A TRIBUTE TO ERIK ERIKSON

Vice President Paul Fideler has arranged an intriguing Plenary Session for the afternoon. It is A TRIBUTE TO ERIK ERIKSON, an opportunity to reflect on the unique contribution which he, as a psychoanalyst, has made to the study of history. His Young Man Luther: A Study in Psychoanalysis and History published in 1958, nearly thirty years ago, was a landmark work for historians.

(Photograph by Jon Erikson, used with permission of W. W. Norton, Inc.)

Calendar

DECEMBER 6, 1986
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
LESLEY COLLEGE

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

APRIL 24, 1987
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 24, 1987
FALL MEETING
ALBERTUS MAGNUS COLLEGE

DECEMBER 5, 1987
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

APRIL 23, 1988
SPRING MEETING
SALEM STATE COLLEGE

Details of the Plenary Session and of the full Conference program are given on Page two. The morning program includes EIGHT splendid sessions!

WELCOME TO THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE ON BRITISH STUDIES which meets concurrently with NEHA and has arranged two of the sessions.
At the spring meeting of NEHA, Ken Lewalski was honored for his service as Executive Secretary of NEHA. The executive committee presented him with a book, "Michael Neustadt and Ernest May: Thinking in Ties: The Uses of History for Decision Makers." The association also adopted this citation:

"If Santsukyan be correct that "the whole dignity of human endeavor is bound up with historic issues," then, historians, individually and collectively, play a central role in any society. Members of the New England Historical Association try to fulfill that essential place in our times.

For your work on our behalf, we honor you. During the last five years, you have guided and supported our lives with vision, energy, skill, and dedication through service as executive secretary. You have defined and shaped that position; you have made it incumbent in the existing professional dialogue to occur among historians in New England. Indeed, the organization has prospered through your benevolent guidance.

In adopting this resolution, we record our appreciation and thanks to you.

(Worcester, MA, April 26, 1986)

The minutes will show: SUSTAINED APPLAUSE!!

HELP!

Does anyone have NEHA News Vol. 9, No. 1, April, 1978? We need a copy for the file. Please send to the Executive Secretary.

Vermont Historical Society
a key role in formulating the concept of the British Commonwealth of Nations. At the time I first heard about Smuts, in that class, he was again Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa and leading that dominion alongside Britain in the Second World War. I recall that he was one of the few persons who had been present both at the Versailles Conference which created the League of Nations in 1919 and at the San Francisco Conference in the spring of 1945 which created the Charter of the United Nations.

Yet, by the time I was able to take up more careful, independent study of the nature of the British Empire in 1920 at Columbia University, ... I was very conscious that I could no longer simply study Greater Britain or look at imperial matters from the view of Britain. Winston Churchill had blown that landscape to pieces that possibly any reply to Attlee's announcement that Burmese leaders wished total independence for Burma, thereby by-passing dominion status or any other formal relationship to Britain, and that the Government would accept that request:

It was said, in the days of the great Administration of Lord Chatham, that one had to get up very early in the morning in order not to miss some of the gains of the great companies which were then characteristic of our fortunes. The now memorable Administration of the right hon. Gentleman opposite is distinguished for the opposite sort of experiences. The British Empire seems to be running off almost as fast as the American loan. The steady and remorseless process of divesting ourselves of what has been gained by so many generations of toil, administration and sacrifice continues. He was right. Before our very eyes, in those years after the Second World War, the British Empire/Commonwealth was running off, at least in terms that Seeley would have understood, and with what has been said. Yet, perhaps even more important, it was also, before our very eyes, being totally transformed. In April 1949, the Prime Ministers of the dominions comprising the British Commonwealth of Nations met in Ottawa and endorsed favorably to the request from the dominion of India that India become a republic, cease to have any functioning of the Crown in its government, yet remain freely and fully associated with other dominions in a new structure under a new name, the Commonwealth of Nations, and with a new role and title for the monarch, "symbol of the free association of its independent member nations and as such the Head of the Commonwealth". ... Certainly, the direction of change after 1945 required, as I have argued, some different approaches and different questions. In order, of course, not only of the problems, but as well, of the five centuries of British imperial experience. If the old assumptions, stemming from Seeley, no longer worked, how did scholars approach the task? ... Let me comment briefly on six areas.

It should be no surprise to find that independence within the Commonwealth of Nations, or outside it, has resulted in the continued recognition by some of the virtues of dominion countries. ... In time, our understanding of the British Empire and of the total imperial process will be profoundly changed and enriched by studies undertaken from such points of view.
That different view is reflected in another way. The question no longer is, "What did Britain do?", but rather, "What was the heart of the relationship or the nexus? Was it an economic or strategic or power or social or humanitarian issue, or some combination of all?" Such questions lead to a more functional approach to studies since the multi-lateral aspects of relationships then must be examined...

Another area of writing has to do with the problems of definition. It is no longer crystal clear what scholars mean when they discuss empire, either formal or informal. Exactly what is it that is under consideration? What assumptions lie underneath the term? In part, this moves into the larger arena of European imperialism and beyond the British Empire—Commonwealth, yet that was the largest of European empires...

A fourth area is the reconsideration of the role and place of two former dominions, Ireland and South Africa, in shaping the British Commonwealth. ... The place of both these former dominions foreshadows, in many ways, the place that India could occupy.

Yet another area is related to current directions in historiography. The British Empire—Commonwealth provides a useful frame for comparative, interdisciplinary, and social history. ...

Finally, I would include the studies which examine British imperial experience in the context of the world economy which was emerging in the nineteenth century. ...

These six areas, then, comprise certain of the principal ones in which historians have been working in recent decades to find insights into the British experience with empire. In spite of the disappearance of the British Empire—Commonwealth in its pre-1949 formulation, the field of British imperial studies is alive; indeed, as Fieldhouse comments: "if it did not exist it would have to be invented". And, anyone interested in the field can identify numerous themes and issues still to be examined...

[NOTE: The full text with notes is available from R. Shinn.]

AT THE SESSIONS

April 26, 1986 ANTiquarian Hall AMERICAN Antiquarian Society WORCESTER, MassACHUSETTS

Editor's Note: Participants in sessions are invited to prepare an abstract (about 12-15 lines) of their presentation. We are eager to expand the pool of respondents so that NEHA News may represent a fuller record of the meetings. RFS

1. GLOBAL HISTORICAL ANALYSIS: THE NEED FOR THEORY.

"Periodization: Western Concepts and World History," William A. Green (Holy Cross College).

History is a theoretical discipline, and periodization is one of its most pervasive theoretical structures. Although the current Western model of periodization has enjoyed stability for nearly two centuries, it was established on theoretical grounds that were both varied and contradictory. Despite such contradictions, historians who have identified a medieval/modern epochal watershed around 1500 A.D. have been concerned with process in history, not with an episodic view of the division of time. Conventional Western periodization flourishes despite criticism from leading historiographers, medievalists, and Marxists. This is, in a function of ideology. Is there, however, a new challenge on the horizon? Will conventional Euro-centric periodization be undermined by the advent of World History? The answer appears to be No. Although world historians write from a universal perspective, they have confirmed, not challenged, the suitability of an epochal frontier in the age of discovery, circa. 1500.

2. POLITICIANS AND HISTORIANS IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC.


Frances Anne Kemble, a celebrity of the British Shakespearian stage, arrived in the U.S. on a tour in 1832, then married a fashionable lawyer from Philadelphia, who had pursued her round the theatrical circuit. Absentee owner of Sea Island plantations, Pierce Butler took his wife, after much urging, on a visit by invitation. Mistress by chance, was a woman of literary talent and antislavery conviction. The historian's passion to record what she saw drove her, while in residence among the slaves, to the composition of a Journal. Family crisis and her own personal problems preoccupied Kemble for the next twenty years. It is probable that she would have destroyed the Journal, along with many other papers, if the Civil War had not intervened. When the Emancipation Proclamation at last provided the Union with a war aim of transcendent significance to the world, Kemble resolved to publish her Journal on both sides of the Atlantic in order to illuminate the meaning of that war aim for both British and American peoples. Publication had little political impact at the time; but it...
provided for the public an historical and literary masterpiece that is achieving wide audiences and growing recognition in our own day.

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

"The Limits of Latitudinarianism: Moderate Laymen and the Catholic Problem under the early Stuarts", Marc Schwarz (University of New Hampshire).

As a number of historians have recently demonstrated, anti-Catholic sentiment played a major role as a factor in shaping early seventeenth century Protestant opinion. While much emphasis has been placed on the popular or Puritan aspects of anti-Catholic thought, this paper concentrates instead on a group of moderate laymen who have been generally regarded as latitudinarian and tolerant in their attitude toward religion. Despite this view, however, the works of this group, which includes such figures as Sir Francis Bacon, Sir Robert Cotton, John Selden, and Lucius Cary, Viscount Falkland, also reflect strong apprehensions about the danger from Popery. Thus, these moderates shared many of the anti-Catholic views held by their contemporaries and need to be considered if the real extent of anti-Catholicism in England is to be fully assessed.


In 1630, when the Great Migration to Massachusetts began, another Puritan colony was founded on Providence Island off the coast of Nicaragua. Whereas the New England colony had as its goal the creation of a demonstration model of a godly society, the Caribbean venture, led by great Puritan lords and gentlemen, planned to do much more. These grandees, who became England's leaders in the early years of the Civil War, believed that the hard times of the 1620s were God's warning that the country was failing in its mission as leader of the Protestant nations. A tropical settlement could help cut off the treasure that fueled Spain's attempts to bring the Protestant states of Europe back under Roman Catholic control and, at the same time, provide the dyes and fibers necessary to the deeply depressed English cloth industry, essential products for which the nation's key industry was dependent on its enemies. The Providence Island Company adventurers assumed that the future of the British Empire lay with their colony, and that New England would ultimately empty its settlers into it and the adjacent Mosquito Coast. Such thinking continued to inform Puritan thought, and the Providence Island colony, lost to Spanish attack in 1641, was linked in Cromwell's mind to his Western Design and the conquest of Jamaica.

4. THE FOREIGN POLICY OF FASCIST ITALY.

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

The Garibaldi Affair originated when Riccotti Garibaldi, a grandson of Giuseppe Garibaldi, and ostensibly an Italian Anti-Papist, leader in France, became an agent provocateur for Italian Fascism. In 1926, Italian Fascist agents used Garibaldi to set up a bogus assassination attempt against Mussolini that would have sent four Italian Anti-Papalists from France to Italy. At the end of October, 1926, however, perhaps on a tip from Italian Anti-Papalists, the French police uncovered the plot. Perhaps Mussolini sought general concessions in foreign policy from the French as a by-product of the affair. He also may have anticipated increased French government surveillance of anti-Papal action against Italian Anti-Papalists in France. Finally, the paper speculated that the Garibaldi Affair might have been designed by Mussolini and Italian Fascists as the fourth assassination attempt against Mussolini (from late 1925 to late 1926). After the French Sûreté Générale discovered the Garibaldi plot, the tragic Anzio landing episode occurred in Bologna, which served as the pretext for laws climaxing the creation of the Fascist dictatorship in Italy.

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

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

This paper explores the Reverend Anna Howard Shaw's career as a minister and suffrage leader, focusing in particular upon the special but sometimes strained relationship between Shaw the suffragist and the religious community of which she also was a part. Although a highly talented public speaker, Shaw was picked and groomed by Susan B. Anthony for executive leadership within the National American Woman's Suffrage Association primarily because her reputation as a moderate Methodist clergywoman helped to counteract the popular image of suffragists as unreligious and un-American militants. Hailed by many Methodist women as a saint pursuing a holy cause, Shaw shrewdly used her contacts with the church to enlarge the political base of the suffrage movement. At times, however, Shaw's commitment to the suffrage cause received strong condemnation from the religious press on the right, even her noted non-militancy was opposed by the more radical suffragists on the left. Suffrage success ultimately silenced her critics, and by the time of her death in 1919, Shaw was revered both within and without the church as a national heroine.
6. IRISH AND THE WIDER WORLD.

"Missing Friends": Characteristics of Irish Immigration as seen in the Boston Pilot, 1831-1850", Ruth Ann M. Harris (Northeastern University).

This paper presented findings on characteristics of pre-1850 Irish immigration to America. Analysis was drawn from data on 4,930 persons, sought by relatives and friends in a missing persons column carried by the Boston Pilot during the years, 1831-1813. The data base at present consists of all entries to 1850. Forty variables are recorded for each case, providing such information as name and relationships of the seeker to the sought, surnames, sex, age and physical descriptions, Irish county, townland and parish of origin, ports of entry, intended destinations and occupations. Findings corroborate several themes running through historical accounts of Irish immigration to North America in the mid-nineteenth century. Ne'ersee findings are that a majority of persons for which port of entry is reported came through Canadian ports, suggesting that future studies of Irish immigration should examine Canada and the United States as a unit. Although occupations were reported for only 6.7% of the cases, the data suggest that Irish persons tended to be somewhat overqualified for their occupations in America.

The existence of a demand for a missing persons column suggests the need to explore further why Irish persons had such a propensity to get lost once here in America. Migration patterns brought from Ireland gave the Irish distinct advantages in the New World, but also resulted in a considerable degree of family breakdown as males took advantage of opportunities to work elsewhere, and often got lost. The data would also suggest that single males and females were most likely to be emigrating; brothers were the most likely to be searching, followed by sisters.

The paper also utilizes letters and memoirs from Irish emigrants to demonstrate the life situations which faced them in America and account for patterns seen in the Pilot data.

"Churchill's Offer to De Valera of a United Ireland in 1940: Missed Opportunity or Non-Starter?", Paul M. Cannon (University of Connecticut, Hartford).

In the summer of 1940, following the fall of France, the British Government made an offer to de Valera's Government of a United Ireland "in principle" for return for Ireland joining war on Britain's side. This offer was flatly rejected by de Valera. Some historians since then have suggested that by so doing de Valera may have missed a golden opportunity to fulfill one of his life's ambitions. This paper sought to show that, given the opposition of Craigavon and the Ulster Unionists to such a proposal, along with the refusal of Churchill to countenance any political pressure on them, the British offer never had much substance behind it.

7. THE HUTCHINSON FAMILY SINGERS: SENTIMENT AND REFORM IN THE ABSENTRUML AND CIVIL WAR PERIOD OF AMERICA IN SONG AND HISTORICAL NARRATIVE. Director: Larry Douglas, Bristol, NH. [See box, p. 6]

Dreams and emotions of those who labored to perfect America, and Americans, came to life as the Hutchison Family Singers sang about Lincoln and Liberty and numerous reform movements. RPS.

8. WOODLANDS AND FARMLANDS; LAND USE IN NINETEENTH CENTURY MASSACHUSETTS. A PRESENTATION WITH SLIDES AND NARRATIVE.


New England has long been the site of some of the most intense human manipulation of the North American landscape. Documentary evidence and recent forest surveys are integrated with comments by Henry David Thoreau to retrace the forest history of a small segment of the New England landscape. The coastal landscape which greeted the early European explorers had already been significantly modified by America's Indians. Routine or repetitive activities in the post-settlement era also dramatically altered the composition of Concord's forests. Thoreau documented many of the forest management practices that accompanied European settlements: woodland pastures, coppicing, and forest fallows. The prevalence of the transition hardwoods-white pine community in the Concord area today can be traced to the land-use practices of the past three centuries.

"Commentary on Two Papers in the Session on Woodlands and Farmlands", Gerald W. McFarland (University of Massachusetts).

An older view of forest history, typified by Hugh Raup's and Reynold Carlson's work on the Harvard Forest (Petersham), contends that for a long period after the initial settlement of upland towns a largely stable environment persisted in which commercialism, including commercial farming, figured in an "incidental" way in the lives of New England's largely "self-sufficient" hill town farmers. Both Professor Whitney and Professor Gordon would place forest history in a more dynamic framework. Instead of the older emphasis on periods of relatively stable and relatively uniform ecological conditions, Professor Whitney would emphasize the ecological variety and repetitive change. Professor Gordon would introduce economic factors as agents of change and variety. She noted that farmers would have had little interest in the "clean pastures" that Raup and Carlson attributed to them, unless such hard-won tidiness was laid off, which it probably didn't. If "self-sufficiency", why did Petersham's farmers so persistently seek to develop marketable commodities: first potash, then wool, then cattle, and so on? Little in this contemporary perspective augurs well for the future of woodland management policies. Dr. Whitney and Gordon have done us a service by returning to stage center aspects of forest history that the previous generation of scholars downplayed.
LESE MAJESTE AND ABSOLUTISM

The William Farr Church Memorial Lecture delivered by RALPH GIESSEY at Brown University, March 19, 1986

This year’s lecture was a particularly apt tribute to the scholar for whom it is named. At his death, William Church was working on the history of the legal concept of lese-majeste in early modern France. Unable to complete the project, he explained the research he had carried out to Professors Ralph Giesey (University of Rochester) and Donald Kelley (University of Florida), shortly before his death. In effect, Professor Giesey’s lecture is the first chapter of the book Professor Church did not live to write.

Giesey divided his overview of the development of lese-majeste and related concepts in medieval and early modern France into three parts. In the first, he explored the development of the concept through the sixteenth century. The notion of lese-majeste derived from Roman law. Its incorporation into French law was thus part of the larger process of Roman law’s halting, partial incorporation into French law. By the early part of the century, Giesey observed, trials for lese-majeste were not uncommon, but the charge was typically used interchangeably with such other terms as “felonie” and “trahison,” terms employed in feudal law to describe violations of the bonds of obedience owed by vassals to their lords. In the 1550s, however, the French kings adopted the title “His Majesty,” a form of address previously used only by the Holy Roman Emperor. This marked the way for an increased sense of the applicability of Roman law doctrines of lese-majeste to cases of disloyalty to the French crown.

Rather than attempting the vast task of detailing the numerous contexts in which opponents of the French crown were charged with lese-majeste in the seventeenth century, Giesey devoted the second part of his lecture to setting forth a critical aspect of the concept’s history in that century: the appearance, for the first time in France, of the charge of “lese-majeste divine.” This occurred, it appears, in the 1620s. The reign of Louis XIV saw the further appearance of the combined charges of “lese-majeste divine et humains.” As Giesey explained, the concept of “lese-majeste divine” was first elaborated by Italian canon lawyers of the seventeenth century to cover crimes against God (who had been depicted “in his majesty” as far back as the fourth century, a.d.) and the Pope (who had claimed the title of “Apostolic Majesty” ever since the ninth century); the precise nature of the crimes labelled as “lese-majeste divine” in France was clearly specified, this member of the audience failed to note it.

The third part of the lecture looked at the fate of the concept in the eighteenth century. With the emergence within political discourse of the idea of the “nation,” legal thinkers began to speak of crimes not only against the king, but also against the state or the nation. Certain enlightenment thinkers noted the imprucence with which the concept of lese-majeste had traditionally been defined and the dangers attendant upon this. Montesquieu, in particular, warned that were the idea of lese-majeste indeterminate, it was easy for a government to degenerate into tyranny. Far from disappearing with the Revolution, however, the concept lived on under a new name, “lese-nation.” This transformation brought a new interpretation which completely filled the idea full circle, for, as first developed in the early Roman Republic, the idea of “majestas” had referred to the political authority of the people and lese-majeste the accusation brought against magistrates who betrayed their charge.

Philip Benedict (Brown University)

NOTICES

Meetings

1986

"Shay’s Rebellion and the Constitution," November 13-15, 1986 at Historic Deerfield, Inc. in cooperation with Amherst College and Stephen Dunn. "Garry Wills (Northwestern University)."


1987


"The American Constitution: Symbol and Reality for Italy," Fall, 1987. Call for papers on any aspect of exchanges and reciprocal influences between Italians and Americans regarding the Constitution from the 1770s to the 1870s. One page abstract and brief cv by December 31, 1986 to: Dr. Philip Cordaro, Conference Director, Lyceus, PO Box 473, Cambridge, MA 02238.

EXHIBITS


FELLOWSHIPS

American Antiquarian Society announces a variety of Fellowships in aspects of American history and culture available for 1987-1988. Varying conditions, stipends, and lengths of time. Contact: John Henc or Mary V. C. Callahan, AAS, 185 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01609.

AAUW ARCHIVES

An important project to expand the archives of the American Association of University Women was announced in this space of 1986. This will involve the Schlossinger Library at Radcliffe, the Essex Institute in Salem, Newton College in Norton, and the Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College in Northampton. This should make the archives more accessible to scholars.
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1986-1987

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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. With primarily a regional membership, it is a society affiliated with The American Historical Association.

Members receive two issues of NEHA News, the newsletter of the association and notifications of the Spring and Fall meetings.

Annual dues [calendar year] for regular members is $10.00 or $5.00 for retirees and students. Life Membership for individuals and institutions is $150. An Association Fund exists to assist in supporting the work of the organization. All dues and contributions to NEHA are tax deductible.

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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.