1991 Richard D. Brown, University of Connecticut
1991-1992 Allen M. Rosenman, Boston College
1992-1993 Richard Bield, Wesleyan University
1993-1994 Neal R. Stashey, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
1994-1995 Bruce M. Stave, University of Connecticut
1995-1996 Patricia Hendley, Brown University
1996-1997 Roland Sarti, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
1997-1998 Donna S. Lannon, Bates College
1998-1999 Borden W. Priscu, Jr., Trinity College

The agenda is designed to build alliances by meeting new friends and colleagues who are concerned with the present issues facing the historical records community. Tables will be provided for cosponsors and vendors. The complete agenda and registration information is available on the MHRA web site at http://www.state.ma.us/sec/arc/arcsec/ascintro.htm

For further information, contact Angela Reddin, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Archives Division, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125; (617) 727-2816; Areddin@sec.state.ma.us

This "fireworks address" delivered by President James S. Leamon at the University of Vermont conference luncheon on April 18, 1998 is reprinted here at the request of several members and for those who missed the occasion.

As your outgoing president, I feel some obligation to mark the event with a few comments—if only to justify my position as President of NEHA. This has not been an easy position—indeed—it is something of a minefield. The presidency of NEHA is really a reward for having served as VICE president during the preceding year, and during the preceding year, and during the preceding year... The vice president serves not only as Chair of the Program Committee, the vice president is the Program Committee. This means setting up fourteen or fifteen separate sessions, all with three to four participants each. It means corresponding with each of these forty or fifty individuals, as well as with those who did not make the cut, finding chair persons and commentators for each session, and replacing those who fall out at the last minute. And NEHA now has TWO, not one, meetings a year. No sooner is one complete than the program chair must start anew for the next. Come to think of it, being president of NEHA isn't payment enough for the pain and suffering of being vice president and program chair.

Things were simpler during the 1960s when NEHA was first organized. The transition from that to now has been a remarkable and interesting journey. Records of NEHA from its first emergence in 1965 to 1990 are all neatly filed in the archives of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst library, and several members who participated at the creation were willing to share their recollections. These are our sources for what follows.

The NEHA files indicate that as early as 1962 historians within the New England Association of Social Studies were considering a move to recreate in form a New England Historical Association. The purposes of such an organization would be to share research, visit campuses, and develop a sense of collegiality among historians in the region, and "...an important part of any such program would be an informal social period." In the fall of 1967, over thirty historians from southern New England met at the University of Connecticut at the instigation of Professors Harry Marks and Reinhold Dewar. They divided into two groups, Americanists and Non-Americans, each with a paper, discussed it in leisurely fashion and "enjoyed the opportunity to greet old friends and make new acquaintances." After lunch, the gathering discussed the possibilities of a regional organization to be called the Southern New England Historical Association.

About this time there existed a Northern New England Historical Association centered on Dartmouth which met each fall for intellectual and social contact. The northern historians’ group (described during the 1950s and '60s) had been described by one indicator of any contact with the emerging southern New England organization. At about the time the northern group appeared to decline in the late 1960s, the southern group dropped "southern" from its title and emerged in 1967 as the New England Historical Association. The purposes remained the same but the geographical scope broadened to include academic institutions throughout all New England—with the added hope that promising graduate students would be able to make useful contact among the membership.

Programs and participation during the 1960s and '70s were simple and institutionally broad. Universities of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, as well as a host of other private colleges and universities participated wholeheartedly—and so did Harvard and Yale. The list is reprinted in each issue of NEHA News. Harvard hosted the 1967 meeting when Frank Yeazell was president. Harvard was NEHA’s speaker in 1967. Harold W. Baily served as president 1970-1971, and later in 1975. A decade later Harvard assumed the presidency. I am not aware that anyone from Brown University played a leadership role in NEHA in the early years; that would come later after Harvard and Yale had largely withdrawn from active involvement.

Through the first ten years or so, NEHA programs remained simple and designed to meet intellectual and social needs of the academic members. Usually a single morning session consisted of a presentation by a leading historian on a broad-based topic, followed by a panel discussion. For example, in 1966, Jack Hector (Yale) spoke on "The Writing of History as a Problem for the Professional Historian," a panel discussion followed. After luncheon, James McGregor Burns presented, "Adventures in Biography." A similar "Research Symposium," although titled "The 96th on the Executive Committee to the Nominating Committee suggesting "we include members of the profession who
BOOK REVIEWS


By examining the evolution of how Americans celebrated Independence Day from 1776 to 1826, author Len Travers provides a fascinating study of how this ritual reflected the emerging political culture of the new republic. This book is more than the history of a holiday; it is a study of how that celebration helped to reveal and articulate an emerging national identity during the country's turbulent first fifty years. Travers acknowledges the inspiration of Alan Taylor for whom the idea of this book first appeared as a seminar paper. Readers familiar with Taylor's recent political/cultural biography of William Cooper will perhaps appreciate his influence in Travers' perceptive and sensitive treatment in the molding of cultural form with political expression.

Travers focuses on three major urban centers of Boston, Philadelphia, and Charleston to illustrate the diverse ways the communities of the new republic sought myths, rituals, and symbols to express a common ideology and identity. As the war progressed and the cities were freed from British occupation, Independence Day gradually absorbed events of local patriotic significance, such as the Boston massacre and Charleston's "Palmetto Day" (that celebrated the repulse of the British in 1776). The Fourth of July came to transcend local events and provided the local elite with an opportunity to exist republican purposes and the challenges ahead in light of ideals expressed in the Declaration.

But as political factions, and then full-fledged parties evolved following ratification of the Federal Constitution, Independence Day turned into a bitter partisan event. Federalists and Republicans savagely competed for control of the day's activities to advance their own particular vision of the past and of the nation's future. In Boston and Philadelphia, each party held its own particular celebration with inflamed rhetoric and drunken violence. Celebrations in Charleston were more muted since that city was a Federalist island in a sea of Republican planters who depended on the labor of black slaves. Such a situation made Independence Day celebrations somewhat awkward there. Elsewhere African-Americans, slave and free, along with women, and laborers, all had their particular roles in these celebratory activities, passive, active, intended and also unintended.

The decade following the War of 1812 transformed the nature and meaning of Independence Day. The war itself had the impact that one might expect: the Federalists in Boston used the Fourth of July to denounce the national administration and its war, while Republicans in Philadelphia and, now Charleston too, rallied support for this Second War for American Independence. But by the end of the war, the gradual disappearance of the Federalists, and the emergence of a new Republican Party created a new sense of national unity and optimism. Democrats celebrated the Fourth of July lacked earlier partisan bitterness, were less violent and drunken than before, and spent from coastal urban centers into the countryside. Independence Day diwelt on the glores of a new democratic era opening before the United States now that the country had freed itself once and for all from Great Britain. Andrew Jackson, here of this second act in the drama of independence, joined the heroes of the first act, Washington and Jefferson. Travers points out that this brief epiphany moment of apparent consensus in articulating national identity received an almost providential blessing with the virtually simultaneous deaths of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson on July 4, 1826, fifty years after the signing of the Declaration of American Independence.

But, as Travers points out, rituals can mask and obscure reality as readily as they can express it. Such was the case by 1826, when once again, behind the rhetoric of national patriotism, Independence Day was taking on separate meanings for the growing divisions within American society—for reformers such as abolitionists, for advocates of temperance, for the rights of women, and even to geographical sections, such as South Carolina, increasingly felt alienated from the national consensus. Using Fourth of July celebrations to revert to its own local traditions, such as Palmetto Day, in defiance of a national identity it no longer shared. If there is an overarching lesson in this fine study, it is that rituals should be examined not only for what they are presumably meant to say at a particular point in time, but also what they serve to conceal.

This is a very thoroughly researched and well-written piece of work. Travers writes in a clear, attractive manner that is blissfully free from anthropological/psychological/sociological jargon. Some of his descriptions, especially Philadelphia's Grand Federal Procession of 1788, are memorable. It is a book that will appeal to the non-professional reader as well as to the professional historian. This reviewer will consider very seriously adopting Celebrating the Fourth next fall for his courses in the early republic.

James Leamon, Bates College

Mark Weiner's thesis is that in antebellum South Carolina mistresses and slave women shared a female world of labor, albeit one in which the burdens were unevenly distributed. Slave girls learned early the pattern their lives would follow—caring for younger children, cooking, cleaning, spinning, and sewing for their mistress in the plantation house. Even if they went into the fields, they would return to this domestic sphere at intervals—during illness, pregnancy, or in old age. White girls of the planter class were also trained for their "sphere." As adults, they would be expected to know how every domestic task was done, see it was done properly, and attend to the needs of their slaves.

The role assigned to the plantation mistress was a complex one. She must not challenge her husband, but, as his "good angel," she could guide him through gentle persuasion. As for dealing with slaves, kindness was commendable, but correction was often necessary, since she was supervising a fundamentally reluctant workforce.

However much slave women appreciated the occasional kind act, they knew all too well the harsh realities of their situation. They understood they could sometimes appeal to mistresses on uniquely female issues, such as the threat of rape (provisions were not the matter) and the need for an easier workload during pregnancy. They also understood white women's essential powerlessness. White men were the real decision-makers.

When the Civil War came, white men left for the battlefield and white women often found themselves managing plantations alone. With their roles transformed, they began to discern a change in their relationships with their slaves, or perhaps for the first time the ambiguities inherent in those relationships. Weiner notes a tendency to magnify instances of loyalty, but "mistresses...deceived themselves...Slaves' loyalty was a reflection of their feelings about a particular individual; it was not loyalty to slavery." [170-77]

With emancipation, white women's sense of uncertainty grew. Could they get servants? How much must they pay them? How long would they stay? Most former mistresses bitterly resented being forced to toil at the wash-tub and in the kitchen. When they could find servants, their attitude towards them was fundamentally hostile. "No longer benevolent because they had nothing to give, no longer mediators of slavery because slavery was dead, white women...developed a virulent new form of racism." [231]

As the ex-slaves, they began to explore their options. If they worked in the fields, they aimed to do so with their husbands, on their own land. They might content to do domestic work, but on their own terms, as free people who knew the cash value of their labor. No longer would they think of asking a white woman to ameliorate their situation. What needed doing they would do themselves.

Weiner concludes her focus is limited to the large plantations in one state. I would like to see her thesis extended to other southern states, to smaller plantations, and to those free women of color among her sister of white slave-mistresses. However, Mistresses and Slaves is a perceptive study of the extent to which gender, as well as race, shaped individuals' lives in one southern state.

Julie Winch, University of Massachusetts Boston


Frank Walsh, in this important and comprehensive book, has recaptured a period in American history when the Catholic Church, by confronting Hollywood over the content of films, became the most successful pressure group in the history of movies. (2) Through the Legion of Decency and its national movie classification system, the Catholic Church attempted to exert broad influence on film production on the United States in a campaign to protect the morals of Catholics. In most instances, this involved extensive negotiations over scripts and scenes in movies before, during, and after their production.

The primary focus of Walsh's book is the corrallor relationship between the Catholic church, seeking to assert authority, and the film industry, trying to preserve its domain. To achieve his balanced study of this panorama, Walsh did extensive research in archives including that of the Production Code Administration, Hollywood's internal censorship system, and fifty-one other collections in twenty-four cities. With this documentation he created a history of the Catholic church's relationship to movies from World War I to the end of the Legion of Decency in 1968 (by then known as the National Office for Motion Pictures). Following a chronological format, Sin and Censorship provides an invaluable resource for the scholar interested in the many movies whose content often became a battleground between the Legion of Decency and Hollywood. Among so many examples of its action, he shows how Melanie Wilkes in Gone With the Wind gave birth in silhouette with only slight perfusion on her forehead; why The Powerbrokers was condemned because of two nude shots; and how Howard Hughes was compelled to make 146 cuts in The Outlaw.

At the same time, this book can be read as a history of the Catholic church during this period, aspects of which have often been unknown or ignored. Walsh showed that the Catholic church was not monolithic, that its leaders disagreed with each other in their struggle to work with various forces in society. In particular, his chapter The Battle of the Bishops presents the story of the struggle between former friends and allies to assert power over the classification of movies. His picture reveals deep conflicts within the church over the direction of American culture and society after World War II. By the 1960s these conflicts surfaced in the fundamental redoing of the Legion's classification in light of transformed attitudes resulting from Vatican II. Nevertheless, the leadership of the Catholic church did have significant influence over the film industry and was not at all reluctant to use its perceived responsibility to protect morals by insisting that the Production Code Administration strictly maintain its own standards in the classification of more than 16,000 films.

Walsh's excellent study also sheds light on the American film industry as it juggled its priorities to make popular (and sometimes artful) films that would achieve the primary goal of making a profit. Concerns about the second goal often came into conflict with the first when pressure from the Legion was applied. A clear example concerns the 1950 screen version of A Streetcar Named Desire which was released with only a hint of the pivotal rape scene of Blanche DuBois by her brother-in-law. Director Elia Kazan was furious at this interference and believed the movie had been ruined. Throughout the period, the film industry struggled to provide freedom for directors and writers while tolerating religious censorship when no other course seemed possible.

This useful study shows how often films were changed as a result of outside criticism, thereby fundamentally altering their meaning. The last Frank Walsh's book presents a period in American life when popular culture was influenced by forces who see themselves as morally superior to the popular will. With occasional public posturing supported by considerable negotiation, the Catholic church wielded Hollywood for control of the film images that reached the American public.

Ken Jorgensen, S.J., Albertus Magnus College
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1971 University of Massachusetts-Amherst
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1974 University of Hartford
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1976 Connecticut College
1977 Rhode Island College
1978 Clark University
1979 Pine Manor College
1980 University of Maine, Portland
1981 St. Joseph's College
1982 Dexter Academy
1983 Harvard University
1984 University of Connecticut
1985 University of Massachusetts, Amherst

1986 American Antiquarian Society
1987 Boston College
1988 Historic Deerfield
1989 Albertus Magnus College
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1993 Smith College
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1999 * Houston * 14-18 April
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1999 * Montreal * 28-31 October
2000 * Detroit * 11-14 October

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1999 * Fort Worth * 11-14 November

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2000 * New Orleans * 19-22 April
2001 * Philadelphia * 11-14 April

Northeast Popular Culture/ American Culture Association
1999 * Portland * 29-30 October

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1999 * Suffolk University * 15-16 May

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1999 * Anchorage * 7-10 October

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NEHA NEWS
The Newsletter of the New England Historical Association

ASSOCIATION OFFICE
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
100 Institute Road
Worcester, MA 01609-2280
Phone: (508) 831-5438/Fax: (508) 831-5932
Email: jphlanlan@wpi.edu
Web site: www.wpi.edu/~jphlanlan/NEHA

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