ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

The annual elections were held at the October 1989 meeting at Smith College. Richard D. Brown (Connecticut) succeeded to the presidency for 1990-1991 according to by-law. Alan J. Reinerman (Boston College) was elected Vice President and Bland Addison (Worcester Polytechnic) Secretary of the Association. Douglas Little (Clark), Susan Pennybacker (Trinity, Hartford), and Neil Stout (Vermont) have been elected to the Executive Committee, and John Tutino (Boston College) and Paul Ziegler (Assumption) to the Nominating Committee for 1990-1992. All take office at the spring meeting, 1990.

NEHA BOOK AWARD

The New England Historical Association's Book Award for 1990 has been given to Mary Blewett (University of Lowell) for Men, Women, and Work: Class, Gender, and Protest in the New England Shoe Industry. The Award Committee was chaired by Bland Addison (Worcester Polytechnic); the other members were Neil Stout (Vermont), Jonathan Liebowitz (Lowell), and Mary Wickwire (Massachusetts/Amherst).

After commenting on the high caliber of the many nominations for the 1990 Award, Professor Addison made the following comments on Professor Blewett’s book:

"A most important task still remaining for historians is to reconstitute and explain the changing role of women in the history of the industrial revolution and of capitalism. In a brilliant book on the women shoe workers of Lynn, Massachusetts, and the surrounding region, 1780-1910, Mary H. Blewett of Lowell University presents the complex dynamics operating between gender and class, economy and culture, technology and demography, in the history of American labor during the nineteenth century. Men, Women, and Work: Class, Gender, and Protest in the New England Shoe Industry is an incisive examination of the sexual division of labor from the artisanal production of shoes, before and during the period of protoindustrialization, through the mechanization and centralization of the factory system. Using extensive archival research and a careful and judicious application of diverse theoretical models, Blewett shows how divisions between men and women, and between women in and out of the factory system, was occasionally transcended in worker solidarity, but was as frequently the reason for the failure of that solidarity in protest movements throughout the nineteenth century. Men, Women, and Work, widely reviewed and praised by experts in the field, has also been awarded the Herbert G. Gutman prize for exceptional work in the field of American social history, an award--I should add--the committee knew nothing about in making its own decision."

Professor Blewett has made the following response:

"I would like to try to convey to you the personal as well as the professional pleasure that an award from the New England Historical Association gives me. I realize that this association wishes to emphasize the inclusivity of its interests, but that would deny the cultural symbolism of this special place to those of us who are outsiders.

"I am a child of the Midwest: born in St. Louis; reared in Omaha; and educated in a town west of Chicago. I went to college at a big mid-western state university, and my doctoral dissertation topic was the origins of Harry Truman's Fair Deal. Then I got my first job in New England.

When I got here, I confronted both the cultural richness and the industrial decay of this region. The impact of living and working in New England refocused my interests and redirected my teaching, research, and my writing into the new social history. One of the results is the book that you have honored with the association's award.

In addition, I have just completed a book on the human experience of de-industrialization in early twentieth century New England, and I am currently at work on a cross-cultural study of working people from Lancashire, England, who immigrated to southeastern New England in the mid-nineteenth century.

So you can see to what extent New England, its people, and their historical experiences have captured my imagination and [p. 3 ff]
THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Spring Meeting 21 April 1990 Pine Manor College

REGISTRATION (Doughnuts and Coffee) COLLEGE HALL

SESSIONS

1. Constructing Reality: Psychology and Politics in Early Modern Europe
   Chair and commentator: Philip Benedict, Brown University
   Commentator: Laurie Mueller, Wesleyan University

2. Women and Reform in Antebellum America
   "Black Women Reformers in the Anti-Slavery Period," Merriah Vanni, Brandeis University
   Chair and commentator: Catherine Clinton, Brandeis University
   Commentator: Stephen Rhea, Religion, Wellesley College

3. Decline and Fall of a Fascist Empire: Italy, 1935-1945
   "Crazes in the Facade: The Internet Crisis of Fascist Totalitarianism, 1935-40," Alexander DeFazio, North Carolina State University
   "The End of a Political System: Mussolini at Salo, 1943-45," Roy Domenico, Upnala College
   Chair and commentator: Alan J. Rehnbrom, Boston College
   Commentator: Spencer DiCenzo, University of Massachusetts at Boston

COFFEE INTERMISSION

SESSIONS (COLLEGE HALL)

4. Literate Mentalities in the High Middle Ages
   "Legends and Literacy: The Story of Wolfram's Pastoral Staff," Mary Lynn Rojas, Colgate University
   "The Definition of History as a Literary Genre," Leah Sheklow, Indiana University-Bloomington
   Chair and commentator: Thomas J. Jemside, English, University of Connecticut
   Commentator: Jan Zednik, Comparative Literature, Harvard University

5. Art and Culture in Ein Fine de France
   "Monet and Fin de Siecle France," Paul T surgeons, Art History, University of Massachusetts, Boston
   "Romantic Varius: - Democratic Modern: Finding a Role for Fine Painting in Late 19th-Century France," Miriam Lewis, Case Western Reserve University
   Chair and commentator: Charles Reuck, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
   Commentator: Marvin Cox, University of Connecticut

   "The Racial Transformation of American Politics," Edward Carnines and Robert Huckfeldt, Political Science, Indiana University, Bloomington
   "A Participant's Commentary," Julian Bond, Civil Rights Activist, Washington, D.C.
   Chair and commentator: Linda Williams, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

RECEPTION "MAIN HOUSE" (Perry Administration Building)

1:00-2:00 LUNCHEON, BUSINESS MEETING

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
"Slavery and the Development of British North America"
Barbara Solow
( Harvard University)
President, New England Historical Association 1989-1990

PLENARY SESSION COLLEGE HALL

THE EUROPEAN STATE SYSTEM AT THE END OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
Panel: Chair, Michael Howard, Yale University
Volker Berghahn, Brown University, Germany
Stefan Gieyszor, Central Connecticut State University: Poland
Benjamin Mandel, University of Connecticut: U.S.S.R.
Peter Pasiou, Montreal State College: Hungary

PINE MANOR MEETING 21 April 1990 SECOND CALL

The spring meeting of the New England Historical Association will be held at Pine Manor College on Saturday, 21 April, Richard D. Brown (Connecticut) is in charge of the program and Peter C. Holloran is responsible for local arrangements. Herewith are firm details: morning and afternoon, will be held in College Hall on the Pine Manor campus; the noon reception and the luncheon will be held in the Perry Administration building (also known as the "Main House"). Directions and information about accommodation were included in the first call to the meeting. Parking is available near College Hall: you will be directed by the guard at the entrance to the campus.

The annual presidential address will be delivered at the close of the luncheon period. The retiring president of the Association, Barbara Solow (Harvard University), will deliver the president's address. The president's address will be "Slavery and the Development of British North America." Members are strongly urged to attend.

CHURCH MEMORIAL LECTURE

Caroline Walker Bynum, Professor of History at Columbia University, delivered the tenth annual William F. Church Memorial Lecture at John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, on 2 November 1989. Professor Bynum's topic was "Innocent Body: The Resurrected Body in Twelfth-Century Art, Theology and Popular Religion." Beginning with the basic Christian text on bodily resurrection (I Cor. 15), Professor Bynum explored the way the doctrine was understood in twelfth-century theological discussions, miracle stories, and artistic representations. She showed how medieval theologians rejected metaphors of spreading soils, returning seasons and natural growth for explaining resurrection, preferring instead the idea that the body is a broken statue or a scattered treasure restored at the end of time. She illustrated the twelfth century's curious combination of reanimation and reassembly of body parts by showing a number of manuscript illuminations and wall paintings in which rising bodies are represented as bones or amputated limbs being reassembled. Concluding with miracle stories in which extraordinary holy bodies survive in life without eating and in death without decay, she argued that the medieval doctrine of bodily resurrection reflected a profound distrust of organic process, particularly nutrition and digestion.

PRESERVATION IN MASSACHUSETTS

If you know of an historic property that is being threatened with demolition, or has been demolished, or has been burned down in the state of Massachusetts, please inform the Massachusetts Historical Commission at 80 Baker Street, Boston, MA 02135; (617) 730-8750.

Vermont Historical Society
News of the Profession........

The National Registry for the bibliography of History, sponsored by the Association for the Bibliography of History, solicits listings of bibliographical projects in progress, in any field of history, by historians and bibliographers in the United States and Canada. This project is designed to reduce possible duplication of projects, and to serve as a medium of information concerning work now in progress. The listing is published each year in American Historical Review.

Contact: Professor Thomas H. Helie, Director, National Registry for the Bibliography of History, Department of History, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. 20057.

Scholars in all fields are invited to contribute to an interdisciplinary collection of essays presenting new perspectives on the life and work of George Orwell. Contact: S. L. Rose, 340 East 61st Street, New York, NY 10028.

A new monographic series which will publish academic and scholarly texts in Hispanic culture has been established. Those interested, and especially those wishing to propose titles for consideration, should contact: Julio Ceteg, Department of Hispanic Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912.

Malcolm Hayward, editor of Studies in the Humanities, is opening on Blint a discussion group for editors of scholarly journals in the humanities. The primary purpose of the group, known by the list name EDITOR, is to exchange information on computer use in editing, journal management, and production. Persons interested in joining the group should send their names, institutional address, and journal affiliations (if any) to MHALWADWARD@JUP.

The American Council of Learned Societies is preparing a new multi-volume biographical dictionary, to be called American National Biography. The editors seek the help of scholars to locate subjects and write biographies. Contact: K.A. Garratt, General Editor, American National Biography, Center for Social Sciences, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. 10027.

The Urban History Association has been established to stimulate interest in the history of the city in all periods and geographic areas. The Association welcomes scholars who pursue research or teaching involving urban topics or materials, even in the context of some other field. The association intends to publish a newsletter, sponsor symposia, offer prizes, and undertake other activities to enhance the growth of urban history. Contact: Michael H. Ebner, Department of History, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL 60045.

The Conference on British Studies Biography Series, which was published by the Archon Division of Shoestring Press, has moved to Indiana University. Editors will consider topics on figures in any area of British history, including the empire, colonies, or the Continent, or on figures who played roles in the history of Western thought in music, art, science, or literature. The printed book should be approximately 250 pages. Contact: Paul Schreer and Roy Schreiber, Department of History, Indiana University, 1700 Mishawaka Avenue, South Bend, IN 46614.

The American Aniquarian Society would like to hear from those who have knowledge of, or are interested in, the interaction of native and non-native populations in North America. The purpose is organization of a possible conference. The Public Historian is looking for people interested in reviewing books. Contact Randolph Bergstrom, Review Editor, The Public Historian, Department of History, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106.

The National Council on Public History's Site Selection Committee requests proposals to host the 1992 Annual Meeting. Site proposals should include a list of sponsoring organizations and a statement of the meeting facilities and accommodations, including an estimated room rate. Individuals or institutions interested in preparing a proposal should contact Professor David E. Kyvig, Department of History, University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325; (216)-375-7000.


The Essex Institute has purchased a significant collection of approximately 120 letters and poems relating to the 19th century poet Lucy Larcom. The collection includes correspondence of several members of the Larcom family.

The third Old Sturbridge Village and New England Museum Association Museum Archives Institute will be held at Old Sturbridge Village on July 21-22, 1990. The Institute has been expanded into a two year program so as to allow for a more concentrated and in-depth approach to the topics. Participants may join the program either year. Sessions include such topics as research methodologies, archival, arrangement and description, reference and access, legal issues, preservation, management, fundraising, exhibits, and outreach. Contact: Theresa Kim Porey, Director of Research Library, Old Sturbridge Village, 1 Old Sturbridge Village Road, Sturbridge, MA 01566; (508)-347-3362.

The Stone-Day Foundation has published Harriet Beecher Stowe, a collection of Stowe's works from 1828 to 1937, the first complete edition. The editors were George M. Elliott, from England and the Continent, and Ellen R. Wolters, who also compiled and edited the works. The project is being managed by Wilson H. Stowe, who accompanied her on the trip. Contact: The Stone-Day Foundation, 77 Forest Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3560.

The Third Textile History Conference will be held 21-23 September 1990. The conference will be hosted by the Museum of American Textile History. Persons interested in attending can obtain a registration form and a copy of the program by writing to Textile Bicentennial Conference, c/o Museum of American Textile History, 800 Massachusetts Avenue, North Andover, MA 01845; (508)-686-0191.

Doctoral candidates and recent PhDs are invited to apply for University Fellowship from the Museum of American Textile History. Research topics should be related to the study of the role of the textile industry in the United States between c. 1750 and c. 1800. Contact: Editorial and Research Committee, Museum of American Textile History, 800 Massachusetts Avenue, North Andover, MA 01845; (508)-686-0191.

The Essex Institute announces the establishment of Research Fellowships in New England History and Culture. This new program is open to advanced scholars, graduate students, independent scholars, and library and museum professionals who are interested in using Essex Institute collections for research and publication. stipends will be awarded for up to two months, at a rate of $500 per month; housing may also be available. Contact: Faculty Research Program, Essex Institute, Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970.

Among the Folger Institute programs now scheduled for 1990-91 are seminars to be directed by Peter W. M. Blayney on "English printing history; Edwin M. Duvall (Yale) on "Theatrical and British Things"; Margaret Eells (Texas A&M) on the late 17th century English women writers; and Jonathan Goldberg (Johns Hopkins) on "Elizabethan and Jacobean".

The Folger Institute program on "Theatrical and British Things" is directed by M. E. Duvall. It will focus on the intersection of the two cultural phenomena in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The Institute is open to scholars from all disciplines who have performed original research on the subject. The deadline for applications is 15 January 1990. Contact: Folger Institute, Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 East Capitol Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003; (202)-544-4600. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

Sherry H. Perry, Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and Jill K. Curway, Visiting Scholar in the Program in Science, Technology, and Society at MIT, and former president of Smith College, have been appointed to the board of directors of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation.

Alan Shaw Taylor, Director of History, Boston University, has been named an American Aniquarian Society-NHB Fellow for 1989-1990; and Harry S. J. Bain, Yale University, is a Research Associate for AAS for the same period.


The Oral History Association will hold its 25th Annual Meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on 8-11 October 1990. Contact: Richard Swetsworth, Department of English, 221 Old Mill, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405-0114.

The Nuclear History Program is seeking to increase access to information about the history of weapons programs and policies. In July 1989 NHP Maryland began limited distribution of PC computer databases that can be used to research primary documents and catalog secondary sources. The primary documents index includes materials stored at NHP Maryland and at the National Security Archive in Washington, D.C. The NHP program includes an annotated index of periodical and newspaper articles from 1945 to 1976 covering significant events related to nuclear history. The index and necessary software are being sent to researchers along with a user's manual written by David Rodgers. NHP Maryland has been working closely with the National Security Archive staff to transfer the PC index to the NSA's minicomputer system for wider availability. The PC indexes are available to other researchers. Contact: Jennifer Sims, American Coordinator, Nuclear History Program, Center for International Security Studies at Maryland, 3106 Morrill Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-8311; telephone (301)-454-3109; telex (301)-454-3112.

The NEH has included a Matching Grant requirement. To meet the requirements, the Institute is seeking support from corporations, universities, and individuals. If individuals or institutions would like to contribute to the effort, please contact Dr. Barbara Mowat, The Folger Institute, 201 East Capitol Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003; (202)-544-4600. All contributions are fully tax deductible.
Roger Howell, Jr. - In Memoriam
by Paul A. Fideler

Much has been said and written in deserved praise of Roger Howell since his untimely death in September of 1989 at the age of fifty-three. His life of two score and thirteen years was indeed all too brief, yet it was a life preface in its dimensions and accomplish-
ments and its significance in its influence.

Roger graduated Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Bowdoin College in 1958 and pro-
cceeded on a Rhodes Scholar-
tship to Oxford, where he earned his D. Phil. in Eng-
lish history in 1964. Re-
turning to Bowdoin as assistant professor of his-
ory, Roger advanced to full professor and acting dean of the college by 1968. In the following year, at the tend age of thirty-two, Roger was named Bowdoin's tenth president. His nine-year tenure as president was a time of precision change for Bowdoin: the move to co-
education in 1972; the.establishment of the Maine Studies Program in 1973; the Innovation, the always levelheaded approach to the study of early modern British and colonial Maine will be sorely missed by scholars everywhere. And, as a scholar in New England had come to depend on his untiring work in several regional organizations to promote British Studies and historical and literary studies generally. For example, Roger was a founding member of the Conference on British Studies (NECBS) in 1967 and was the first executive secretary of that organization; at the time of his death he was acting president of NECBS and chair of its program committee. He served the Maine Historical Society in various capacities for more than twenty years and had been its president since 1987. Roger's recent term as president of the New England His-
torical Association, which office includes an "apprenticeship" year as vice president and program chair for two meetings of the association, is only the most visible of numerous roles he assumed for this organization extending back to 1971. He served on the nominating committee and the executive committee, participated in programs, and supervised local arrangements for our spring 1985 meeting at Bowdoin, arguably the most successful two-
day meeting in our recent history.

I first began to know Roger well in 1973 when, in the last eighth of century to EIC, there was a marked increase in the incidence of that form of cross-sex sexual behavior which we moderns often term tendentiousness 'sexual intercourse' (genital in vagina, vagina around penis, with seminal emission uninhibited). He also suggested that such intercourse so-called became more common, more experientially central, and more privileged. Other place-cross forms of cross-sex sexual behavior were redefined, reexamined, and reconstructed as a result.


These are two significant and controversial papers. Henry Abelove has taken us back to the English long eighteenth century with a deceptively traditional sounding review of the demographic growth of that period. But Abelove comes to his central point by asserting: "all this means is that there was a remarkable increase in the incidence of cross-sex genital intercourse...". Then he adds: however, a deduction that the demographics themselves do not make... they do not seem to see it. I should guess that for all of us, or not at least some, the idea of the multiplying of the species is both a modern and an ancient one. The history of sexuality is not just an interesting peripheral area of history for Abelove but something central that we have overcome with disturbing implications for our understanding of the population explosion of the eighteenth century. David Halpern has looked at An-
cient Greece to make even more challenging claims. He begins: "Sex has no history." And he follows: "Sexuality...does not go far enough...". It is hard to do justice to the corpus of books and articles that have been written on this topic since the late 1970s, and to the critical response to the historical explanations that have been put forward. One of the main reasons for this is that the study of sexual behavior is complex and difficult.
This paper argues that any reassessment of this popular narrative and treatise needs to take into account its appeal to friendship. For Edwards carefully tailored The Life of David Brainerd to a view of his founding Edwards's friendship, including that of a woman. Alert to its social and divine origins, friendship had spiritual significance to Edwards and to many of his contemporaries. Edwards, therefore, portrayed a model of a balanced young Christian in the wilderness, not a forlorn and tormented soul. This self-consciously drawn portrayal of Brainerd, the pilgrim and friend, was intertwined to create the meaning of the term in Great Awakening. His critic, the radical New Light, Andrew Croswell, moreover, immediately sought to underwrite Edwards's model of friendship and the role of gender during the Awakening. It also stands as an important work of the Didactic Enlightenment whose flowering, in Henry May's estimation, occurred especially after the American Revolution.


This paper focuses upon the family of the Rev. Timothy and Esther Edwards of East Windsor, Connecticut, exploring how this family is indicative of gender relations in colonial American society. Scholarly attention has been centered on the ritual nature of marriage and the gradual unfolding of this family. Jonathan Edwards, yet his ten sisters merit attention because they challenge present interpretations of family types and the transformation of family status. During the first two decades of the eighteenth century, scholars have focused on the sacred and sacredness of this Edwards family. Yet, little attention has been given to the other members of this family. In this paper, I will explore the role of the Edwards family in the First Great Awakening, Edwards's model of friendship and the role of gender during the Awakening. It also stands as an important work of the Didactic Enlightenment whose flowering, in Henry May's estimation, occurred especially after the American Revolution.

"Conductors of the Faith? Aristocratic Women and the Christianization of the Roman Empire," Michelle Salzman, Boston University.

There are many theories to explain in complex processes. As the Christianization of the Roman aristocracy, I explore one new theory which views the role of women in the aristocratic families in particular. It is argued that women of (all classes) were particularly attracted to Christianity because of the greater importance of the church in their lives. Based on this study, there are three reasons why I would dispute the current emphasis on aristocratic women in the process of Christianization. My findings suggest that women did not convert any earlier than men, which should have done if Christianity had appealed to women particularly. My findings also show very little evidence of assimilation, suggesting a large population of pagan aristocratic men to marry. And in those few cases of assimilation that I do find, women's influence on either husband's children is minimal.

From my work thus far, it appears that aristocratic women in late Roman society were transcended across generations only when parent and child were of the same sex. Moreover, that marriage between husband and wife were not significant as a means of Christianization. Marriage between pagans and Christians was rare. Aristocratic women did not convert to Christianity substantially after the marriage. Simultaneously, women in these circles were the vanguard in the church, the advocacy of companionate marriage, and the rising power of women to choose their own spouses. "Comments" by Wilson H. Kimnach, Jonathan Edwards Papers (Yale University) and University of Bristol.0

"RELIGION AND SECULARIZATION IN FRANCE AND AUSTRIA DURING THE LATE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY"

By: Bland Addison, Worcester Polytechnic Insti- tute; James Melton, Emory University, and Russell Bishop, Gordon College.

This section focuses on the difficulties of using the concept of secularization to analyze socio-cultural trans- formation in eighteenth-century France and Austria. For Addison, secularization in pre-revolutionary France should not be measured against the ultimate temporal orientation traditionally seen as a defining characteristic of modernity, but should be understood as a shift from sacred to profane concerns within ancient-regime culture itself. Following a position laid out by Durkheim, Addison argues that the slippery nature of secularization arises from the fact that the sacred and profane are defined primarily by their opposition, not logical content, so that one person's secularity might be another's religion, as captured in the cliché "Communism is a religion." Without creating a secular culture, shifts within cultural interests among the educated in France after 1770 destabilized affective attachments to traditional structures of ancient- regime authority, ultimately opening a way for the formation of revolutionary consciousness. For Melton, the problem with the secularization thesis is as it has been used to explain the alleged decline in eighteenth-century Austria lie in the fact that it tends to overlook the pious motivations of Maria Theresa and Joseph II in their attempts to reform clerical and religious practices in the Empire. Since the eighteenth-century, when critics such as Cardinal Mazarin, the archbishop of Vienna, denounced Joseph's edicts as the bastard child of a godless, anti-clerical Enlightenment, the reforms have been seen largely as an instrument of secularization and building. For instance, during the 1750s, the Jesuit scholar Ferdinand Masset argued that Josephism was a kind of proto-totalitarian onslaught of the state against the church. Melton would prefer to see Josephism as a type of "reform Catholicism" or Austrian Jansenism, as Edward Weller, Peter Herscke, and others have interpreted it. Addison argues that the shift toward profane interests in ancient-regime France can be seen in many aspects of pre-revolutionary culture, for instance, in literature, education, consumption, and leisure. Secularization was reflected in changes in cultural symbols and educated discourse, and ultimately in a lax enforcement of laws governing public behavior. The body of the evidence presented here is drawn from the monde des lettres, which reveals a gradual secularization in authorship and increased profane reading interests among the educated. While it seems the work of Raymond Bocquet, Robert Darnton, and others that the Enlightenment was disseminated and popularized much more extensively than previously thought, the most significant transformation in literary culture lies in the rising interest in secular books, particularly in the realm of educational manuals which replaced works of pietistic in the catalogs of book sellers. Melton points out that Josephism was required reading for women in religious and charitable establishments, the cornerstone of Joseph's culture and attitudes. John Josephine's purist church ritual of ba- rotton, popular in the early 1700s, was begun under Joseph's guidance and is thus widely supported by reform-minded clerics, and thus cannot be seen simply as steps in a secular agenda. Addison gives no specific reasons as to why the shift in French eighteenth-century culture occurred, although the focus upon the book trade might place him in the camp of recent historians who argue a larger role for the philosophes in the collapse of the ancien régime. On the other hand, Melton suggests some possible answers to the question of why there was a cultural crisis throughout Catholic Central Europe in the eighteenth century. First, throughout Salzburg, Upper Austria, and Carinthia, ortho- dox clergies discovered peasants, perhaps some 100,000 in number, with concealed Protestant beliefs, making appar- ent the need for reform within pastoral practices. Second, the defeat of the Hapsburg empire in 1740, which is re- presented as an exacerbation of the religious culture of the Counter Reformation. Persaud replaced Versailles as the model for court culture. Third, the inherent place of the profane within baroque Catholic ceremony and ritual, which sought to convey spiritual values through non- literate means, led to a breakdown in the delicate balance between the sacred and the secular.
consequences. Other forces were at work—especially the new science and technology—which gradually diminished belief in, and reliance upon, the supernatural within European society. As Olwen Hufton, Eugen Weber, and Hugh McCleod, and others have shown, there was a general “slippage” from traditional supernaturalism. All three participants agree, however, that secularization is a complex phenomenon that needs to be carefully defined and documented, and not merely assumed.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE MIDDLE EAST FROM THE SUZEE CRISIS TO CAMP DAVID

“Economic Diplomacy and the Suez Crisis”, Diane Kunz, Yale University

This paper delineated the way in which the United States utilized economic diplomacy, that is to say the use of economic means to affect relations among states, during the Suez crisis of 1956-1957. The decision of the administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower not to fund the Aswan High Dam triggered the nationalization of the shares of the Suez Canal Company by Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser which began the confrontation. Thereafter the American government employed economic weapons with varying degrees of success against Great Britain. Because of its weakened financial position and misguided decisions, the government of Prime Minister Anthony Eden proved most vulnerable to these tactics. Indeed, American economic pressure caused the British government to withdraw its troops ignominiously from Egypt.

“Comment”, Ambassador Hermann Freidrich Elgu, Director of the Department of International Relations, Boston University.

In a sense, the two papers complement each other. That of Professor Kunz starts with an aspect of the U.S. diplomacy during the Suez crisis of 1956, while that of Professor Little carries forward the relationship between the United States and Israel from 1956 to 1967. Sensing the economic pressure that the United States applied on Britain during the Suez crisis, the Kunz paper goes beyond the economic analysis of U.S. policy during that crisis. Thus, Little offers a little-known aspect of what forced Britain and Israel to withdraw from occupied Egyptian territory.

The Little paper develops the evolution of a strong security partnership between the United States and Israel from the Eisenhower period through the Johnson presidency. Somewhat revisionist in nature, it suggests a succession of American presidents steadily succumbed to Israeli pressure to give a U.S. security guarantee to Israel. In principle, this is true, but Nasser was a prime cause for this. This commentator disagrees that Israel was the prime beneficiary of the Eisenhower doctrine, as Little suggests. Some Arab states were also beneficiaries. He also notes that the United States recognized the Yemen Arab Republic; despite the fact that Nasser’s military forces were bolstering it and that landing of U.S. marines in 1958 was at then Lebanon President Chamoun’s invitation. The Mellcy mission, to which Little refers, was one of the most overplayed, yet underworked U.S. diplomatic missions to the Middle East in post-World War II history. President Kennedy, the commentator also observed, had an interest in arms control in the Middle East, but very little interest in Palestinian refugees.

HISTORY AND MEMORY: THE GERMAN CASE


The West German Historikerkredt, which began in 1986 and has continued to the present, raised a number of fundamental issues about the use and misuse of historical research, particularly as it related to the history of Nazism and the Third Reich. Two issues lie at the heart of the acrimonious debate: One is the use of historical writing as a form of moral teaching, and the other relates to the use of historical writing to support particular political standpoints.

Using Charles Maier’s excellent study Making the Unthinkable Past as the basis for discussion, this paper dealt primarily with the problems and promises associated with instrumentalization and historization in historical research.

The paper rejected instrumentalization, which was defined as the deliberate attempt by historians to use historical research and writing as a means of advancing specific contemporary political or even didactic agendas, as incompatible with the true profession of the historian. For this reason the paper rejected the “comparative anec- dote” position of Ernst Nolte, or Andreas Hillgruber’s comparison of the Holocaust and the defeat of the Third Reich as disasters of the same magnitude, at invalid attempts to instrumentalize the history of the Third Reich. On the other hand, the paper endorsed Martin Broszat’s call for the historization of all history, including that of the Third Reich. Historizing obliges the historian both to incorporate events into a broader causal chain and to find explanations based upon empirical research as a way of fitting events into an on-going process of history. In this sense, viewing the Third Reich and the Holocaust as events that lie beyond the explanatory powers of the historian is a position which comes close to instrumentalizing these events—albeit with a more laudable didactic purpose.

The paper, then, in addition to praising Professor Maier’s masterful discussion of the issues in the Historikerkredt, ended with a call for renewed efforts to subject the Third Reich to empirical analysis in the hope that such efforts will yield yet more explanations of this momentous and horrible era.

NEHA NEWS

The Newsletter of the New England Historical Association
Association Office: Deans’ Office, South College, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts 01003 (413) 545-2627

Neil R. Shipley, Executive Secretary

Association Officers, 1990-1991
Richard D. Brown (University of Connecticut) President
Alan J. Reifman (Boston College) Vice President
Blind Addition (Worcester Polytechnic Institute) Secretary
Lorraine Atreid (Holy Cross) Treasurer

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NEHA SPRING MEETING, APRIL 21, 1990

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