



WEST COAST ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HISTORIANS *Newsletter*

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VII, no. 1
July 1976

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Greetings from Pat

Instead of the cheerful, optimistic greeting most new presidents like to give their organizations, the greeting you are going to get here is a more sober one, I have taken office as president of the WCAWH during a time of change in our own organization and a time of crisis in the historical profession,

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find more detailed information about one of the major issues confronting us--that of entering into a closer relationship with the CCWHP. This, however, is not the only issue that confronts us. We have to look carefully at the drastic decline in history enrollments, the position of women who are often the last hired and the first fired in history departments that are being cut back, the exploitation of part-time and temporary faculty members, and the problems of affirmative action in general,

Our eighth annual conference, held in April in Encino, California, is behind us, and, as most of our conferences have done in the past, it has left us a mixed legacy, Many of those who attended felt fulfilled and happy at the opportunity to renew old acquaintances, and participate in many interesting sessions, Yet there were also criticisms--most of the justified--about the lack of free time, the scholarly standards (what professional conference doesn't have that problem!), the over-emphasis on Women's History and American History, The WCAWH is experimenting, Next year's program will differ somewhat in format from this year's. We will continue to experiment with our program as long as our membership continues to make constructive criticisms, and until we have established our identity as an organization of women historians in the western states, reflecting the special needs of members of our sex, our profession, and our region,

We are now confronted with an urgent call from the CCWHP (the Coordinating Committee on Women in the Historical profession), which asks all the regional organizations of women historians to consider uniting under the CCWHP umbrella, At our next meeting, in April 1977, we should be prepared to explore the various alternatives open to us and to decide exactly what our relationship should be, It seems to me that this is one of the most important questions that ever confronted this organization, If we do elect to become a regional branch of CCWHP, we will contribute to the formation of a more solid political block of women historians across the nation, But do we also run the risk of losing the values and identity of our own organization at a time when this identity and values are in the process of being re-defined and solidified? Is it too early for us to become part of a nationwide organization such as the CCWHP? Or is the time right?

At this juncture, I urge all of you to join the CCWHP, subscribe to its newsletter, and decide for yourselves what the direction of our organization should be, A great deal will depend on the decisions of those attending our 1977 conference in Santa Cruz.

Furthermore, I urge you all to become as aware as you possibly can of the multitude of problems confronting the historical profession--and the women in it--today, and of the various potentials for solving them, A better press for history as a discipline might not be a bad start, especially now that the American public has been made more aware of its own past in this bicentennial year,

There will be ample opportunity to discuss these problems at our next conference, I look forward to the opportunity of meeting as many of **you as possible** in April, 1977, and of **hearing** from all of you who have ideas about the solution of some of our problems,

With best wishes to you all for a good year, Pat Fouquet

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT : Replies Invited

The program committee, consisting of Joan Jensen, Sherna Gluck, Wendy Hornsby, Nancy Jaffe, Janice Webster, and Rosemary Masek, has begun planning for next year's conference to be held at Maria del Mar, Santa Cruz on April 22-24, The Friday evening session will consist of a discussion on the subject of the professional woman historian's responsibility to the feminist community, On Saturday morning, a panel with complementary workshops on the subjects of lifestyles, job opportunities, and publishing is scheduled, The Saturday evening session will be given over to media presentations,

The committee plans ~~nine~~ other sessions which will include workshops on oral history and psychohistory, In response to the questionnaires which the committee received from the Encino meeting, it hopes to include sessions on family history, suffrage tactics, Third World women, and women and medicine,

The committee invites the membership to submit abstracts of no more than 500 words for papers on women's history as well as on general topics, Please send at least three copies of the abstract to Dr. Rosemary Masek, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nv, 89154 by October 1, The committee will notify participants as early as possible to ensure a program which will meet the interests and needs of the membership,

REFLECTIONS ON ENCINO: A VIEW FROM KAREN OFFEN

The program coordinator is probably the last person who should present an overview of a conference. Such a person hears about everything that went wrong and misses many of the moments when things went right. But after consulting some of my colleagues on and off the program committee, I decided that I could nevertheless make some general observations.

To an "old-timer" (my first conference was in the spring of 1971; my baby screamed while I presented my research to the group), the greatest differences between our Eighth Annual Conference in Encino and earlier ones I had attended were two: 1) the pounding surf of Santa Cruz was missing; and 2) the program was still bigger, more formal, with the addition of commentators to the various sessions where research was presented.

The pounding surf of Santa Cruz (and before that Asilomar) symbolizes for many of us the kind of low-key atmosphere and spiritual uplift that characterized our gatherings in the past, when they were smaller and more casual, more intimate and--let us be frank--more frequented by the "old guard"--the early friends and colleagues that formed our support network. One of the problems that faces the WCAWH as we grow is the inclusion of new faces, more diverse interests, and while making our circle larger to make them feel at home, to retain the spirit of cordiality and congeniality that bound together the original coterie of women historians. The difficulty is to retain the flavor of the retreat in the atmosphere of what is becoming increasingly one fast-paced scholarly conference among others, whose unique feature is that it is a sort of showcase for female members of the historical profession. One solution that has been proposed to this situation is that we hold a rural retreat in the fall for those who prefer to gather in this informal, relaxed way, and in the spring, continue to develop the annual meeting-as-conference of women scholars, engaged in formal intellectual exchange in an urban or collegiate setting. There may be a great deal to be gained by splitting these two activities, but something may be lost as well. We would like to know what the membership's response to such a proposal would be--please write to Pat or Rosemary and tell them.

The second point is related to the first--the conference program format itself. This year, the program was put together, **first**, on the basis of responses to WCAWH members' questionnaires (both on their own work-in-progress and what they'd like to see happen) and, secondly, from proposals that reached us from women scholars in other parts of the country as a result of advertising our meeting in the AHA Newsletter. Since we did not employ a formal proposal procedure, quality of the proposals accepted varied widely. Although we tried to include as many proposals as we could, still there were worthwhile topics which could **not** be included. We encourage those who were not on the program to resubmit their proposals.

The program committee disagreed about the innovation of adding commentators to the sessions. Some thought that their participation would "upgrade" the level of the conference while others considered that their appearance would bring to mind AHA sessions. In my estimation, a good critic can add a great deal to a session by raising larger questions and extending the analysis presented by the researchers; indeed, such a person can be an inspiration, both to **the** participants and to the audience.

A bad commentator, under any set of criteria, is a disaster. Women historians generally agree that commentators should be supportive in their criticism and avoid imitating some of the more dubious practices of the older male historians (and some younger ones as well), such as trying to make themselves look good by discrediting the work of the colleagues. If members would respond to the program committee about the inclusion of commentators, I am sure they would be appreciative. Did our experiment work?

In closing, I want to thank the members of this year's program committee--Donna Boutelle, Susan Diamondstone, Ann Forfreedom--for their work in making the Encino meeting so lively, as well as Pat Fouquet for arranging the facilities so well. And best wishes to the new officers of the WCAWH who deserve our untiring support during the next two years.

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville is searching for a President. A detailed prospectus for the position will be forwarded to all applicants and nominees. Submit inquiries/applications to: Chairperson, Presidential Search Cmte. Campus Box 92, Southern Illinois U, Edwardsville, Illinois 62026.

Utah State University will make two one-year appointments for the year 1976-77 in the fields of U.S. History (survey and speciality) and European History (survey of Western Civilization to 1500, plus specialities). Ph.D. or ABD required. Send inquiries to: Professor William Lye, Dept. of History, Utah State U, Logan, Utah 84322.

Rhode Island College is seeking candidates for the position of President, vacant in June, 1977. Send applications by August 31, 1976 to: Mr. Albert Carlotti, Chairperson, Bd. of Regents for Education, 199 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02908.

Sarah Lawrence College is seeking a person to fill a one-year, half-time position in Modern European Women's History, beginning fall, 1976. The position consists of one course in European Women's History, with tutorial sessions for each of the 15 students expected in the course. Send curriculum vitae and course description to: Kathleen Casey, Chairperson of Search Cmte., Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, N.Y. 10708.

The Department of History of the U of Rhode Island is seeking a sabbatical replacement in the field of History of American Women/Urban History for the spring 1977 semester. The position would involve teaching three courses. Send dossiers to: Sharon Strom, Dept. of History, U of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881.

The Department of History at U of Missouri-St. Louis is seeking a visiting lecturer in late 19th century American history, preferably with emphasis on the South; Ph.D. required; one-year appointment. Write to Arthur Shaffer, Chairperson, Dept. of History, U of Missouri-St. Louis, St. Louis, Mo. 63121.

Oregon State University will have a temporary position available in Latin American history during the Winter and Spring terms, 1977. Applicants for this six-month position should have a Ph.D. Make inquiries of: Thomas McClintock, Chair, Dept. of History, Oregon State U, Corvallis, Oregon 97331.

Earlham College wishes to fill an opening in British and European History for the term beginning September 1976. Candidates should have a genuine interest in undergraduate liberal arts teaching. Send applications to: Robert Southard, Chair, Dept. of History, Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana 47374.

NOTES FROM THE BANCROFT LIBRARY, BERKELEY: Women's History Resources

The Bancroft has been designated the West Coast repository of a series of oral history memoirs on the role of women in population-related issues. The interviews are being conducted by the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America. They document the vital part played by women in the delivery of health services, maternal and health care, family planning, marriage counseling and sex education. The interviews, ranging in length from 25 to 500 pages, are open to research in the Bancroft Library.

Of further interest: Interviews with ten suffragists have been completed by the Regional Oral History Office. The series, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, was designed to document the activities of the leaders and rank-and-file members of the suffrage movement; focus was on the Woman's Party, heretofore unrepresented in first-hand accounts of the campaign for suffrage. A series of interviews with Californian women political leaders, 1920-1970, is also available for purchase as are several of the suffragists' interviews. For further information, write the Regional Oral History Office, Bancroft Library, Berkeley, CA 94720.

RENEW YOUR WCAWH MEMBERSHIP NOW: **THE ORGANIZATION YEAR BEGINS IN JANUARY.**
IF YOU DO NOT PAY 1976 DUES, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER.

NAME _____ INSTITUTION _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

AREA OF INTEREST _____

SEND DUES OF \$5 if you are employed full-time; send dues of \$2 if you are a graduate student, unemployed, or employed part time. Send checks payable to WCAWH, to the treasurer, Penny Kanner, 467 Comstock, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

1976 Membership Form

(The upper right corner of your mailing label notes the last year for which you are paid up, If you forgot to renew for 1975, please do so as well now.)

1. (check one) _____ Renewal _____ New _____ Mailing list only
 _____ Organization exchanging mailings with CCWP
2. Name _____
3. Office Address _____ Phone _____

- Home Address _____ Phone _____

- Preferred mailing address: _____ home _____ office
4. Current position (e.g., faculty, staff, graduate student, curator, archivist, unemployed) _____
5. Research and teaching fields _____

6. Professional news: _____

7. Currently member of AHA _____; OAH _____; ASA _____
8. Can you give time to CCWP activities? In what areas? _____

- What office would you like to hold? _____
9. Recommendations for CCWP activities _____

_____ I enclose membership fee for 1976 (\$10 for tenured faculty; \$7 for non-tenured faculty and other employed persons; \$3 for graduate students and unemployed,)

_____ I forgot to renew for 1975 (Same rates)

Please make all checks payable to CCWP and send them with this form to: Karen Offen, Membership Secretary,
 450 Raymundo Drive
 Woodside, California 94062

FOR FUTURE REFERENCE: The PCB Meeting at the University of San Diego

Susan Groag Bell will be the guest speaker at the luncheon sponsored by the WCAWH on August 18 in Reveille Hall North Dining Room. Her slide-presentation is "Expectation of Marriage and Motherhood: Was It Ever Enough?" This occasion will undoubtedly prove as popular as it has been in the past. Apply promptly to the Arrangements Committee, USD, La Jolla, 92038, if you wish to attend,

On August 19, a panel entitled "New Perspectives on Preserving the Past" chaired by Claire Crane (San Diego Miramar) will interest women historians. Included are Joyce Appleby's paper on the San Diego History Research Center at the Malcolm A. Love Library, San Diego State University, Amelia Fry's "Oral History: Preserving the Recent Past," and Lynn Donovan's "Historical Sources for Western United States Women's History." Judith Austin of the Idaho State Historical Society is the commentator,

ATTENTION ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS: Ann Forfreedom Wants You!

The graduate student co-ordinator, Ann Forfreedom, would appreciate all grad students to communicate their interests and needs. As the WCAWH membership is comprised of a large number of students, her request is timely and important. Unfortunately, her questionnaire did not reach the newsletter office in time for inclusion, but she is interested in knowing what subjects graduate students are researching, what progress they have made, what their professional goals are, what obstacles they encounter,

The program committee welcomes graduate student participation in the annual conference. A major purpose of the organization is the encouragement of graduate student participation, as a matter of fact. The graduate student co-ordinator on the program committee is Janice Webster, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. Ann Forfreedom may be reached at 1947 Bell St., #26, Sacramento, CA. 95825

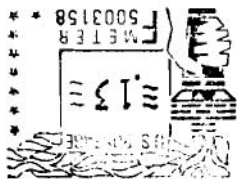
OF FURTHER INTEREST

Gerda Lerner's article on Teaching Women's History appeared in the May-June 1976 issue of the AHA Newsletter. Anyone interested in new approaches to the subject will find her essay enlightening. The whole newsletter, in fact, is crammed with items of interest to women historians,

Remember the other AHA publications of interest to women: the Directory (which is in revision: if you have not submitted your name and research interests, do so promptly) and the Survival manual,

REGRETS: The information about the plans for re-organizing CCWHP did not reach the newsletter office in time for inclusion. By the fall issue, Hilda Smith's contribution will be available,

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