

Worcester, Mass.

APR 16 1986

NEHA News

The Newsletter of the New England Historical Association

VOLUME XIII, No.1

SPRING ISSUE

APRIL, 1986

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 [Elmarion 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 A A S 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.

9:00 SESSIONS

1. GLOBAL HISTORICAL ANALYSIS: THE NEED FOR THEORY. TWO APPROACHES

[Council Room]

Chair and Comment: Lynda N. Shaffer, Tufts University

"Periodization: How Relevant are Western Constructs for World History?" William Green, College of the Holy Cross

"Theoretical History from Local to Global Perspective: Assumptions in Historical Investigation." Theodore H. Von Laue, Clark University

2. POLITICIANS AND HISTORIANS IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC [Elmarion Room]

Chair: John Ifkovic, Westfield State College

"From the First Party System to the Second: The Debate over Republican Nationalism, 1815-1820." James H. Broussard, Lebanon Valley College

"Politics Outside the Party System: The Journal of Frances Ann Kemble's Residence on a Georgian Plantation." John Anthony Scott, Rutgers University

Comment: Kim Phillips, University of Connecticut

3. THE BRITISH EMPIRE AS A BULWARK OF PROTESTANTISM: ASPECTS OF THE ANTI-CATHOLIC IMPULSE IN EARLY STUART ENGLAND [Rotunda]

Chair and Comment: Richard S. Dunn, University of Pennsylvania

"The Limits of Latitudinarianism: Moderate Laymen and the Catholic Problem under the Early Stuarts." Marc Schwartz, University of New Hampshire

"Defiance of Spain as a Goal in Puritan Colonization." Karen Ordahl Kupperman, University of Connecticut

10:30 COFFEE INTERMISSION

10:45 SESSIONS

4. THE FOREIGN POLICY OF FASCIST ITALY [Council Room]

Chair: Alan J. Reinerman, Boston College

"The Garibaldi Affair of 1926: Italy and Italian Anti-Fascists in France." Joel Blatt, University of Connecticut, Stamford

"Mussolini, Austria and the Heimwehr, 1931-1936." James Burgwyn, West Chester State College

"Mussolini, Roosevelt and the Ethiopian War." Brian Sullivan, Yale Univ

Comment: Philip V. Cannistraro, Drexel University

5. THE RITES OF WOMEN AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN NINETEENTH CENTURY AMERICA [Rotunda]

Chair: Gail Malmgreen, Anthony and Stanton Papers, Univ. Massachusetts

"The Piety and Politics of Individualism: Spiritualism and Women's Rights in Nineteenth Century America." Ann Braude, Yale University

"Heroine or Villain? Anna Howard Shaw, Methodism and the Crusade for Women's Rights." Terry D. Bilhartz, Sam Houston State University

Comment: Catherine M. Prelinger, Franklin Papers

6. IRELAND AND THE WIDER WORLD [Elmarion Room]

Chair and Discussant Facilitator: Barbara L. Solow, Boston University

"The Irish Famine as Reflected in the American Media." Edward M. McNulty, Rider College

"Missing Friends: Characteristics of Irish Immigration as seen in the Boston Pilot, 1831-50." Ruth-Ann M. Harris, Northeastern University

"Churchill's Offer to de Valera of a United Ireland in 1940: Missed Opportunity or Non-Starter?" Paul Montgomery Canning, U Connecticut

12:15 SHERRY RECEPTION AND LUNCHEON Goddard-Daniels House

1:45 PLENARY SESSION: PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS [Rotunda]

"Studying The Expansion of England in a Time when the British Empire-Commonwealth Disappeared"

Ridgway F. Shinn, Jr., Rhode Island College

2:15 SESSIONS

7. THE HUTCHISON FAMILY SINGERS: SENTIMENT AND REFORM IN THE ANTEBELLUM AND CIVIL WAR PERIOD OF AMERICA IN SONG AND HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [Rotunda]

Donald Towle, Musical Director; Larry Douglas, Coordinator; with Kay Atkins, Robert Waldman, Mary Vaiden, David Colburn, Barbara Douglas, Deborah Stewart, Evelyn Towle.

8. WOODLANDS AND FARMLANDS: LAND USE IN NINETEENTH CENTURY MASSACHUSETTS. A PRESENTATION WITH SLIDES AND NARRATIVE [Elmarion Room]

Chair: David C. Smith, University of Maine, Orono

"From Primitive Woodlands to Tame Woodlots: Thoreau on the Forest History of Concord." Gordon G. Whitney, Bullard Fellow, Harvard Forest, Harvard University

"The Harvard Forest Models: Is That The Way It Really Was?" Nancy M. Gordon, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Discussants: William A. Patterson III, Department of Forestry, U Mass

Gerald W. McFarland, Department of History, U Mass

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 wittily narrated by John E. Browning [Rhode Island College]. Many past and recent officers, including William F. Allen, NEHA's first and long-time Secretary-Treasurer, were in attendance. Remarks were delivered by two of the original founders and past presidents: Reinhold A. Dorwart [University of Connecticut] and Daniel H. Thomas [University of Rhode Island]. Here are some selected passages from their recollections.

"During the last twenty years 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 to campus trying to recruit converts. 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 of inviting historians from the colleges and universities of Connecticut and Rhode Island to meet at Storrs. Thirty-one gathered, renewed old acquaintances, made new friends, heard two 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 committee would meet later in the winter 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 "constitutional convention." Bill Allen came up from the University of Bridgeport. Ken Lewalski skidded over from Providence. Dan Thomas would not 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 to be regional the association had to be built on a union 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 president was Frank Freidel. In addition to Rudin and Hexter of Yale, professors Ernest May, Ed Reischauer and John Fairbanks 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].

FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

"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 acquaintance 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 liason to place our quality seniors in the graduate schools of New England universities, not only the Ivy League schools, but at 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 Quint 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. Lacking 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 Gwendolyn 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 asking, 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 F. Lewalski

The officers elected at the Fall Meeting in Storrs are listed on page 14. Persons elected assume office following the Spring Meeting in Worcester on April 26, 1986.

Douglas Sweet, longtime member and officer, regrettably resigned from the Executive Committee. We extend Doug 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 payers. 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: Familial Ideology and the Beginnings of the American Republic."

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

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 prospective successor to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee decided not to give a Media Award in 1986 pending further study. Only one nomination had been submitted. It was the committee consensus that a clearer description of procedures for nomination and criteria for selection was needed. Paul Fideler was instructed to submit additional recommendations pertaining to the structure of a Media Award Committee, procedure for nominations, and criteria for selection. Since the works considered need not coincide with the year the award is granted, all nominations received will be considered for the 1987 award.

Judith Meyer (UConn) has resubmitted her NEH 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 Fideler would express our support for the project. David Cartwright (Trinity College) was designated as NEHA's representative on the proposed planning board, with Robert Imholt 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, 1884-1885", 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 association 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 theme 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.

The AAS Seminar in the History of the Book in American Culture will be held June 14-24 in Worcester. The theme for 1986 is "The American Common Reader: Printing, Entrepreneurship, and Cultural Change, 1759-1840." For details contact John B. Hench [American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury St. Worcester, Ma 01609.

Congratulations to the University of Connecticut on the 350th Anniversary of its founding.

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

Radcliffe College announces a program of grants [\$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.

The Maine Historical Society has published a revised edition of Maine Genealogy: A Bibliographical Guide compiled by John E. Frost. \$4.00. Available from Maine Historical Society, 485 Congress St. Portland, ME 04101.

Rhode Island Historical Society in conjunction with the RI Committee for the Humanities is offering a \$3,600 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, R I 02906.

Studies in Honor of Louis Shein, edited by S. Cioran, W. Smyrniw & G. Thomas will be of interest to slavists. Published by Department of Slavic Studies, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont L8S 4M2 Canada. \$8.95.

Essays from the Lowell Conference on Industrial History, 1982 and 1983 is available from Museum of American Textile History, 800 Massachusetts Ave., North Andover, MA 01845.

THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION 1985 BOOK AWARD



The 1985 Book Award was conferred on two New England scholars: John McAleer (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 McALEER, 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 McAleer'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 McAleer for his unusual sensitivity of perception, his graceful style, impressive historical scholarship, and skillful 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, BESEIGED: 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. Beseiged is also a social history of the 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. Their heroic endurance, under circumstances of extraordinary adversity, makes for a thoroughly absorbing story. 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.

AT THE SESSIONS

STORRS OCTOBER 26, 1985

NEW PERSPECTIVES, NEW METHODOLOGIES

"QUANTIFICATION IN NEW ENGLAND HISTORY." Winifred B. Rothenberg, Boston University.

The interesting controversy over ways of doing history has to do not so much with quantification as with methodology, that is, with what constitutes the nature of an historical explanation. For social science historians, history is a problem-solving discipline structured like a behavioral science around hypotheses formulated so as to be refutable from empirical data. For traditional historians such a nomothetic enterprise reduces to "the past as pattern"; and "the past as pattern" violates two ideas central to historians: the nonreplicability of Time and the indeterminacy of causation when the will is free. Actually social science history can handle both these ideas. It can capture indeterminacy in the probabilistic nature of regression results; and can capture the uniqueness of time either by entering Time as a variable itself, or by specifying the mechanism by which time-boundedness enters into the relations between other variables. In the debate concerning the New England rural economy, social science historians have access to a wide range of time-and-place-specific behavioral corollaries for otherwise elusive features of that culture, and which, when introduced, support my economic models that date the emergence of a market economy in rural Massachusetts by the 1780s.

"QUERIES OF A QUONDAM QUANTIFIER." Donald Mattheisen, University of Lowell.

The cliometric revolution in history did not quite come off, but quantitative history has established itself as a formidable presence. Instead of trying to revolutionize the entire discipline the quantifiers must now try to extend their influence. Most of us are quite receptive in principle. I recommend three ways they might inform and persuade us. First, they can make their work more accessible and popular, through works of deliberate popularization like Time On The Cross and through more review articles discussing their work in the general historical journals. Second, they might make a conscious effort to use simpler quantitative methods where warranted, just because they are easier for the rest of us to understand. Third, they might try to give us a clearer picture in their works of the degree of reliability of their conclusions. It troubles many humanists that flawed or incomplete data are sometimes statistically transformed to arrive at conclusions the data would not otherwise support without sufficiently emphasizing the risks involved in those transformations.

"PROBIT ANALYSIS OR RETURN TO NARRATIVE: THE FUTURE OF QUANTITATIVE HISTORY." Jonathan J. Liebowitz, University of Lowell.

Quantitative history, indeed all history, faces a crisis today. It is subject to the conflicting pull of those like Morgan Kousser, on one side, who call for more rigor in the application of quantitative techniques, and Lawrence Stone, on the other, who look to the revival of narrative. Quantitative history is itself not easy to define. Some see it as any use of numbers, while others apply the term only to those approaches which subject models of human behavior to empirical verification. The claims of the latter school to practice "scientific" history [see R.W. Fogel] have

been 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, three quarters of the articles published by the Journal of Interdisciplinary History since its founding in 1970 have been quantitative, 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, 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, clearly has clinical issues in mind. 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 about a correct diagnosis of Hitler's mental state as it is in understanding Hitler's life. 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., stress and coping, cognitive schemas and information-processing; autobiographical memory; moral and cognitive development; self-presentation; motivation; process of adaptation to change; post-traumatic stress; bereavement) and the group or collective level (e.g., group dynamics; family systems; the power of situations such as the 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 into the conscious experience of others (e.g., bracketing of assumptions; imaginal variation).

HISTORY APPLIED: BEYOND ACADEME

"THE AIR FORCE HISTORY PROGRAM." Ruth P. Liebowitz, Air Force Geophysics Laboratory, Hanscom Air Force Base, Bedford, Massachusetts

Describes the origins, present state, structure, and purposes of the Air Force History Program. There are two basic objectives of the program: (1) to document the wartime and peacetime activities of Air Force units, and (2) to create studies and monographs of use for Air Force planning and policymaking. The AF historian can provide management with corporate memory, a perspective on previous decisions and their consequences, and cost-saving information. To accomplish these objectives, the Air Force historian needs to develop skills in communication, archive and record management, oral history techniques, and the handling of technical material. In continuous existence now for more than forty years, the Program was started by the Army Air Forces in 1942 in response to President Roosevelt's order that all war agencies prepare a record of their wartime activities. Currently the Program counts 220 civilian historians (in Civil Service) and 150 military historians. This is the largest history program in the Federal government. The Program also maintains a Historical Research Center at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. It has initiated a program of dissertation fellowships and internships.

"HISTORIC SITE INTERPRETATION: PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS AND THE PUBLIC." Robert Weible, Lowell National Historical Park.

This paper argues that the goal of public history should be to raise the public's historical consciousness so that members of the public can better understand their role in shaping their own history. With this understanding, the paper does not focus on the availability of jobs for professional historians at museums and historic sites. Instead, the paper urges professional historians to recognize that historic sites can be a powerful source of public education and that historians employed there serve important social functions. The paper encourages professional historians at all levels to stay politically active and to use the political system to their advantage in educating the public. The alternative, according to this author, is to allow others lacking historical sensitivities to manipulate the system and to determine the mission of historians at historic sites and other publicly funded museums. While such an alternative would still allow for the employment of professional historians, the paper suggests that historians in such cases become pawns of indifferent bureaucracies.

"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.

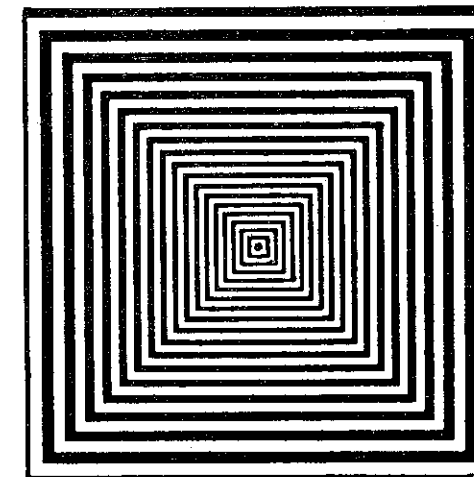
NEW ENDEAVORS IN PERSPECTIVE

"THE NEW SOCIAL HISTORY: SUCCESSES, FAILURES, FADS AND FOIBLES. AMERICAN SOCIAL HISTORY." Robert J. Imholt, 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 Thernstrom 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 mass 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 revivifying 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.

"DEVELOPMENTS IN BLACK HISTORY SINCE 1960. SLAVERY AS NATIONAL MYTH: THE SEARCH FOR A USABLE PAST." Wilson J. Moses, Brown University

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 bourgeoisie 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.



TWO DECADES OF WOMEN'S HISTORY: PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS

The plenary panel examining recent developments in the history of women included five historians: Catherine M. Prelinger (currently a visiting scholar at Smith College), Irene Q. 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," Prelinger'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 Hilda Smith all emphasized the importance of gender as a 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. Within the category of gender, there is a new 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 1984) 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 article award in 1984. Bynum discovered mutual spiritual priorities expressed by conduct which was distinctive by gender.

The papers by Irene Q. 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, materials and constructs 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 generality 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 intersect, however, must be 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 the piety by which women hoped to be exemplary, particularly in the act of dying, contributed to a sense of interconnectedness and universality in human experience. The Memoirs of Eminent 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 more than a century.

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. Central 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 no longer accepts the dichotomized model adopted by historians of the male labor force which separates personal life from life in the work place, 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 settlement workers and the legacy of labor organizers permit the historian to appreciate the many determinants of "putting on style," in the lives of obscure needle women like Elena and Gerda Nakov or Sadie Frowne as well as the women more famous in labor annals such as Rose Schneiderman and Rose Pasternak.

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 woman's suffrage movement have documented the shaky alliance of white and black women. Suzanne Lebsock'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 employment by race; recent studies of slavery 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. Post emancipation history extends the multiplicity of paradox in black women's experience; many of the ideals of white middle class domesticity as well as those of evangelism were shared by black women, yet they suffered discrimination in racial terms from their white sisters. The complexities of gender, race 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 dogmatic and narrow schemes of explanation; a repudiation of binary thinking and classification of women's lives (e.g., home/work); an emphasis upon interdisciplinarity and theory building; a focus on the social significance of the seemingly ordinary, even trivial, phenomena; and, after a period of indifference to the lives of elite women, a reclaiming and a reconceptualizing of their experience. She then read a passage from Gloria Naylor's novel, The Women of Brewster Place, which highlights the subjectivity and non-linearity of how we remember our personal past. She used this passage as a springboard to discuss issues of the role of gender in framing past experiences, whether in diaries, oral histories or autobiographies. Berkman concluded with cautionary comments on the abuse of women's history in the recent case of the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission vs Sears and Roebuck Co.

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NEHA NEWS IS THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION,
PUBLISHED TWICE A YEAR AND MAILED
TO MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS IN APRIL
AND SEPTEMBER.

EDITOR:
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