FALL CONFERENCE AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Saturday, October 19, 2002
SECOND CALL

The 69th meeting of the Association will be held on October 19 at Rhode Island College in Providence (401-456-8000). The program is listed on pages 3-4 of this issue and was mailed earlier to all members in September along with registration, motel and travel instructions.

Vice-President Paul Monod (Middlebury College) arranged this splendid program. Joanne Schneider at Rhode Island College made local arrangements with the expert assistance of Executive Secretary James P. Hanlan. This is the Association's third meeting at Rhode Island College and we are very grateful for the hospitable efforts on our behalf. Please see our web page for other details: http://www.wpi.edu/~jphanlan/NEHA.

The Fall conference begins with registration on Saturday at 8:00 A.M. in Gaige Hall. 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 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 4 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.

Luncheon will be served in the Faculty Center on Saturday at 12:00, but seating is limited. Please purchase your lunch ticket when you register by mail no later than October 4. Even if you do not join us in Providence, please use this form to pay your annual membership dues. The annual election of Association officers will be conducted at lunch following a brief business meeting, and presentation of our annual NEHA Book Award.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

Providence is an attractive and popular destination in the Fall and demand for room reservations may be high. The Association suggests that members make motel reservations early. Call the Holiday Inn, Downtown (401-831-3900), the Providence Marriott (401-272-2400) or the Courtyard Downtown (401-272-1191).
TRAVEL INFORMATION

Driving from I-95 Northbound: take Exit 21 (Broadway exit), turn left at second traffic light (Atwells Avenue). Follow Atwells Avenue for 1.5 miles to Mount Pleasant Avenue and turn right. The campus entrance is 1.1 miles ahead on the left.

Driving from I-95 Southbound: take Exit 21, turn right onto Atwells Avenue and go 1.5 miles to Mount Pleasant Avenue and turn right. The campus is 1.1 miles ahead on the left.

Driving from 295 Northbound: take Exit 5 to US Route 6 East. Follow Rt. 6 to the Killingly Street (RI Route 128) exit. Turn left off exit and follow Killingly Street to the end. Turn right onto Greenville Avenue and follow to the first traffic light, bear right at the fork. Campus entrance is 0.2 miles ahead on the right.

Driving from 295 Southbound: take Exit 7 to US Route 44 East and follow Rt. 6 to the Killingly Street exit. Turn left off exit to the Killingly Street end. Turn right onto Greenville Avenue to the first traffic light. Turn left at the light and bear right at the fork. Campus entrance is 0.2 miles ahead on the right.

Parking on the RIC campus is available in lots marked with the familiar NEHA signs leading to the Gaige Hall. Public transportation is the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority by bus from Kennedy Plaza and Francis Street in downtown Providence to the campus.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Spring meeting will be held at Bentley College in Waltham, Massachusetts on April 26, 2003. Vice-President Paul Monod will organize the program. The deadline for submitting proposals (one-page abstract and a brief c.v.) is January 15, 2003. For information about the program or submissions contact Paul Monod, Middlebury College, Department of History, Middlebury, VT 05753; monod@jaguar.middlebury.edu

The New England Historical Association

FALL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 19, 2002

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

All sessions will be held in Gaige Hall on the campus of Rhode Island College.

8:00-8:30 REGISTRATION — Gaige Hall Foyer

First Morning Session, 8:30-10:00:

8:30 Session 1: Restoring the Roman Past: Modern Methods and Ancient History
Chair and Commentator: Jacqueline Carlton, Tufts University
Zosannah Varhelyi, Boston University: "Roman Prosopography and Microhistory: Convergences and Divergences."
Diana Delia, Rhode Island College: "What Lies Beneath: New Approaches to Understanding the Topography and Urban Development of Alexandria in Egypt."

8:30 Session 2: Puritans and Others in Colonial New England
Chair: Ronald Dufour, Rhode Island College
Commentator: Joseph Conolfi, University of Southern Maine
Martha L. Hamilton, SUNY Stony Brook: "Alternative Communities in Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts."
James L. Walsh, New England College: "Andrew Eliot of North Church, Boston."
Annie Parker, University of Iowa: "Sin, Redemption, and Anxiety: John Eliot's Mission to the Indians."

8:30 Session 3: Trade and American Expansionism from the Revolution to 1850
Chair and Commentator: Clifford Putney, Bentley College
Jennifer Fish Kashay, California State University, San Bernardino: "Western Traders in Hawaii, 1778-1830: Access to Wealth, Status and Power."
Paul Burlin, University of New England: "Tragedy All Around: Ladd and Company in Hawaii."
Jeffrey Forrin, University of New Hampshire: "When Maine had a Foreign Policy: The Northeastern Boundary Dispute and the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842."

8:30 Session 4: Presidential Politics and Policies in the 20th Century
Chair: Steven Corl, Northeastern University
Commentator: Donald Harpster, College of Saint Joseph
Hans P. Vought, SUNY Ulster: “Maintaining Prosperity and the Melting Pot: Calvin Coolidge and National Origins.”
Travis Jacobs, Middlebury College: “Eisenhower, Columbia University and Politics.”
Phillip Godsi, Quinnipiac University: “Kennedy and Kruschev: Communicating through the Storm of Berlin.”

Morning Break, 10:00 - 10:30: Coffee and Book Exhibit

Second Morning Session: 10:30 - 12:00:

10:30 Session 5: New Perspectives on Slavery and Anti-Slavery in the Antebellum U.S.
Chair and Commentator: Melanie S. Gustafson, University of Vermont.
Bruce Laurie, University of Massachusetts, Amherst: “Paternalism and Racism in Antebellum Politics: The Massachusetts Case.”

10:30 Session 6: Law and Society in the Progressive Era
Chair and Commentator: Michael Wilrich, Brandeis University
Kyle G. Voik, University of Chicago: “The Reformation of Sunday Law: Labor and the Positive State in Late 19th Century Massachusetts.”
Hal Goldman, University of Illinois at Springfield: “Speculum Raiders in the Green Mountain State: Doctors, Sex, Gender and Law in Vermont, 1813-1920.”

10:30 Session 7: Religion, Education and Nationalism in German-Speaking Europe
Chair: Joanne Schneider, Rhode Island College
Commentator: Noel Cary, College of the Holy Cross
Martin Menke, Rivier College: “Thy Will Be Done: Nationalism and Catholicism in Germany, 1918-1945.”
Charles Lansing, Yale University: “German Teachers and the Creation of the German Democratic Republic.”

10:30 Session 8: Responses to Discrimination in 20th-Century America
Commentator and Chair: Elizabeth Eagan, University of Southern Maine
Bobby Martin, University of Houston: “The Texas Death Penalty and Hispanics: Two 1935 Cases.”
Teresa Thomas, Fitchburg State College: “The Women’s Action Organization and the Advancement of Women in the U.S. Department of State in the 1970s: Moderation or Militancy?”

12:00 - 12:30: Wine & Cheese Reception
12:30 - 1:30: Luncheon and Business Meeting — Faculty Center, adjacent to Donovan Dining Center
Presentation of the 2002 NEHA Book Award

1:30 - 3:00 Afternoon Session:

1:30: Session 9: Narratives of Marital Conflict in Early America
Chair and Commentator: Lisa Wilson, Connecticut College
Elizabeth De Wolfe, University of New England: “Marital Conflict, Print Culture, and the Court of Public Opinion.”
Mary Beth Sievers, SUNY Fredonia: “The Injustice of a Decree: Patriarchy, Masculinity, and Divorce in Nineteenth-Century America.”

1:30: Session 10: Anti-Catholicism in America
Chair: Peter Holloran, Worcester State College
Commentator: James Ralph, Middlebury College
Martin J. Burke, CUNY: “Remembering 1641: Irish History and Anti-Popery in Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century America.”
Nancy Schulz, Salem State College: “Pamphlet Wars and the Capital Miracle: Catholic and Protestant Responses to Miracle Cures in Washington, D.C., circa 1824.”

Chair and Commentator: Bruce C. Meyer, Salem State College
Antonio Espinosa, Columbia University: “From Positivism to Indigenismo: Primary Instruction in Lima, Peru, 1884-1930.”
Gayle V. Fischer, Salem State College: “Who Has the Authority? Students, the Courts, and Clothing in the United States.”

1:30: Session 12: Public History, Museums and Collecting in the U.S. and Germany
Chair and Commentator: Jane Becker, Lowell National Historic Park
Pamela Clark, Lowell National Historical Park: “Public History and the Beginnings of the Industrial Revolution in America.”

2:00 Adjournment
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bruce Cohen (Worcester State College), chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the following candidates were elected on April 20:

President: James O'Toole (Boston College)
Vice-President: Paul Monod (Middlebury College)
Secretary: Peter Holloran (Worcester State College)

Executive Committee:
- Altina Waller (University of Connecticut)
- Robert Weir (Bay Path College)

Nominating Committee:
- David Balfour (St. Joseph's College)
- S. J. Wolfe (American Antiquarian Society)

We congratulate those candidates elected and thank those members who stood 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 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 will hold its annual meeting in Worcester on December 7. The agenda includes reports on the treasury, membership, Nominating Committee, selection of future meeting sites, programs, website, newsletter, NEHA Book Award, NEHA Prize, planning the Spring conference, as well as NEHA panels at the AHA and OAH. Association members may submit a question or agenda item for the next Executive Committee meeting on October 19 by writing to the Executive Secretary.

THE NEHA PRIZE

On April 26 we will award the 2003 NEHA Prize for the most outstanding paper presented at the Fall or Spring 2002 conferences.

Each session chair may nominate one paper for this prize and a committee of three members appointed by the president will judge all nominations. The criteria are: scholarship, presentation and originality. The prize is intended to encourage and recognize outstanding research papers by more graduate students at our conferences. Session chairs are invited to recommend papers presented by a graduate student at the Spring or Fall meetings. For details, contact the Executive Secretary: James P. Hanlan, WPI, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609; jphlanlan@wpi.edu.

NEHA BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE

Joanne Schneider (Rhode Island College), the Book Award Committee chair, will present the 2002 NEHA Book Award on October 19 to the winner. 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 jphlanlan@wpi.edu by June 1, 2003. Monographs on any historical time, topic or place published in 2002, 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 to be presented at the October 2002 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 is presented to the winner at the conference each Fall.

The members of the NEHA Book Award Committee for 2001 are: Joanne Schneider, chair (Rhode Island College); Joseph McCarthy (Suffolk University); Donna Brown (University of Vermont); Jack Resch (University of New Hampshire-Manchester); and Peter Holloran (Worcester State College).

CONFERENCE REPORT

The 68th meeting of the Association at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Buzzards Bay on April 20 was well attended with 85 historians registered for 11 sessions with 30 papers. The plenary session on Beyond the Hype: Technology and History was also well attended. At the luncheon on campus 72 members joined us for food, drink and the business meeting.

This meeting was made possible by the splendid efforts on our behalf by the program chair, Vice-President James O'Toole (Boston College), Executive Secretary James P. Hanlan (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), and a very cooperative local arrangements committee headed by Ron Smith and Christopher Hannan from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy History Department. The conference concluded with a delightful cruise on Cape Cod Canal aboard the MMA training ship, Ranger for 54 NEHA members and 6 stowaway tourists.

NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

Richard D. Brown (University of Connecticut) was elected president of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR).

Charles H. Capper (Boston University) received a National Humanities Center fellowship to study The Transcendental Movement: Romantic Intellect and America's Democratic Awakening.

Bernard P. Fishman was appointed the new Executive Director of the Rhode Island Historical Society in April.

Peter C. Holloran (Worcester State
Dietrich Orlow (Boston University) has retired as Professor of Modern European History.

Jonathan Zatlin (MIT) was appointed assistant professor of History at Boston University.

**BOOK NEWS**

David W. Blight (Amherst College) published *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (Harvard University Press) which won the OAH’s Merle Curti Award.

Cecelia Bucki (Fairfield University) published *Bridgeport’s Socialist New Deal, 1915-36* (University of Illinois Press).

Fredric L. Cheyette (Amherst College) published *Emmengard of Narbonne and the World of the Troubadours* (Cornell University Press), which won the David Pinkey Award for the Outstanding Book in French History by the Society for French Historical Studies.

Joseph A. Conforti (University of Southern Maine) published *Imagining New England: Explorations of Regional Identity from the Pilgrims to the Mid-Twentieth Century* (University of North Carolina Press), which won the 2002 Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association annual book award.

Gary Edgerton (Old Dominion University) and Peter C. Rollins (Oklahoma State University) published *Television Histories* (University Press of Kentucky) which won the 2001 Ray and Pat Browne Award for the best book on American culture.

J. William Harris (University of New Hampshire) published *Deep Souths: Delta, Piedmont and Sea Island Society in the Age of Segregation* (Johns Hopkins University Press) which won the OAH’s James A. Rawley Prize.


Denise J. Youngblood (University of Vermont) published *The Magic Mirror: Moviemaking in Russia, 1909-1918* (University of Wisconsin Press).

**CONFERENCES MEETING**

The American Society for Environmental History annual meeting will be held in Providence on March 26-30, 2003 on the theme *Frontiers in Environmental History: Mainstreaming the Marginal*. Contact Ravi Rajan, ASEH Program Chair, Department of Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064; rrajan@cats.ucsc.edu or see the website: www2.h-net.msu.edu/~environ/asheform1.pdf

The Society of Early Americanists holds its third biennial meeting in Providence on April 10-12, 2003 on the theme *Communication in Early America: Beyond Anglphone Print Culture*. Contact Philip Gould, Department of English, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912; or email Mary Helen McMurray: mmcmurr@chicago.edu

The Social Science History Association holds its 27th annual conference in St. Louis on October 24-27 on the theme *International Perspectives on Social Science History: Thinking Globally, Researching Locally: Working Cooperatively*. Contact Ellen Dwyer, Department of History, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405.

The New England American Studies Association (NEASA) holds its annual conference in Hartford at the Harriet Beecher Stowe House on April 25-27, 2003 on the theme *Religion in America*. For information contact Lisa MacFarlane, University of New Hampshire, Department of English, Durham, NH 03824; lwm@cisunix.unh.edu

The Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association (NEPCA) invites scholars interested in pop culture or American culture to attend its 25th annual conference at Colby-Sawyer College in New London, NH on November 8-9, 2002. For information contact the program chair, Margaret Wiley, Colby-Sawyer College, New London, NH 03257; mwiley@colby-sawyer.edu or see the NEPCA website: www.wpi.edu/~jphanlan/NEPCA.html

The Film and History League holds its second national conference in Kansas City on November 7-10, 2002. The conference theme is *The American West(s) in Film, TV, and History*. Contact the Film and History League, RR 3, Box 80, Cleveland, OK 74020; phone: (918) 243-7742; fax: (312) 577-0742; email: FmlHist.Eag@aol.com; or see the web site: www.FilmandHistory.org

Historic Deerfield will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2002 and the 300th anniversary of the Deerfield Massacre of 1704 with a major conference, lecture series, publications, special events and tours in Deerfield, Massachusetts from 2002 to 2004. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the executive director, Donald R. Friary at (413) 775-7166 or by email: dfriary@historic-deerfield.org

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Andrew Bunie
Boston College

David Cameron
Adam Hogue
University of Massachusetts
Lowell
CONFERENCE CALLS FOR PAPERS

The Historical Society holds its national conference at Boothbay Harbor, Maine on June 3-6, 2004 on the theme Reflections on the Current State of Historical Inquiry. Proposals may be submitted by December 31 to The Historical Society, 2004 Conference, 656 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2010; (617) 358-0260. For more information see the website: www.bu.edu/historic.

The African American Studies Program at Boston University invites proposals for its second annual international conference on April 11-13, 2003. The theme will be Blacks and Asians in the Making of the Modern World: A Conversation Across Fields. Send your 250-word abstract and CV to Ronald K. Richardson, African American Studies, Boston University, 138 Mountfort Street, Brookline, MA 02446 by October 15, 2002 or email proposals to leonkim@bu.edu

The Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association (NEPCA) holds its 26th annual conference at Worcester State College in Worcester, Massachusetts on October 31-November 1, 2003. Proposed papers or presentations on any pop culture or American culture topics may be submitted (one page abstract & brief CV) by July 1, 2003. Contact the NEPCA program chair, Peter Holloran, Worcester State College, Department of History, Worcester, MA 01602; pch@world.std.com or see the NEPCA website: www.wpi.edu/~jphanlan/NEPCA.html

The 2003 National Popular Culture/American Culture Association meeting will be on April 16-19 in New Orleans. For information about the program contact Mike Schoenecke, PCA/ACA Secretary-Treasurer, Department of English, Box 43900, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-3091; MKSchoene@aol.com

SHEAR, the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, holds its 25th annual meeting at Ohio State University in Columbus on July 17-20, 2003 on the theme Re-constituting New Societies. Proposed papers may be submitted by December 1 to Jeff Pasley, Department of History, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211; pasleyj@missouri.edu or see the website: www.sia.purdue.edu/shear/#Conference.

The Chesapeake American Studies Association (CHASA) holds its third annual conference at the University of Maryland in College Park on April 4-6, 2003 on the theme Bridging the Divide: American Studies in Theory and Practice. Proposals may be submitted by November 25, see the CHASA website for details: http://arst.umd.edu/chassa.

AUTHORS WANTED

The World History Association invites nominations for its annual book award. Books nominated should be first-rate studies/or history from a global or trans-regional perspective and make a significant contribution to the field of world history. Contact David Chappell, WHA Book Award Committee, Department of History, University of Hawaii, 2530 Dole Street, Honolulu, HI 96822-2383; email: dcchappel@hawaii.edu

The Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association (NEPCA) offers its annual book award for the best book on any American culture or pop culture topic published in 2002 by an author in New England or New York. Publishers may nominate one book by June 15, 2003. The award certificate and $200 prize will be presented to the winner on November 1, 2003 at annual Northeast PCA/ACA conference at Worcester State College. Contact the NEPCA Executive Secretary: Peter Holloran, Worcester State College, History Department, Worcester, MA 01602; pch@world.std.com

The Association for the Study of Connecticut History offers the Homer D. Babridge, Jr. Award and the Betty M. Linseley Award or the best works on that state’s history. Contact Patricia Thevenet, 88 B North Shore Road, Voluntown, CT 06384.

The New England Journal of History seeks submissions. For information contact Joseph Harrington, 119 Holmes Avenue, Stoughton, MA 02072; (781) 344-6788; cagil1@aol.com

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

The American Academy in Rome announces its 2003 Rome Prize competition. Each year 12 Rome Prizes are awarded in the fields of Ancient Studies, Medieval Studies, Renaissance and Early Modern Studies and Modern Italian Studies. The winners reside at the American Academy center in Rome with pre-doctoral ($15,000) and post-doctoral ($20,000) stipends for one or two years. Contact American Academy in Rome, 7 East 60th Street, New York, NY 10022, phone: (212) 751-7200 or email: info@aarome.org or see the website: www.aarome.org by November 1.

The Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute offers grants (up to $2,500) in support of research at the FDR Presidential Library. Contact Chairman, Grants Committee, FERI, 4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538; www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu

The Agricultural History Society offers the Gilbert C. Fite Dissertation Award to the author of the best dissertation on agricultural

These two works, published almost simultaneously, invite comparison and contrast. Although Joseph Conforti's *Imagining New England* is a scholarly monograph designed for an academic audience and Andrew Delbanco's *Writing New England* is an anthology for the general reader, they deal with a common subject and confront similar problems.

In *Writing New England* Delbanco has assembled poetry, letters, memoirs, fiction, and non-fiction by, for, about, and representative of New England and New Englanders. Its seventy-nine selections are divided into eight sections and range from John Winthrop's "A Model of Christian Charity" (1630) to poet Richard Wilbur's reflection on his own mortality in "Maidens" (1998). Some like Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and passages from Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Nature" are familiar. Well-known writers are represented with less-well-known pieces, such as John Updike's "Plumbing." A few selections, like William Apeel's 1836 biography of King Philip, are well-chosen pieces of unheralded authors. The longest is sixteen pages drawn from Thoreau's *The Maine Woods;* most are considerably shorter. Each of Delbanco's choices, whether reprinted in its entirety or carefully excerpted from a larger work, is a literary gem. *Writing New England* should be found in every Cape Cod cottage and Vermont ski cabin.

Joseph Conforti's *Imagining New England* is both more focused and more expansive. With the goal of analyzing "how regional identity was both created and culturally transmitted" (p. 8), Conforti provides a limited number of "explorations" into attempts to both imagine and shape New England. These range from Puritan efforts to establish a "new England" to the portrayal of the region in the pages of Yankee magazine and the poetry of Robert Frost. The effort to "imagine" New England includes verbal expressions of New England's superiority by pre-revolutionary patriots, post-independence geographers like Jedidiah Morse and Timothy Dwight, and anti-slavery advocates like Harriet Beecher Stowe. Some of Conforti's most insightful chapters, however, deal with the visual refutation of the concept of New England in John Barber's engravings of New England town greens from the 1830s and the post-Civil War colonial revival in Old York, Maine.

Both of these works are pleasures to read and representative of the high level of scholarship that we have come to expect from their authors. Different though their books are, Delbanco and Conforti confront similar problems of definition and selection. The first problem is to define "New England." Is it defined by geography, ethnicity, history, or culture? For Delbanco, "there does exist something that may be called . . . the New England Mind" (p. ix). The ingredients of this mind include "a soaring aspiration" combined with a "self-criticism of the most stringent kind" (p. xxiv) that constitutes "the hallmark of what Henry James called 'the New England conscience'" (p. xxvi). To Conforti, like Delbanco, New England is "a cultural region" (p. 2), but Conforti's conception of New England and the nature of regionalism is broader and more complex. This complexity in part stems from greater recognition of evolving nature of New England. While Delbanco seeks "to convey some sense of New England's continuities and coherences" (p. ix), Conforti "emphasizes . . . a continual process of invention and reinvention" (p. 5) as each generation renegotiates regional identity in the confrontation between visions of the past and present realities.

The role they accord Puritanism in defining New England both underscores this difference and reveals Conforti's and Delbanco's intellectual lineage. Delbanco's introduction is almost entirely an essay on the first settlers of New England and the moral seriousness that they decreed to their descendants, a moral seriousness that he hopes "might dissuade readers from believing that Americans possess no traditions opposed to the seemingly ineluctable triumph of marketplace values in our own time" (p. xxix). Delbanco's tinge of nostalgia contrasts with Conforti's recognition that while Puritanism "does loom as a tradition" it "was hardly the cultural juggernaut that typically undergirds interpretations of regional distinctiveness" (p. 4).

Having tried to capture the essence of New England, each scholar confronts problems of selection and organization not unlike those every historians or anthropologist encounters. What should be included or excluded? What features are most representative of the phenomenon the scholar wishes to describe?

Conforti's selection challenge involves isolating a limited number of exemplars that convey the evolving image of New England over the past four hundred years. While
there is a tendency to read *Imagining New England* as a collection of such case studies, Conforti deftly weaves into his story familiar New England icons such as Plymouth Rock and the House of the Seven Gables leaving a clear, though not seamless, narrative of the evolving image of the region. Also, Conforti’s recognition that the imagined New England is distinct from New England reality of factory towns and immigrant neighborhoods colors his choice of topics. Many of his examples almost seem caricatures of those who “fix New England’s essence in some stable, pure, and imagined Puritan or Yankee past” (p. 315).

Given the larger number of works included in *Writing New England*, Delbanco would seem to have the easier task. But it is no easy task “to integrate the words of disparate writers into a new collaborative work that... has a coherence of its own” (p. 11). And Delbanco has performed the task admirably. Such coherence, however, comes at a cost. Delbanco’s New England mind can easily be found in texts from the seventeenth and eighteenth century. Echoes can also be found in the writings of such descendants of the founding generation as Louisa May Alcott, J. P. Marquand, and Robert Lowell. The New England mind that has its roots in Puritanism also serves Delbanco well as an organizing principle. Selections are arranged chronologically in sections (e.g., “The Examined Self” and “Discontent Dreamers”) that highlight facets of that legacy.

In shaping his anthology, however, Delbanco seems to fall victim to the weakness of the men and women who people *Imagining New England*, picturing some ideal New England that exists only in the mind. While acknowledging that “New Englanders have come to live in different and distinct regions

of cultural inheritance” (p. ix), the inclusion of such writings as The Autobiography of Malcolm X, Jonathan Kozol’s *Death at an Early Age*, and Felix Frankfurter’s article on Sacco and Vanzetti, seems dictated more by political correctness than connection to the larger theme. These last writings appear in the section entitled “Strangers in the Promised Land,” which suggests a gulf separating them from the “real” New England. Defining New England in the way Delbanco does also gives greater emphasis to works by those from Boston and Massachusetts and from the “bureaucratic” classes. Are not the Connecticut Wits, Ethan Allen, and Maine midwife Martha Ballard New Englanders also?

These concerns aside, Delbanco and Conforti have provided us with carefully crafted works that show that the four hundred year old effort to define and create New England continues. Both of these works deserve a wide readership.

Robert J. Imbault
Albemarle College


In this fascinating cultural history, Laura Prieto demonstrates how American women artists negotiated gender prescriptions while struggling to make a living and earn recognition as professionals. In a book that is both accessible to the general reader and a useful assignment in women’s and art history courses, she shows how their strategies changed over time.

Professor Prieto, who teaches history and women’s studies at Simmons College, dedicates her book to FMIS. Careful readers of the acknowledgments will learn the initials denote the Female Mutual Improvement Society, her dissertation group at Brown, in which this reviewer played a part. It is a most fitting dedication, as Prieto traces the rise and fall of women’s networks, segregated training and professional organizations in the emergence of a cadre of successful women artists.

Prieto uses a variety of sources, including memoirs, novels, prescriptive literature, and the paintings and sculptures produced by the artists under review. She is astute at analyzing the gender implications of the art, but here lies the only problem with this book—the relative dearth of illustrations. The thirteen plates are well chosen and representative, but I longed for more of them.

She begins in the 1820s when “artist” as opposed to artisan was becoming established, coinciding with the assumption that a true (read white, middle class) woman was pure, pious, domestic and submissive. Accordingly, women artists claimed their studios as domestic space, a notion that Prieto illustrates by interweaving biographical vignettes with more theoretical insights (her lengthy endnotes are particularly useful as an entrée into the literature.) Thus she gives immediacy to a discussion of how gender prescriptions were simultaneously utilized and transgressed. Lilly Martin Spencer, for example, had a successful career as a genre painter, while her husband ran the home. Fanny Palmer, Currier & Ives’ only female artist, portrayed many pursuits like shooting and fishing, but as she spent much of her time as a copyist, this was construed as an acceptable activity. Sculptor Vinnie Ream, however, was almost too feminine, and critics suspected female wiles, or worse, sexual transgression, as the basis for her first commision. In mid-century many women artists continued to turn gender restrictions to their advantage, while those who flouted conventional notions of respectability soon learned that commissions were hard to win, such as Louisa Lander who was nabbed by Nathaniel Hawthorne when her purity was in dispute.

Separate classes and separatist organizations emerged in mid-century, but the New Women of the 1890s tried (with varying success) to be seen as “just” artists. In the 1920s modernist painters rejected the female culture that had enabled women to become professional artists in the first place. Prieto clearly regrets this. She starts and ends her book with Georgia O’Keeffe, who indignantly told an interviewer in 1977 to “Write about women. Or write about artists. I don’t see how they are connected.” As Prieto elegantly demonstrates, gender and art are inextricably intertwined.

Jane Lancaster
Brown University
PRESIDENTS OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

1966-1967 Frank Friedl, Harvard University
1966-1969 Louis Morten, Dartmouth College
1969-1970 Daniel Thomas, University of Rhode Island
1970-1971 J. H. Hexter, Yale University
1971-1972 Helen Malvey, Connecticut College
1972-1973 Sidney A. Burdett, Bates University
1973-1974 Kenneth F. Leshinski, Rhode Island College
1974-1975 John G. Osgood, Boston University
1975-1976 Jane Pease, University of Maine
1976-1977 Robert Lougee, University of Connecticut
1977-1978 Giles Constable, Harvard University
1978-1979 Gordon Jenes, University of Hartford
1979-1980 Neil Seid, University of Vermont
1980-1981 Fred A. Cast, Jr., University of Connecticut
1981-1982 Darrell Swaim, University of New Hampshire
1982-1983 John V. Volck, University of New Hampshire
1983-1984 Emma P. Nothern, University of Connecticut
1984-1985 Ronald P. Fiumanzo, Clark University
1985-1986 R. F. Shins, Jr., Rhode Island College
1986-1987 Catherine M. Perlage, Yale University
1987-1988 Paul A. Hetter, Lesley College
1988-1989 Roger Howlett, Jr., Bowdoin College
1989-1990 Barbara Swayne, Harvard University
1989-1990 Richard D. Brown, University of Connecticut
1991-1992 Alan J. Reiterman, Boston College
1992-1993 Richard Burt, Wesleyan University
1993-1994 Neal R. Shirley, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
1994-1995 Bruce M. Sage, University of Connecticut
1995-1996 Patricia Herbst, Brown University
1996-1997 Roland Seift, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
1997-1998 James S. Pearson, Bates College
1998-1999 Bardin W. Fairman, Jr., Trinity College
1999-2000 Alan Rogers, Boston College
2000-2001 Jeane Schneider, Rhode Island College
2001-2002 Joseph Conforti, University of Southern Maine

PLAN AHEAD

American Historical Association
2003 * Chicago * 2-5 January
2004 * Washington * 8-11 January
2005 * Seattle * 6-9 January
2006 * Philadelphia * 5-8 January

Organization of American Historians
2003 * Memphis * 3-6 April
2004 * Boston * 25-28 March

American Studies Association
2002 * Houston * 14-17 November
2003 * Hartford * 16-19 October

Social Science History Association
2002 * St. Louis * 24-27 October
2003 * Baltimore * 13-16 November
2004 * Chicago * 18-21 November
2005 * Portland * 3-6 November
2006 * Minneapolis * 2-5 November

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association
2003 * New Orleans * 16-19 April
2004 * San Antonio * 7-10 April
2005 * San Diego * 22-26 March

Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association
2002 * Colby-Sawyer College * 8-9 November
2003 * Worcester State College * 31 October-1 November

Oral History Association
2002 * San Diego * 23-27 October
2002 * South Africa * 26-27 June

National Conference on Public History
2002 * Washington, D.C. * 11-14 April

Society of Historians of the Early American Republic
2003 * Columbus, OH * 17-20 July

PAST NEHA CONFERENCE SITES

MEETINGS OF NEHA

1966 University of Connecticut
1967 Harvard University
1968 University of Massachusetts-Amherst
1969 Boston University
1970 University of Rhode Island
1971 University of Massachusetts-Amherst
1972 Yale University
1973 University of New Hampshire
1974 University of Hartford
1975 Bentley College
1976 Rhode Island College
1977 Clark University
1978 Pine Manor College
1979 St. Joseph's College
1980 Exeter Academy
1981 Harvard University
1982 University of Connecticut
1983 University of Massachusetts-Amherst
1984 University of Lowell
1985 Boston College
1986 University of New Hampshire
1987 University of Hartford
1988 Harvard University
1989 University of Massachusetts-Amherst
1990 University of New Hampshire
1991 University of Maine
1992 Brown University
1993 University of Southern Maine
1994 John Carter Brown Library
1995 University of Hartford
1996 Mount Holyoke College
1997 Amherst College
1998 Roger Williams University
1999 Northeastern University
2000 University of Connecticut
2001 University of Vermont
2002 New Hampshire College
2003 Florida State College
2004 College of the Holy Cross
2005 University of Massachusetts-Amherst
2006 Boston College
2007 University of Connecticut
2008 American Antiquarian Society
2009 Framingham State College
2010 Bowdoin College

University of Connecticut
American Antiquarian Society
Boston College
Historic Deerfield
Albertus Magnus College
Salem State College
University of Hartford
University of Lowell
Smith College
Pine Manor College
St. Joseph's College
American Antiquarian Society
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
John F. Kennedy Library
University of Massachusetts-Boston
Assumption College
Rhode Island College
University of Southern Maine
John Carter Brown Library
Brown University
Bentley College
University of Hartford
Mount Holyoke College
Saint Anselm College
Amherst College
Rogers Williams University
Northeastern University
University of Connecticut
University of Vermont
Connecticut College
Rivier College
Suffolk University
Tufts University
Stonehill College
Salve Regina University
Saint Michael's College
Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Rhode Island College
NEHA FALL MEETING
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

NEHA CONFERENCE
October 19, 2002

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

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[ ] Luncheon $15.00 per person
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Make checks payable to NEHA in US funds and return by October 4 to:

James P. Hanlan, NEHA Executive Secretary
WPI
100 Institute Road
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jphlan@wpi.edu

NEHA NEWS
The Newsletter of the New England Historical Association

ASSOCIATION OFFICE
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
100 Institute Road
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609-2280
Phone: (508) 831-5438
Fax: (508) 831-5952
Email: jphlan@wpi.edu
Web site: www.wpi.edu/~jphlan/NEHA

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CALENDAR

Fall Meeting
Rhode Island College
October 19, 2002

Spring Meeting
Bentley College
April 26, 2003

Fall Meeting
Holy Cross College
October 25, 2003

The New England Historical Association is a comprehensive organization for professional and avocational historians in all disciplines and fields. Membership is open to all persons or organizations interested in studying, teaching or writing history. It is not restricted to New England history or American Studies. The Association is affiliated with the American Historical Association.

Annual dues (calendar year) for regular members are $20.00, or $5.00 for graduate students and adjunct or retired faculty members. Life membership for individuals or organizations is $150. An Association Fund assists in supporting the work of the Association. All dues and contributions to the Association Fund are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please address all correspondence to the Executive Secretary.
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