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# NEHA

NEWS

The Newsletter of the New England Historical Association

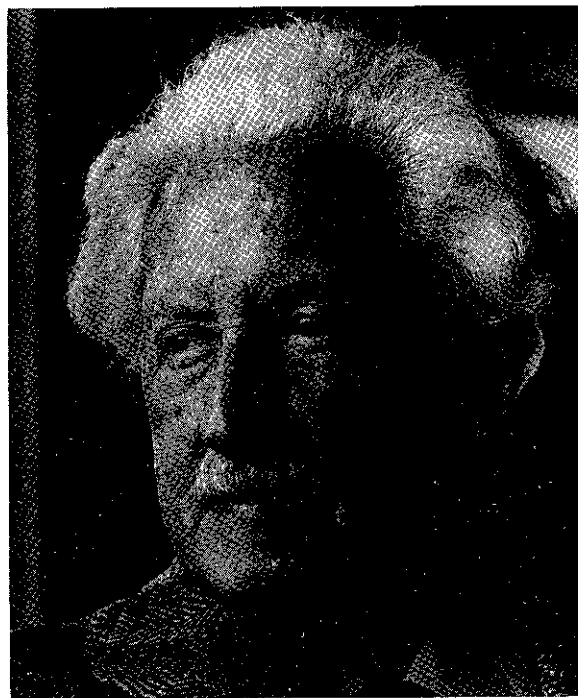
VOLUME XIII, No. 2

FALL ISSUE

SEPTEMBER, 1986

## 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.)

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

## 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

WELCOME TO THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE ON BRITISH STUDIES which meets concurrently with NEHA and has arranged two of the sessions.

THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
and NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE ON BRITISH STUDIES

8.00 REGISTRATION [Doughnuts & Coffee] CARNEY HALL 102  
9.00 SESSIONS

1. ENLIGHTENMENT-ERA EXPLANATIONS OF WHY REVOLUTIONS FAIL  
[Carney Hall 103]  
Chair and Comment: Alexander Grab (History), U Maine-Orono  
"The Anatomy of a Failed Revolution: The Parthenopean Republic of 1799" Emiliana P. Noether (History), U Conn  
"Revolution and the Political Aesthetic of Edmund Burke"  
Paul Lucas (History), Clark U
  2. THE CONTEMPORARY RESURGENCE OF ISLAM  
[Carney Hall 104]  
Chair: John Browning (History), Rhode Island College  
"The Islamic Revival and Modernity in Historical Perspective" John Voll (History), U New Hampshire  
"Motivation and Ideals of the Islamic Revival in Egypt"  
Yvonne Haddad (History), U Mass-Amherst
  3. THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF EXPERIENCE: REFORMULATING ANGLO-AMERICAN EMPIRICISM  
[Carney Hall 105]  
Chair and Comment: Kenneth Winkler (Philosophy), Wellesley  
"The Autobiography of John Stuart Mill" Timothy Peltason (English), Wellesley College  
"The Psychic Crises of John Stuart Mill and William James"  
James T. Kloppenburg (History), Brandeis U
  4. MEDIEVAL ENGLAND: HORSES AND BARONS  
[Carney Hall 106]  
Chair and Comment: Lorraine Attred (History), Holy Cross  
"Horses, Horses All Around and Not a One to Use"  
Bryce Lyon (History), Brown U  
"Perspectives on the 1258-1265 Baronial Revolt"  
Robert C. Stacey (History), Yale U
- 10.30 COFFEE INTERMISSION  
10.45 SESSIONS
5. ANGLO-AMERICAN DIPLOMACY IN THE WORLD WAR II ERA  
[Carney Hall 103]  
Chair and Comment: Charles E. Neu (History), Brown U  
"The Craigie Report (1943) on the Origins of the War with Japan" John J. Sbraga (History), Community College of RI  
"British and American Responses to Communism in Post-War France" Wayne Knight (History), J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
  6. CHANGING PERSPECTIVES ON EMPERORSHIP: NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST ASIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY  
[Carney Hall 104]  
Chair and Comment: Terry MacDougall (Political Science), Boston University  
"The Role of the Monarchy in mid-Ch'ing Decision-Making"  
Beatrice S. Bartlett (History), Yale U  
"The Imperial Institution in Modern Japanese Politics"  
Michiki Y. Aoki (History), Roger Williams College  
Comment: Philip Kuhn (Fairbank Center for East Asian Research), Harvard University
  7. EXPERIENCE AND PERCEPTION IN AMERICAN CLASS AND RACE RELATIONS IN THE LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY  
[Carney Hall 105]  
Chair and Comment: Catherine Clinton (History), Harvard U  
"Gender, Race, and the Aftermath of War: Women and Race Relations in the Post-Civil War South" Marli Weiner (History), U Vermont  
"Unionism, Socialism and the 'Slavish' Worker, 1890-1920"  
Barry Goldberg (History), Fordham University  
Comment: Paul Faler (History), U Mass-Boston
  8. ASPECTS OF STUART ENGLAND, 1640s  
[Carney Hall 106]  
Chair and Comment: James McKelvey (History), U Conn  
"Edward Bagshaw's Reading at Middle Temple, February 1640: Puritanism, Legalism, and Laudianism during the Personal Rule" Marc L. Schwarz (History), U New Hampshire  
"Proposals for Compromise over 'Limited' Episcopacy in the 1640s" William M. Abbott (History), Fairfield University
- 12.15-1.00 WINE RECEPTION GASSON HALL, ROOM 100  
1.00-2.00 LUNCHEON, BUSINESS MEETING, BOOK AWARD  
2.15 PLENARY SESSION  
[Gasson Hall, Room 100]  
A TRIBUTE TO ERIK ERIKSON  
Chair: James O. Robertson (History), U Connecticut  
"Opening Remarks": Erik Erikson  
Panel: Richard L. Bushman (History), U Delaware  
John P. Demos (History), Yale U  
Richard M. Hunt (Social Studies), Harvard U  
Bruce Mazlish (History), MIT  
Nancy L. Roelker (History), Emerita, Boston U  
Adjunct, Brown U
- TEA FOLLOWING THE SESSION

## News & Notes

### LEWALSKI HONORED

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, Richard Neustadt and Ernest May, Thinking in Time: The Uses of History for Decision Makers. The Association also adopted this citation:

If Santayana 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 life with vision, energy, skill, and dedication through service as Executive Secretary. You have defined and shaped that position; you have made it important in assisting 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. V, No. 1, April, 1978? We need a copy for the file. Please send to the Executive Secretary.

### CALL FOR PAPERS:

Proposals in all areas and fields of history are welcomed. It is helpful to have proposals for complete sessions. For spring, 1987, submit proposals promptly to Vice President Paul Fideler, Department of History, Lesley College, Cambridge, MA 02138. 617+877-9600 Ext. 124. As well, proposals may be routed through the Executive Secretary.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

James Leamon, Chair, and the Committee nominate the following persons. Elections are at the October meeting. Biographical notes and ballots will be distributed then. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Officers elected assume responsibility after the April meeting of the Association.

#### President:

Paul Fideler (Lesley College)

#### Vice President:

Roger Howell (Bowdoin College)

#### Treasurer:

Ross W. Beales, Jr.  
(Holy Cross)

#### Executive Committee:

(2 vacancies)

Marc Schwartz  
(U New Hampshire)

David Smith (U Maine, Orono)

Catherine Shannon  
(Westfield State College)

R. Dean Ware  
(U Massachusetts, Amherst)

#### Nominating Committee:

(2 vacancies)

William Green (Holy Cross)

John Ifkovic (Westfield State)

Jack Larkin  
(Old Sturbridge Village)

Kim Phillips  
(U Connecticut, Groton)

The next NEHA BOOK AWARD will be made in Fall 1987, for books published by New England residents during 1986; books are to be submitted by publishers to the Executive Secretary by March 1, 1987.

# PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

## STUDYING THE EXPANSION OF ENGLAND IN A TIME WHEN THE BRITISH EMPIRE-COMMONWEALTH DISAPPEARED

Ridgway F. Shinn, Jr., Rhode Island College

Delivered at American Antiquarian Society, 26 April 1986

It is no accident that scholars interested in British imperial history, in any of its formulations, take J. R. Seeley's lectures on The Expansion of England as the starting point for discussion and reflection. That series of sixteen lectures delivered at Cambridge University a century ago, initially published in 1883, is important since it was Seeley who identified the expansion of England into what he called Greater Britain as a central theme in English history, for him the central one:

If we stand aloof a little and follow with our eyes the progress of the English State, the great governed society of English people, in recent centuries, we shall be much more struck by another change, which is not only far greater but even more conspicuous, though it has always been less discussed, partly because it proceeded more gradually, partly because it excited less opposition. I mean the simple obvious fact of the extension of the English name into other countries of the globe, the foundation of Greater Britain.

Following Seeley's articulation of that theme, numerous scholars began the task of studying the phenomenon of the British Empire; indeed, the major British universities created chairs to make such studies possible. Yet, those early studies followed the flow of Seeley's view of the empire as being something which evolved as an aspect of the British state, as an illustration of the British genius for designing ways to adapt principles of the English constitution to different circumstances, as an example of the rightness of Adam Smith's views on the virtues of free trade, and as evidence of the importance of the concept, especially with respect to India, of "the obligations of duty".

That really was still the prevailing view when I undertook my first formal study of the British Empire-Commonwealth in the spring term of 1943. ... Our readings in that course followed very much the notion of the British as possessing some special gift for adapting governmental schemes for, after all, we gave principal attention to the issues of the eighteenth century - West Indian plantations, the "half-century of conflict" between France and Britain for control of North America, and the American Revolution, to those of the nineteenth century with all that flowed from colonies of settlement and Durham's Report as well as the changed relationships of Britain with the subcontinent of India, down to the significant role that the dominions had played in the war of 1914. In the twentieth century, we examined the various changes that had occurred in the evolution of dominion status. If there was one person on the world's stage in 1941-1942 who clearly embodied the virtues of the British Empire and the British Commonwealth of Nations, it was Jan Christiaan Smuts: an Afrikaner general, who went from fighting against Britain in the Boer War in 1899-1902 to leading South African troops in support of Britain and the Allies in 1914-1918, and then playing

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 against Hitler and Mussolini. You will 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-Commonwealth in the 1950s 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 the last trumpet on that possibility on 20 December 1946 in response 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 and accessions of territory which were then characteristic of our fortunes. The no less memorable Administration of the right hon. Gentleman opposite is distinguished for the opposite set 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. 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 London and responded 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 changed 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 to make sense not only of the post-war changes, 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 creation of indigenous schools of history in the various 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 at 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 later occupy.

Yet another area is related to current directions in historiography. The British Empire-Commonwealth provides a very 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.]

## THE HUTCHINSON FAMILY SINGERS

Songs of Sentiment, Reform and Other  
Uplifting and Instructional Themes

Contact:

Dr. Larry Douglas  
(603)744-2872

21 School Street  
Bristol, NH 03222

"There's a good time coming"

### NEHA MEDIA AWARD

Spring 1987

The Executive Committee has developed guidelines for this award, available at the October meeting. Nominations need to be made to the Executive Secretary by November 15, 1986. Previous nominations will be considered.

# Radio Cinema

# TV

## 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 part, a function of inertia. 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.

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

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 in 1838-9. This plantation 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.

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

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-Fascists 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-Fascist 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-Fascists from France to Italy. At the end of October, 1926, however, perhaps on a tip from Italian Anti-Fascists, 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 and action against Italian Anti-Fascists 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 Anteo Zamboni 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. Bilhartz (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 unAmerican 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 as 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. IRELAND 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, 1831-1916. 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. Newer 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. Canning (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" in return for Ireland joining the 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, and 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 ANTEBELLUM 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 Hutchinson Family Singers sang about Lincoln and Liberty and numerous reform movements. RFS.

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

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

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 recreate 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 postsettlement era also dramatically altered the composition of Concord's forests. Thoreau documented many of the forest management practices that accompanied European settlement: wood 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), contended 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 only 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 stable and relatively uniform ecological conditions, Professor Whitney would highlight 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 paid off, which it probably didn't. If "self-sufficiency" ruled, 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 is entirely new, but Whitney and Gordon have done us a service by returning to stage center aspects of forest history that the previous generation of scholars downplayed.

# NEW ENGLAND LECTURES

## LÈSE MAJESTÉ AND ABSOLUTISM

The William Farr Church Memorial Lecture delivered by  
RALPH GIESEY 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 lèse-majesté in early modern France. Unable to complete the project, he explained the research he had carried out to Professors Ralph Gieseey (University of Iowa) and Donald Kelley (University of Rochester), shortly before his death. In effect, Professor Gieseey's lecture is the first chapter of the book Professor Church did not live to write.

Gieseey divided his overview of the development of lèse-majesté 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 lèse-majesté 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 sixteenth century, Gieseey observed, trials for lèse-majesté were not uncommon, but the charge was typically used interchangeably with such other terms as "félonie" 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 for the Holy Roman Emperor. This opened the way for an increased sense of the applicability of Roman law doctrines of lèse-majesté 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 lèse-majesté in the seventeenth century, Gieseey devoted the second part of his lecture to setting forth a curious aspect of the concept's history in that century: the appearance, for the first time in France, of the charge of "lèse-majesté divine". This occurred, it appears, in the 1620s. The reign of Louis XIV saw the further appearance of the combined charges of "lèse-majesté divine et humaine". As Gieseey explained, the concept of "lèse-majesté divine" was first elaborated by Italian canon lawyers of the fourteenth 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). If the precise nature of the crimes labelled as "lèse-majesté 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 imprecision with which the concept of lèse-majesté had traditionally been defined and the dangers attendant upon this. Montesquieu, in particular, warned that where the idea of lèse-majesté was 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, "lèse-nation". This transformation brought the history of the idea full circle, for, as first developed in the early Roman republic, the idea of "maiestas" had referred to the political authority of the people and lèse-majesté was an 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. Keynote speaker: Garry Wills (Northwestern University).

American Historical Association, Chicago, December 27-30, 1986.

1987

"American Appetites: Food, Drink, and Sex in America's Past," three lectures, March 17, 24, and 31, 1987, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA. Further details from John Hench, AAS.

"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, Lyceum, PO Box 473, Cambridge, MA 02238.

### EXHIBITS

Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT "Afro-Americana: Imagines of Black American History from the Simpson Collection" through January 18, 1987. "The J. Pierpont Morgan Collection: Treasures from the Wadsworth Atheneum" with about one hundred items on display; catalog funded by NEH; January 18, 1987 through March 15, 1987.

### 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 Hench or Mary V. C. Callahan, AAS, 185 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01609.

### AAUW ARCHIVES

An important project to expand the archives of the Massachusetts Division of the American Association of University Women was announced in the spring of 1986. This will involve the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe, the Essex Institute in Salem, Wheaton 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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Contributions and suggestions  
are welcome and invited. The  
deadline for the Spring Issue  
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