



WEST COAST ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HISTORIANS *Newsletter*

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WCAWH NEWS ITEMS

Crises and Conferences--the Sixth Annual Meeting: The next meeting of the association will be held at Santa Cruz, CA, April 26-28, 1974. The cost for room and board for the weekend is \$30, which includes dinner Friday through lunch Sunday. Meals may also be purchased separately. Child care will be available. We held our 1972 meeting at the Villa del Mar, and it is a pleasure to return to the gracious sisters and to their beautiful retreat house on the ocean. The program is beginning to take shape. Friday evening Alice Wexler of CSC, Sonoma and some of her graduate students will present a media production on women in American history, followed by wine tasting. Saturday morning there will be group meetings on women's history in US, Ancient, European, and Third World fields. Saturday afternoon our guest speaker, Diane Clemens, UC, Berkeley, will speak on "Historians and the Cold War." Saturday evening will be the Business Meeting and informational items. Sunday morning there will be group sessions in the traditional disciplines in US, European, and Third World history, with short reports or papers and discussions. We still need people to chair the group discussions both for the women's history and the traditional history sections. If you are willing to chair, give a short paper, or report on your current research, please contact the officers as soon as possible. The main purpose of the Business Meeting will be to elect new officers. You may also nominate by mail. We are proposing an amendment to our 1972 Constitution. That document provides for the election of two officers, a president and secretary/treasurer. We will offer a rationale for a change to three officers, adding a Graduate Student Coordinator. The three officers will then comprise an executive committee which will be responsible for association decisions. Information items will include reports from graduate students, from the AHA Committee On Women Historians, and hopefully, if the data are in, from the new survey on the status of women historians in the western states. **PLAN NOW TO ATTEND. YOU WILL RECEIVE THE DETAILED PROGRAM AROUND THE END OF MARCH.** We are, of course, concerned with the present gasoline shortage. Santa Cruz is easily reached by Greyhound bus from all the Bay area airports, viz., San Francisco, San José (the best), and Oakland. Members from the south may also take **AMTRAK** or Greyhound, but connections are tricky. We will do our best to arrange car pools and provide transportation information for everyone coming to the conference.

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A New Survey: The WCAWH has sent our survey to approximately 150 four-year institutions in the western states to determine the new status of wmen historians as a result of affirmative action programs and the current job crisis. We have requested information on hiring, promotion, and tenuring of women and men, as well as the aver-all situation in the department. We will compare this data to our 1970-71 survey. See the AHA Newsletter, X, NO. 3 (May 1972). We hope that our figures can be used to encourage the AHA or the PCB to take more positive action against sex discrimination. Perhaps the Seattle PCB meeting would be the place to promote a PCB committee on women and ethnic minorities.

And Yet Another Survey: The AHA Committee on Women Historians is interested in collecting data on research and specialists in non-American women's history. The field of American women's history has been well covered by the efforts of the OAH Committee on Women Historians. For the last few years the CCWHP has done a very good job of issuing research and course bulletins in all fields of women's history. The WCAWH will have to consider how it wants to participate in this new endeavor, i.e., to work through the CCWHP, directly with the CWH, or as individuals. The first two alternatives would require people willing to send out questionnaires and to coordinate information.

Graduate Student Representative: Until the election, we have appointed an interim graduate student representative to serve as liaison with the AHA-CWH and the CCWHP Graduate coordinator. She is Mary Theodorakis, 2921 Dwight Way, #13, Berkeley, CA 94720. Graduate students are encouraged to write her for information.

WCAWH luncheon at the PCB: The association will have a luncheon at the annual PCB meeting in Seattle, August 27-29, 1974. Cost will be \$4.25 including tax and tip. The lunch will be listed on the program as an optional cost, so you can register for it in advance. Remember we will have a jointly sponsored panel at this meeting, although as yet there is no decision on the panel.

Dues: Our December call for dues brought in a record number of new members, but, perhaps because of the way it was written, limited response from our old members. All members who have paid in the past are again reminded that their dues for 1973-74 should be paid immediately, so that we can have funds for the annual meeting. RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW. Send your \$2.00 to Gretchen Schwenn along with this form.

NAME _____ INSTITUTION _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

FIELD OF INTEREST _____

DUES FOR 1973-74 _____

AHA NEWS ITEMS

Committee on Women Historians: The Committee presented its annual report to the AHA Council in December, with reference to the Women's Roster, the Assistant Executive Secretary, the new graduate student member, and a fellowship committee. The university of Maryland has agreed to develop a computer program for the Roster, which will provide simplified identification of location, rank, and specialization, and expand opportunities into non-teaching areas such as administrative, library, museum, archival, and governmental positions. The Committee will continue its efforts to determine the use of the Roster as it relates to real hiring practices, and to keep updating and improving it. All women historians are urged to list with the Roster. The CWH presented the qualifications of the new Assistant Executive Secretary, Eleanor Straub, and of the new graduate student member of the Committee, Suzanne Lebsock (See WCAWH Newsletter, Dec. 1973). In an effort to increase the number of women receiving grants, the CWH has established an anonymous fellowship committee of women with expertise in the administration of fellowships to review and comment on any fellowship proposals women historians submit to the AHA office. (perhaps the first thing we could do is to get them to call them grants rather than fellowships.) The CWH is still pursuing inquiries regarding part-time and joint appointments and their effect on women historians, providing individual consultation and advice to women facing problems of discrimination or other difficulties of employment, and supporting the broader efforts of the federal government to enforce anti-discrimination guidelines through the Federation of Organizations for Professional Women and through the Coalition of Organizations for Affirmative Action.

The WCAWH applauds the actions taken by the CWH in 1973, and approves its forthcoming efforts for 1974, adopted at the San Francisco meeting and reported by Eleanor Straub to the CCWHP:

"1. Grievances--we are currently trying to strengthen our activities in this area. We would like very much to hear from women historians who have EEOC or HEW cases pending in order to keep in touch with what is happening across the country. 2. 'How to' literature--we are working on a series of inexpensive leaflets offering practical advice in a number of areas: applying for fellowships, interviewing, getting on a program, graduate school, publishing articles and books, etc. 3. New Committee members--the Council has appointed Carl Degler of Stanford and Mary Jane Hamilton of California State University, Sacramento to the committee. 4. Women's studies--the committee is most eager to expand efforts in this area and welcomes suggestions for activities that do not duplicate the efforts of the OAH women's committees."

Suzanne Lebsock has also sent out the first issue of a possible new newsletter designed to circulate information to graduate students. Those interested my write her, 44 University Circle, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Comments: The WCAWH feels that women historians were well represented during the last two years by outgoing CWH member, and former WCAWH President, Dorothy Sexter, and we congratulate her on a fine job. Mary Jane Hamilton, the new member, was a founding member of WCAWH, is a specialist in Medieval history, an Associate Professor at CSU,S, and in her third year of law school at UC, Davis. She encourages all members to contact her with suggestions for the CWH.

PCB NEWS ITEMS

The 1973 elections: The WCAWH is pleased to report that our prolonged communication with Prof. John Schutz regarding the 1973 PCB ballot, which we felt negated our right to petition and to obtain information, has had positive results. The PCB Council adopted a resolution at San Francisco to publish the slate of nominees in time to allow for the petitioning process. In case you are still interested, considering that another election is practically upon us, the successful candidates were also announced at the December meeting. For Council: Margaret Ormsby (U. of British Columbia), Ramón Ruiz (U.C, La Jolla), and Peter Loewenberg (UCLA). For Nominations committee: Ray Lingren (CSU, Long Beach), Don Cutter (U. of New Mexico), and Joan C. Ullman (u. of Washington).

Future of the PCB: It seems as if the AHA Council is not inclined to adopt that part of the Review Board's recommendations which deals with severing relationship with the PCB. However, it still would appear that this association should take a sharp look at its future. We will encourage the establishment of an ad hoc committee to look into this problem when the PCB meets at Seattle this August.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL GROUPS NEWS ITEMS

CCWHP. New officers were elected for the next two years: Co-Presidents, Donna Boutelle (CSU, LB) and Renate Bridenthal (Brooklyn College, CUNY); Co-Secretaries, Joanna Zangrando (501 Mineola, Akron, O, 44320) and Jordy Bell (New School, NYC, 208 8th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215); Secretary for Membership, Karen Offen (450 Raymundo Dr., Woodside, CA 94062); Treasurer, Barbara Dubins (CSU, San José); Graduate Student Coordinator, Suzanne Lebsock (44 university Circle, Charlottesville, VA); Research and Courses, Arnita Jones (Indiana University, Southeast, New Albany, Ind 47150); Sessions Coordinator, Dagmar Horna-Perman (Georgetwon University, Washington, DC 20007). We wish this new group the best of luck in continuing the fine efforts of the CCWHP. And we congratulate the outgoing president, Sandi Cooper, for her years of constant vigilance and dedication.

Graduate Women Historians: Many of the graduate students at UCLA have decided to join forces. The importance of raising consciousness at the earliest possible moment cannot be overstressed. We hope this group will share its successes and problems with other graduate students, and perhaps serve as the model for other groups. For information contact Nancy Fitch, 2702 6th St., No. 3, Santa Monica, CA 90405.

Berkshire Conference: Remember the second annual conference in women's history will be held at Radcliffe in October. For information contact Mary Dunn, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010.

California Women in Higher Education: A new information and action group in areas such as Affirmative Action, Women's Centers, Legislative Action, Minority Women, Grievances, Women's Studies, Equal Pay, Tenure and Promotion, Students. For information write CWHE, P. O. Box 33261, San Diego, CA 92103. This group provides a good opportunity for women historians to compare notes and act in concert with women from other professions.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS:

Amnesty International: At the CCWP business meeting at the AHA in San Francisco, Ms. Ginetta Sagan of AI made an appeal on behalf of an imprisoned women historian in the Soviet Union, arrested on June 20, 1971. She is Aishe Muratova, lecturer in history before her arrest an imprisonment for three years at Samarkland. She was a member of the Crimean Tartar Movement, and was charged with 'preparing and circulating materials slandering the Soviet social and political system." Ms. Sagan is soliciting letters re: this case to be sent to Kosygin with a copy to the International secretariat, 53 Theobald's Rd., London WCIX 8SP.

Professor Olwen Hufton, University of Reading, will be in the US from March 29-April 17, 1974. She is the author of "Women in Revolution, 1789-1796," in Past and Present, 1971.

WCAWH 1975 Annual Meeting: Next year we will again take the WCAWH to Southern California for our annual meeting. We welcome suggestions from our southern members as to possible conference sites. Our criteria include: cost about \$30-40; accomodations for around 40; conferences rooms for around 75; small conference rooms. Please look around and see what you can find. We usually negotiate a year in advance.

NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

The WCAWH lists only those positions which have come directly to our attention since our last Newsletter. For other sources of information please consult the AHA Employment Opportunities Bulletin (EIB), the CCWP Newsletter, and register with the Women's Roster.

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn. 06268. Head, Department of History; Ph. D.; strong record of successful teaching and scholarship and demonstrated talent for academic administration. Resume and references to Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Box U-98, Storrs, Conn. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

University of Iowa, Iowa City, Ia, 52242: Japanese History, Instructor or Assistant Professor, Ph. D. or close; permanent appointment; teaching areas of Asian Civilization., upperdivision Japanese history courses; senior colloquium; MA program in Asian studies, Graduate students. Write: S. V. James, Chair, History, U. of Iowa.

California State College, Sonoma: Position in History of Science and the History of Marriage. One year replacement. For information write Alice Wexler, History, CSC, Sonoma.

University of California at Davis: Assistant Professor specializing in women's history. Ph. D. and research in the field. Contact Prof. Cynthia Brantley, History, Search Committee, UC, Davis.

Project Director, Equal Rights for Women in Education. Supervise staff, coordinate project activities, etc. MA in social science, political science or realted fields or experience; 2 yrs administrative experience; good public speaker; conscious of political structuring, etc. Write Education Commission of the States, 300 Lincoln Tower, 1860 Lincoln St., Denver, CO 80203, Atten: Ronald L. smith.

REPORT ON THE AHA MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO OR HISTORIANS ARE NOT SHRINERS

The 88th annual meeting of the AHA was held at San Francisco, December 28-30.

Sessions: This year's abbreviated program contained 103 sessions. Our body count, which makes no pretensions to absolute accuracy, establishes the following participation of women: chairs, 7; commentators, 23; papers, 46; total, 76. This total was distributed among the panels accordingly: 23 in women's history and social fields such as family and marriage; 53 in the "traditional" subjects. Percentage of female/male participants: 76/474 or 16.4 %. We arrived at this figure by counting only those individuals actually listed on scheduled panels, excluding lunches, etc. (Our figure differs from the AHA-CWH figure. Their base was 73/546 or 13.4%. Their figure appears to be the result of counting participants listed in the index.) Now using the same method, let's look at the 1972 meeting at New Orleans. There the figures were 123 sessions, 71 women, 529 men, or 13.6% women. Gain over last year, less than 3% or almost 3%, depending on how you want to view it. The general trend, however, is towards increasing participation of women; but that is dependent upon women continuing to submit panels and papers. The decisions should shortly be out regarding the Chicago conference. Will anyone making the program please let us know?

Events of interest to women: For the second year the women historians staffed a highly successful information desk. This year we added a special room, where Joyce Baker of UCSB showed a media production on the image of women in America. The CCWHP held two business meetings, but attendance was disappointingly poor. In spite of this, the group came up with some important resolutions (see below). Those present opposed the adoption of the new constitution unless certain democratizing resolutions were adopted, e.g., contested elections, elected Committee on Committees, active lobbying, annual appearances of affiliated groups. The National and Regional groups sponsored a well-attended cocktail party.

Business meeting: New officers were announced: President, Lewis Hanke; Vice-President, Gordon Wright; Treasurer, R. Davidson. For Council: J. Blassingame, E. Genovese, and C. Delzell. For Nominations Committee, Mary Dunn and John Wornack. Mary Maples Dunn, the only woman elected, was the nominee of the Berkshire Conference and the CCWHP. The primary concern of the ad hoc committee and the Council was to get the new constitution adopted without serious amendment. The CCWHP managed to get two resolutions presented. The resolution concerning the contested elections of the chief officers was defeated. The resolution for an elected Committee on Committees which was presented by the WCAWH was passed. The entire discussion of the constitution was marked by parliamentary confusion, heated floor discussions, and excessive comments from the Chair. The final result was that the constitution was passed and will go to a mail vote. Please read the rationales very carefully.

The 89th meeting of the AHA will be held at Chicago. We understand that many panels which were submitted to the 1973 convention and which were not accepted have been resubmitted to Chicago. Would you let us know if you submitted a paper or panel? The WCAWH asked for a jointly sponsored panel at the Chicago meeting, but to date we have not received any communication from the Program Chairman. We hope to hear something by April. Perhaps Santa Cruz would also be a good place to discuss possible programs for the 1976 AHA as well as the 1975 PCB.

For another dimension on the AHA meeting, please read on

Several years ago, in the springtide of my **first graduate year**, I attended a convention of the AHA. An **exciting way to spend the after-Christmas vacation** -- then. I met again professors of my **undergraduate** years, and we had lunch **together**, with happy gossip about the old school. They even offered me a cocktail, and I felt that at last I had entered the world of history and historians. Publishers, too, regaled me with drinks and forced free books upon me; some were books I **thought** might be useful for classes. I went to programs and symposia where historians I had read, but never met, displayed thier verve and wit to lively audiences. People from various universities invited me to so many parties in suites and rooms that I had to keep a list. We talked history to the small hours of the morning, and then got up early to rush to yet another session where Professor Ex was going to tie into Professor Zee to settle the issue of social history for all time. But that was then.

Now I am a graduate finishing a dissertation and looking for a job. I've changed, but the AHA has changed oddly, too. Let me tell you how I saw the 88th Annual Meeting, AHA, December, 1973. The Hilton Hotel, San Francisco -- a typical convention **hotel**: messy, vulgar, **inefficient**. Down at the desk stood the esteemed historians of the nation in weary lines twenty deep, **baggage** at feet, waiting for their **rooms**. Upstairs at the locator file: confusion compounded. -- Most historians didn't **fill in** locator cards during the entire meeting -- it was generally understood they **didn't want** to be bothered by jobhunters. Even one's friends looked nervous when spoken to.

I, luckily, had five interviews arranged ahead. It remained to find the persons I was to meet, small chore. Only John Bee of Xanadu **Univ.** was listed in the locator. I got his number and rushed off to call. The line was busy. After the eighth time of **calling** a busy line, I realized the phone was off the hook. Oh, well, I thought, I'll leave notes at the desk for all of them. But there was no getting near the desk. I was reduced to bribing a bell captain to stuff notes in boxes. As far as I know, no one ever read them, if they saw them.

Did the Professional Register have information? When I found the place, carefully set apart where it could not disturb the eyes or thoughts of tenured professors, it was manned by boys who knew nothing and said less. There were other **jobhunters**: *So, you're on the Heat Rack," said one. *Slave Market," another corrected him. There were few, few Jobs posted, but there were a thousand tables set chock-a-block for the interviewer to eye the interviewed. It looked like a **deNazification** screening room in Occupied Germany, perhaps. I went away **again**. Later, I found that Jobhunters were limited to two requests when they finally got to the top of their endless line, and that **by** Friday all the interviews were arranged, and those who came late were **OUT**. I met a woman with a baby who had flown from Nigeria **in** the hope (!) of getting a **job**. I met a friend whose flight was delayed -- no interviews. He left **Saturday**. I met a hundred seeking, anguished, graduates caught in a confused mess where no one knew anything. However, this was all behind the scenes and can't have bothered anyone, except the professors assigned to screen the culprits.

I got my five interviews, by luck. I chanced across the **profes-**sor from Green Ivy, and was given a time. Great State had me **paged**: they were **staying** at another hotel, of **course**. I met Tom Eff of Tridentine U. in the hall, and he put me down for 10 **AM** Sunday, right during one of the most interesting **sessions**. "Sorry," he laughed. John Bee finally **answered** his door (a friend told me where Xanadu U. was housed). Apart **from** interviews, I managed to get to hear one full session.

Professor Dee from **Aabra U.** was the most irritating. We saw each other constantly during the convention, but I could never pin him down to a specific **time**. He was too busy interviewing, you **see**. When we did get to talk, on the last day, briefly, in the lobby, he asked me if a **Renaissance/**

Reformation type like me could possibly teach the sixteenth century. I was too surprised to answer emphatically, "Yes!" I never heard from Aabra again until the February EIB informed me they had filled the Job.

The Great State professor⁸ met me on the street, interviewed me in a bar, and were gone forever. Green Ivy had four professors ready to ask me all the questions I had answered on my vita. My department told me they were "very Interested", I haven't heard from them since.

At the Xanadu suite, they were busy with the previous candidate and put me in a bedroom to wait. I noticed a pile of some three hundred "Personnel Forms" that had been filled out by others.. There was also a bottle of Scotch in the room, but one of the interviewers dashed in with a suspicious look at me and locked it in the closet, When they finally deigned to meet, they proceeded to tell me, in detail, how superior Xanadu was to Berkeley, and how, if I should be offered the job (only open because some perverse students at X. U. wanted to learn something about Europe) I would also have to teach whatever leftover American history courses didn't conflict with their not-quite-defined fields of specialty. I haven't heard from then since.

Tridentine University gave me the most interesting interview: although I didn't get the job. Five gimlet-eyed professors invited me into their suite, and one said, "Take that chair: you'll find it warm with the sweat of previous frantic candidates." Several of them lounged on the bed while they put me through a 45 minute oral exam that I couldn't quite take seriously.. "Who was Machiavelli? Is he worth reading? Who was Guicciardini?" ("Don't you know?" I wondered.) "Do you agree with Panofsky?" "What textbook would you assign for the Renaissance course?" Well, I knew one of them had a text out. Do you say, "Oh, sir! Your text, sir! Only Gibbon -- in his limited way, of course . . ." Actually, I told him I'd look over the texts available. Then they began to ask me what I thought of my dissertation director. (If I didn't like him, why on earth would I pick him?) They asked about other professors at Berkeley (friends or enemies?). I did not like this, and I told them what I thought. So, I didn't get the job, but it was fun.

I managed to see the front halves and back halves of some sessions. Unventilated rooms made it hard to keep awake, or even breathe. Nobody seemed to be talking sense; how could they?

The departmental party was held in a corridor with a view, called the Vista Room. A bartender in the wall gave out piddling drinks (3.2 gin?) at high prices. There was a bartender in the wall at every party, offering sour water with a swizzle stick for a dollar or two. The departmental suite was quieter: dismal lines of jobhunters outside the interview room (I wonder how they found it?) and exhausted grads and profs in the other room waiting for non-existent telephone calls.

The AFA business meeting had its aspects. Our usually jovial and amusing President had to play buffer state between the Parliamentarian and the irritated members. Everything decided was overturned by the Council, of course.

Will I go again? Oh, yes, History is my profession. And -- I may be on the Program Committee some day. We will hold our Annual Meeting, the 99th. on the Queen Elizabeth III, and some people will walk the plank.
