SPRING MEETING

The American Antiquarian Society will host the Spring Meeting in Worcester on April 26. This is a return engagement on the part of the Association, largely as a result of member enthusiasm and satisfaction with the 1984 meeting. Local arrangements have been made by John B. Hench, Associate Director for Research and Publication and an officer in NEHA. The program was organized by Catherine M. Prelinger, Vice President, and President-Elect. Registration will take place in Antiquarian Hall. Sessions will be held concurrently in two locations: in Antiquarian Hall (Rotunda or Council Room) and the Goddard-Daniels House (Elmariion Room). The AAS is generously sponsoring the Sherry Reception.

Pre-registration forms have been sent to members. Luncheon accommodations are limited to 100, so make your reservation in advance. Registration on the day of the meeting is, of course, possible, but cannot guarantee a ticket for the luncheon.

The AAS in Worcester is located at 185 Salisbury Street.

In addition to the motels listed on the advance flyer, persons wishing to come early or stay over can make reservations at the Sheraton Lincoln Inn, 500 Lincoln Street [617 852 4000].

OCTOBER 25, 1986
FALL MEETING, BOSTON COLLEGE

DECEMBER 6, 1986
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

APRIL 24-25, 1987 [2 days]
SPRING MEETING, HISTORIC DEERFIELD

APRIL 24, 1987
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 24 [TENTATIVE], 1987
FALL MEETING, NEW HAVEN
ALBERTUS MAGNUS COLLEGE

DECEMBER 5, 1987
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

1986 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Ridgway F. Shinn, Jr. will deliver the Presidential Address entitled "Studying The Expansion of England in a Time when the British Empire-Commonwealth Disappeared" at the afternoon plenary session. The text will be published in the Fall issue of NEHA NEWS.

CALL FOR PAPERS: FALL AND SPRING

Proposals in all areas and fields of history [complete sessions as well as individual papers] should be submitted to Vice President Paul Fideler: Department of History, Lesley College, Cambridge, Mass., 02138. 617-877-9600.
NEHA REMINISCENCES

One of the Plenary Sessions at the Twentieth Anniversary Meeting of the Association focused on the history and development of NEHA. The session began with a slide presentation NEHA Persons and Places skillfully assembled and vividly narrated by John E. Brown (Rochester College). Many NEHA officers, including the first and long-time Secretary-Treasurer, were in attendance. Remarks were delivered by two of the original founders and past presidents: Reinhold A. Schuchard (University of Connecticut) and Daniel H. Thomas (University of Rhode Island). Here are some selected passages from their recollections.

"During the last twenty years there has been much reference to the founding fathers and speculation of how it all began. Today I want to set the record straight. There were no founding fathers. Only one person can properly be so designated. There were many collaborators. The man who alone deserves the title of founding father is Professor Daniel Thomas of the University of Rhode Island. More than twenty years ago Daniel Thomas began talking up the need for a common meeting ground for college faculty of historical persuasion. He talked to anyone who would listen. He traveled about from campus trying to get buildings converted. Early on he found willing converts in Andre Schenker and Reiny Dorwart of the University of Connecticut. He tried to get the four colleges around Amherst and Northampton to launch an effort in the proper direction. No one took the initiative. Finally, the opportunity came unexpectedly in the fall of 1965."[Dorwart].

"On September 10, Harry Marks of the University of Connecticut took the initiative and organized a meeting of historians from the colleges and universities of Connecticut and Rhode Island to meet at Storrs. Thirty-one people arrived, including old-timers, new friends, colleagues, interesting papers, and concluded that this was a very good idea."[Thomas].

"Dan Thomas and I were permitted to make our pitch. Interest was aroused and it was agreed that a constituted committee would be formed to get more specific. In January of 1966 on a terrible icy day four stalwart historians, undaunted by the weather, met here in Storrs as a "constitututional convention." Bill Allen came up from the University of Bridgeport and Mike Malsheimer, father of my first wife, was unable to miss the meeting for anything. I furnished coffee and doughnuts. We never left for lunch. We hammered out a constitution to submit at the proper time. We drew up a slate of officers and prepared to send out a call for the first annual meeting of NEHA in Spring 1966 here at Storrs."[Dorwart]

"It was our desire to make the association a regional and not a parochial one. It was to be like the Pacific Coast or the Southern Association. And, indeed, Paul Ward, the then-secretary of the AHA joined us twenty years ago to help launch the new association in New England. We were convinced that the basis of the association would be built on the strength of the major Ivy League schools and the six state universities. In the first two years we did have the support of Yale and Harvard. The first years was a president was Fred Freidel. In addition to Rudin and Hexter of Yale, professors Erna Reischauer and John F. Banks of Harvard, along with Herbert Feiss, were our speakers. The Ivy League schools have not maintained a continuing strong support and I feel that the association has taken on less than a truly regional definition."[Dorwart].
"When the original four discussed Dan Thomas' dream in January 1966, one thought was uppermost. The association would serve as a means of bringing the New England Historical Community into a more intimate acquaintance than existed at that time. There was a need for more intimate contact between the major graduate schools, which were trying to place their PhDs in the ever expanding colleges of New England. There was a need for improved liaison between our quality seniors in the graduate schools of New England universities, not only the Ivy League schools, but also Boston University and the new PhD programs just starting up at the universities of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. I believe that these goals were happily achieved.

Daniel H. Thomas reviewed the efforts to establish a close connection with the New England History Teachers Association (NEHTA) and the early hope that sometime in the future the association would be strong enough to support a journal. A committee chaired by Howard Quat of the University of Massachusetts investigated this thoroughly. It was hoped that a consortium of New England colleges and universities would underwrite such a journal. Lack of sufficient funds, it was decided to move in another direction. Thus the NEHA Newsletter was launched to provide a communication link for members between sessions. Bill Allen and Gwendolyne Jensen made a major contribution in getting a quality newsletter started.

Another primary concern twenty years ago was to offer to New England historians an opportunity to share the results of their research with a larger audience in New England by reading papers at our annual sessions. Again, this was a goal that was fully, successfully and profitably achieved. [Dorwart].

From the Executive Secretary

As I end my five year term as Executive Secretary and Editor of NEHA News I express my gratitude to the officers and members of the Association, both past and current, for the opportunity to serve in this important capacity. I learned a great deal about writing, organizing, coordinating, arranging, managing and editing in the process. I thank all the people who made my work easier and forgive those who made it trying.

My association with NEHA is long-standing and will continue. I give my blessing to my successor and extend best wishes to The New England Historical Association as it moves into its third decade.

Kenneth P. Lewalski

The NEHA officers are seeking a replacement for Ken Lewalski who has completed his five year term as Executive Secretary and Editor of the NEHA NEWSLETTER. Pass along names of any prospect to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee decided not to give in the Fall Meeting in Worcester on page 14. Persons elected assume office following the Spring Meeting in Worcester on April 26, 1986.

Douglas Sweet, longtime member and officer, regretfully resigned from the Executive Committee. We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for his wisdom and service. President Shinn appointed Catherine Shannon of Westfield State College to fill the vacancy until the next elections.

Elections for 1987-88 will take place at the Fall Meeting at Boston College. Suggestions for candidates should be sent to the Nominations Chair, James Leamon (Bates College, Lewiston, Maine 04240).

NEHA's mailing list comprises 980 names of individuals and institutions, but far fewer dues paying members. We hope everyone will take the opportunity of the current call for dues to reinstate their membership.

In honor and memory of David E. Sweet, the late President of Rhode Island College and generous friend of NEHA, the following books reflecting his historical interests were donated to the Adams Library at RIC: Barbara Tucker, "Samuel Slater and the Origins of the American Textile Industry, 1790-1860" and Melvin Yazawa, "From Colonies to Commonwealth: Familiar Ideology and the Beginnings of the American Republic."

Three members have been appointed to the 1986 Book Award Committee: Alan Reinerman (Boston College), Robert Inhoff (Albertus Magnus), and Charles Watson (Roger Williams College). Past President Shinn is an ex officio member.

Judith Mayer (UConn) has resubmitted her NEHA proposal for a Summer Institute for History Teachers and had again requested NEHA's willingness to become involved on an advisory level. It was agreed that Paul Fidler would express our support for the project. David Cartwright (Trinity College) was designated as NEHA's representative on the proposed planning board, with Robert Inhoff as alternate.

Two possibilities for joint meetings with secondary school teacher organizations was discussed: (1) to invite an appropriate organization to arrange and hold a session at one of our biannual meetings, and (2) to plan a concurrent meeting where crossover attendance could take place.

An outreach proposal to create a public radio series entitled Conversations with Historians is under consideration.
News & Notes

From Edinburgh, George Shepperson informs us that his paper, "The Centennial of the West African Conference of Berlin, 1884-1984," delivered at the AAS in April 1984 has been published as an article: Phylon XLVI, No. 1, (March, 1985).

University of Connecticut's History Department offers a Certificate in Museum Research and Interpretation in conjunction with Old Sturbridge Village. The program normally involves one year beyond the master's degree and includes a 15-week internship. Write Richard D. Brown (UConn, Dept. of History, Storrs, CT 06268).

Be sure to see The Splendor of French Style, a major international exhibit of weavings, embroideries, printed textiles and lace at the Wadsworth Atheneum [600 Main St., Hartford] from March 9 to May 25.

Greenwood Press has published John C. Fredericksen's Free Trade and Sailors' Rights: A Bibliography of the War of 1812. Contains over 5000 citations from 200 libraries and manuscript depositories. The release for the seventh annual Lowell Conference on Industrial History will be "Politics and Industrialization." Send proposals for papers or sessions to Robert Weible, Lowell National Historical Park, 169 Merrimack St., Lowell, MA 01852.


Authors Patrick T. Conley and Paul E. Campbell have just published Firefighters and Fires in Providence: A Pictorial History of the Providence Fire Department, 1754-1984. Available from Rhode Island Publications, 189 Wain- don Street, Providence, RI 02903.

Radcliffe College announces a program of grants from $100 to $2000] to support postdoctoral research utilizing the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women or the Murray Research Center, both at Radcliffe. For applications write Radcliffe Research Support Program, c/o Murray Research Center, Radcliffe College, Cambridge, MA 02138.


Rhode Island Historical Society in conjunction with the RI Committee for the Humanities is offering a $3,000 fellowship to a qualified scholar, including graduate students, for significant research in Rhode Island history. Publication possibility. Write Jonathan Sisk, Editor of Publications, R I Historical Society, 100 Benevolent Street, Providence, RI 02906.

Studies in Honor of Louis Shein, edited by S. Glorain, W. Smyrni, and G. Thomas will be of interest to slavists. Published by Department of Slavic Studies, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON L8S 4M2 Canada. $8.95.


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THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
1985 BOOK AWARD

The 1985 Book Award was conferred on two New England scholars: John McAlleen (Boston College) and Charles A. Jellison (University of New Hampshire). The awards, accompanied by the following citations, were presented at the Fall Meeting in Storrs on October 26, 1985.

JOHN McALLEEN, RALPH WALDO EMERSON: DAYS OF ENCOUNTER. (Little, Brown and Company, 1984). It is the responsibility of historians to reconstruct a significant facet of the past. They perform that responsibility all the better if they can impart to their readers a life-enhancing spark drawn from their subject. In Professor John McAlleen's biography of Ralph Waldo Emerson we encounter a remarkable man through his life and society as recorded by himself and by the distinguished people he knew. The New England Historical Association awards this prize to John McAlleen for his unusual sensitivity of perception, his graceful style, impressive historical scholarship, and skilful narrative. Above all, he possesses the rare ability of letting his subject -- Emerson and his times -- come alive through its own testimony, with minimal personal presence. His intensely attentive near-invisibility behind the evidence that crowds his pages is an historiographic achievement to be admired and emulated. As a scholar remaining humbly in the background, he transmits a powerful image of the genius at work in Emerson's life and writings.

CHARLES A. JELLISON, BESIEGED: THE WORLD WAR II ORDEAL OF MALTA, 1940-1942. (University Press of New England, 1984). Soundly based on a thorough knowledge of the sources, both printed and unpublished, this work presents a clear and accurate account of one of the key events of the Second World War, thus contributing to our understanding of the course of that conflict and its military significance. The substance of the book, however, is wider than the title suggests and its value extends beyond the scope of military affairs. Besieged is also a social history of the Maltese people during this period. The most impressive sections of the book are those where the author, using the techniques of oral history, presents a vivid and highly readable description of the impact of total war upon a people far from the metropolitan centers of Europe where the war originated. Though they had no responsibility for the coming of the war, the Maltese people experienced immense hardships and losses. The imagery of their extraordinary adversity, made for a thoroughly absorbing and memorable presentation. Professor Jellison's book can be read with profit and enjoyment by anyone interested in World War Two or the wider issue of the social effects of modern war. The New England Historical Association confers the 1985 Book Award on Charles A. Jellison for this illuminating and imaginative study.

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be criticized. Nancy Fitch offers a particularly vigorous criticism, claiming that what passes for science is often merely statistical fantasy. Quantitative history has had an important impact on one segment of the profession. Thus, the three quarters of the journal of Interdisciplinary History since its founding in 1970 have been quantitave, with an increasing proportion more statistically sophisticated. The American Historical Review, on the other hand, has not shown an increase in the proportion of quantitative articles published, a very few of which use complex techniques. We seem headed toward the division of history into two disciplines.

"PSYCHOHISTORY IN EUROPEAN HISTORY: A RETROSPECTIVE VIEW." Travis L. Crosby, Wheaton College.

The theme of this paper is that psychohistorical approaches to the past -- at least those using European subjects -- have been hampered by adopting a therapeutic psychoanalytic paradigm. It is, of course, perfectly legitimate for analysts to think in therapeutic terms. But when historians substitute diagnosis for historical explanation, the past can be distorted. Psychohistorians have taken their cue from Freud's famous study of Leonardo da Vinci. Freud did not claim to be a historian, however. His intention was not to write a biographical study of da Vinci, but rather to explore homosexual behavior in the past. Even the advances in ego psychology since Freud's time have not freed psychohistorians from their therapeutic orientation. Erik Erikson, for example, in his study of Martin Luther has claimed Luther was not only a religious figure but also a psychoanalytic case study. His study of Luther began as a chapter on emotional crises in adolescence. Robert Waite's popular psychobiography of Adolf Hitler seems as much concerned with Hitler's sexual identity as with his political identity. Yet, even more recently, adherents of the Kohutian school have followed the therapeutic orientation in their studies of past lives. Ultimately, the most serious error in following the therapeutic paradigm lies in viewing it as a medical model, with invariant scientific laws of cause and effect.

"HISTORIANS AND PSYCHOLOGY." Abigail J. Stewart, Boston University.

Historians have generally drawn from limited areas within psychology -- mostly from the comprehensive personality theories based on experience with patients with explicit therapeutic aims (Freud, Erikson, Kohut). A number of narrower theories and research areas, based on observations of normal personality, are arguably more relevant to historians' concerns. These include explanatory frameworks focused on the individual level (e.g., coping strategies and individual personality), more general self-conceptual frameworks (e.g., the concept of the self as a consistent, position-seeking, authoritative demand for obedience, culture and personality; comparative analysis of collective documents; and social learning theory). In addition, phenomenological psychologists have developed techniques for entering in the personal experience of others (e.g., bracketing of assumptions; imaginative variation).

-9-
"THE NEW SOCIAL HISTORY: SUCCESSES, FAILURES, FADS AND FOIBLES. AMERICAN SOCIAL HISTORY." Robert J. Hilholt, Albertus Magnus College.

After hesitant beginnings in the 1950s, the field of American social history developed rapidly in the 1960s in response to a variety of circumstances including the publication of a few seminal works such as those by Stephen T. Thompson and Lee Benson, the expansion in graduate student enrollment, and the greater prominence given to the social sciences in the academic world. The social and political movements of the decade also contributed to the emergence of the new social history in the United States by giving historians a new appreciation for the powerless and the richness of culture. Historians in large numbers began studying and applying a variety of social science theories, founding new journals, developing new fields such as family history, and reviving old ones such as urban and labor history. By the 1980s, however, much of the new social history has become subject to increasing criticism for its tendency to fragmentation, lack of synthesis, turgid prose, reductionism, and insufficient methodological rigor.


Wilson J. Moses began with the observation that historians and laymen alike invariably view history with some conception of its practical applications in mind. The history profession in recent years has seemingly shared with Black Americans as a whole a compulsion to perceive the history of slavery in a positive light. This is flattering to the egos of black bourgeois nationalists who are obsessed with a fancied need for projecting images of respectability to their children and to future generations, but it has led to a portrayal of slavery as a sort of "soul picnic", a time of hearty slave communalism, robust cultural growth, healthy institution building, and cunning manipulation of "ole massa. Moses suggested that future generations of Black Americans, as well as the historians who are concerned with their past, may find the currently evolving consensus just as embarrassing as some of the views of slavery developed in the past by well meaning citizens intent on creating historical myths to meet real or imagined needs.

"HISTORY WITHIN A CORPORATION." Anne Millbrooke, Corporate Archivist, United Technologies.

Historians employed in corporations do what historians in general do: they deal with statements about past events. What distinguishes corporate historians from other historians is an institutional setting that provides questions, historical resources, and audiences, as well as teammates and deadlines. United Technologies is one of more than 200 companies in the United States that hire historians and maintain archives.
The plenary panel examining recent developments in the history of women included five historians: Catherine K. Frelinger (currently a visiting scholar at Brown University), Irene G. Brown (University of Connecticut), Kathy Peiss (University of Maryland, Baltimore County), Evelyn Brooks (University of Maryland, College Park) and Joyce A. Berkman (University of Massachusetts).  "NEW AND NEWER SCHOLARSHIP ON WOMEN," Frelinger's introduction, chronicled continuity and change in the field. The initial methodological work of pioneers such as Berenice Carroll, Natalie Davis, Joan Kelly, Gerda Lerner and others paved the way and led to the inspiration of a new category of historical analysis. At the outset, the pursuit of women's history was closely allied to the women's movement. The new feminism viewed women as a sociological category whose behavior was governed by overt and covert differences in cultural expectation, often enforced by law and religion as well as convention. Historians of women examined the historical experience with these constraints in mind, constraints which dictated that women did not operate with the range of choice as men of comparable class. Gender in relational terms was, and still is, acknowledged as an essential tool to understanding the historical process. The newer scholarship on women has moved away from a preoccupation with constraint: as Linda Gordon has put it, "even conditions of domination are often outcomes of conflict rather than unilaterally imposed oppression." This emphasis is apparent in Carroll-Smith-Rosenberg's recent Disorderly Conduct: Visions of Gender in Victorian America. In the categories of gender, there is a need for subtlety, an emphasis on paradox, distinction and difference whether in terms of class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or demographic situation. One example of this research direction is Mary Beth Norton's AHR article (June 1994) in which she introduces a variety of criteria by which to measure and compare the experience of white colonial women in New England and in the Chesapeake. Another is Carolyn W. Bynum's "Women, Mystics and Eucharistic Devotion in the 13th Century," which won the Berkshire Conference articles award in 1984. Bynum discovered spiritual priorities expressed by conduct which was distinctive by gender. The papers by Irene G. Brown, "European Female Elites: Women Worthies' and Their Friends from the Perspective of Feminist Scholarship," Kathy Peiss, "Exploring the Everyday Life of Working Women," and Evelyn Brooks, The Triple Paradox of Black Womanhood," each represented a facet of women's history using methods and material inaccessible to scholars only ten or fifteen years ago. Brown's focus on 'Women Worthies' emphasized a group of women who were ignored by earlier historians of women in deference to the popularity of women. Feminists were once inclined to by-pass the female elite as participants in a culture determined exclusively by male norms. The points at which female and male spheres intersected were not taken into account and can indeed enhance the reality of feminist history. In times of public stress such as the English Civil War or the American Revolution, the female commitment to friendships both among men and women and among women is significant in the act of dying, contributed to a sense of interconnectedness and universality in human experience. The Memoirs of Eminently Pious Women, published in America in 1833, as well as the newly edited journal of Esther Edwards Burr, illustrate a culture embracing the Atlantic community for women. A very different segment of women's experience was represented by Kathy Peiss. The materials available to the historian of women in the paid labor force necessarily differ from the more familiar texts of middle class women's lives. To this paper was clothing and its various accessories which created the sense of public style among working women at the turn of the century and provides clues to women's presentation of self in the intertwined relations of class and gender. The study of working women's consciousness and culture now allows the dichotomized model adopted by historians of the male labor force which separates personal life from work in the workplace, the presumed locus of class relations. Consciousness is conceptualized as a dynamic process shaped by a variety of self-identities including class, gender, race and ethnicity, generation and sexuality as well as by the external realities of working women's lives. Oral history tapes, the decoded reports of sex, women and the legacy of labor, allow the historian to appreciate the many determinants of "putting clothes on," in the lives of obscure needlewomen like Elena and Gerda Nakov or Sadie Frowne as well as the women more famous in labor annals such as Rose Schneiderman and Rosie Paskernisk. Evelyn Brooks introduced a number of new themes in her treatment of Black American womanhood. As black people and as women, black women have faced a double jeopardy. Historians of the women's suffrage movement have documented the shaky alliance of white and black women. Suzanne Lusbeck's recent prize-winning study, The Free Women of Petersburg: Status and Culture in a Southern Town 1784-1860, described the different patterns of female labor by race. Recent studies have questioned the conventional wisdom that female slave labor in the southern household was intrinsically superior to black male labor. At the same time, even in the field, Jacqueline Jones argued, there was a unique subculture of black women workers separate from their male co-workers. The complexity of race, gender and class and their meanings in terms of power traverse American black experience in freedom and in slavery. Joyce A. Berkman concluded the session with a response entitled "Where Do We Go From Here?" Berkman summarized the common themes in the three panel presentations, themes which characterize current scholarship in women's history generally: a chronic revisionist impulse; an aversion to dogmatism and narrow schemes of explanation and classification of women's lives (e.g., home/work); an emphasis upon interdisciplinarity and theory building; a focus on the social and personal experience of the seemingly ordinary, even trivial, phenomena; and, after a period of commentator indifference, a reclaiming and a reconceptualizing of their experience. She then read a passage from Gloria Naylor's novel, The Women of Brewster Place, which highlighted the complexity and non-linearity of how we remember our personal past. She used this passage as a springboard to working issues of the role of gender in framing past experiences, whether in diaries, oral histories or autobiographies. Berkman concluded with cautionary comments on the history of women's history in the recent case of the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission vs Sears and Roebuck Co. "-12-"
AN INVITATION FOR YOU TO JOIN

The New England Historical Association is a comprehensive organization of and for all historians. Its membership is drawn from professional, academic and free-lance historians in all areas and periods of history. It is not restricted to American or New England studies. Membership is open to all persons or organizations interested in the study, teaching or writing of history. The Association sponsors an annual Book Award for New England authors and a Media Award for outstanding contributions to history in television and film.

Members receive two issues of The Newsletter and notifications of the Spring and Fall meetings.

Annual dues for regular members is $10.00 or $5.00 for retirees and students. Life Membership for individuals and institutions is $150. All dues and contributions to NEHA are tax deductible.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name__________________________________________________________

Mailing Address__________________________________________________

Affiliation________________________________________________________

$150 Life Membership $10.00 Regular membership

$5.00 Retiree $5.00 Student

Make all checks payable to NEHA or The New England Historical Association

Mail to Kenneth F. Lewalski /Executive Secretary /Rhode Island College

Department of History /Providence, R I 02908
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Contributions and suggestions are welcome and invited. The deadline for the Spring Issue is January 11; deadline for the Fall issue is June 15.

Manuscripts should be typed and doublespaced.