

# West Coast Association of Women Historians

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. IX, No. 1

January 1978

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—GREETINGS FROM ROSEMARY

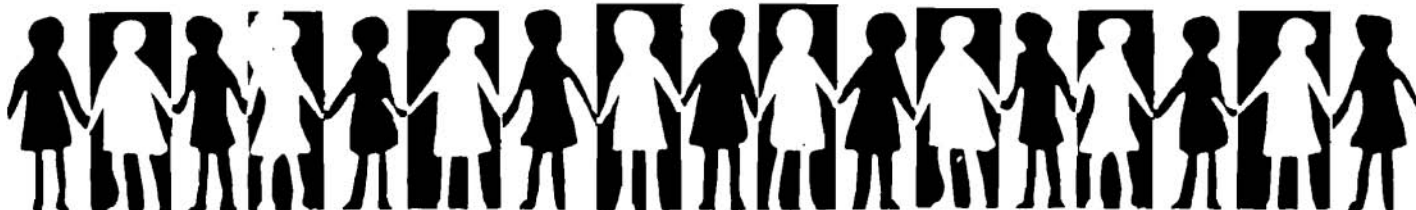
As the questionnaire indicates, our organization has been asked to take a position on the boycott of convention sites in states which have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. Jordy Bell has submitted to the Council of the AHA a motion from the Committee on Women Historians that future annual meetings of the AHA not be scheduled in states which have not ratified the ERA. I signed the motion as an individual, not having the means of canvassing you on this very important issue.

Thirty-seven organizations, including the American Political Science Association, the American Library Association, the American Psychological Association, NEA, and the Council of the Organization of American Historians have gone on record as supporting the boycott. I urge you to consider the issue carefully and to express your point of view through the questionnaire.

Let me also urge you to consider submitting proposals for panels at major historical association conferences. As D'Ann Campbell put it in the December 1977 Conference Group on Women's History Newsletter, women historians have "flooded" the three major women's studies conferences this academic year, but have neglected to submit papers to other major conferences. Only one session on women's history was submitted for the 1978 program of the Southern Historical Association and that featured three men. At the 1977 meeting, sessions on women's history were rescheduled to prevent serious conflict with other popular activities such as seeing the King Tut exhibition. Nevertheless, it is imperative for us to make an effort to gain visibility by contributing to major conferences.

Certainly, offering a paper for the Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA is a good start for anyone looking for such visibility. Yet, I have not had one panel proposal submitted to me for the August meeting in San Francisco. I beat the bushes last year for such a panel without any results; fortunately, a suitable proposal was submitted to Joan Moon. This year we will not be represented unless you stir yourselves.

Finally, I encourage you to subscribe to the Newsletter of the Conference Group on Women's History (CGWH), which is affiliated with the Coordinating Committee on Women in the Historical Profession (CCWHP). The Newsletter contains useful information that is not duplicated in our own newsletter. The March issue will focus on research in progress; a June issue will include a bibliography of printed materials.





NOTE CHANGE IN DATE FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING: MAY 5-7, 1978, SURF RIDER INN, SANTA MONICA, CA.

THE SURF RIDER INN is a resort motel on the waterfront in the heart of Santa Monica. We have been fortunate in obtaining a special convention rate for two-bedded rooms/bath and meals. To keep costs similar to previous meetings (although costs are up everywhere) all rooms will be shared. We will of course honor your choice of room partner, or we will assign one. Those who wish to have 3 or 4 in a room should organize their own group. In any event, we urge you to make early reservations so we can make sure that everyone will be accommodated. Each room/bath will cost \$28.00 plus tax per night without limit on number of occupants. Meal costs will be announced later. For further information or to indicate your plans, please contact me (213) 474-4450 or 879-3737 (or write) as soon as possible. Thank you. Penny Kanner

#### Annual Conference

The program for the 1978 conference is taking form and we now have three sessions with formal papers and four panels. The topics of these sessions vary from one on Women in Popular Print Media, to Working Women During World War II, to one in which the topic is the influence of women (wives, mothers) on the careers of two major public figures.

We do not yet have anyone lined up for either a workshop on publishing or one on jobs. I would greatly appreciate suggestions for people with the expertise to participate in workshops of this sort.

Also, we have some proposals which need "mates", that is others with similar papers or panel talks to join with them. They are the following:

Stephanie Coontz, History and Women's Studies, The Evergreen College, Olympia, Wash. Proposes workshop or panel on interdisciplinary teaching of women's history. She has done a team taught program on women's roles in historical perspective.

Frances Foster, San Diego Univ. Paper on images of slave women in slave narratives. She concludes that "the narrators (black men) and the audience (white northerners) were responsible for the promulgation of stereotypes which essentially denied any respect to black women."

Retha Warnicke, Arizona State Univ. Workshop on History and Literature; exploring the problems encountered in placing one's subject in anhistorical setting.

If you wish to propose a panel or paper contact Joanna D. Cowden, History, CSU Chico, California 95929, by FEBRUARY 1, 1978. In particular we lack panels that do not deal with women's history.

## HOW TO GET A JOB IN OR OUT OF TEACHING

Jess Flemion, San Diego State University

1. It may seem superfluous to say, but first of all, a person should really evaluate what kind of work might be satisfying besides teaching. Indeed, a serious evaluation of whether teaching is really what a candidate would most enjoy should be a preliminary step in assessing talents and skills. Historians acquire many abilities beyond intensive knowledge of some facet of the past. They are trained to organize and evaluate information, present it articulately and persuasively, defend a position, and see events and information within a larger context. All are valuable and transferrable skills.

2. If you remain convinced that only teaching will make you happy, then prepare to compete for the limited jobs as skillfully as possible. Many vitae sent out by students are substandard, incomplete, and even out of date. Use a professional firm if necessary to see that yours is the best possible. Letters of recommendation should be recent, they should represent the major professors with whom the student has worked, they should be from faculty members who have some detailed knowledge to impart about the candidate. Institutions are interested in both scholarly and teaching potential. Copies of student evaluations can be very valuable vitae material if they are favorable.

3. If you seek work other than teaching, a separate vitae should be created. Get professional advice on revising yours to suit non-academic job opportunities. #1

4. Write letters of inquiry carefully so that they impart some reflection of yourself and do not appear to be nothing more than a shot gun approach to job hunting.

5. When you interview, find out all you can in advance about the school and its department members (or the organization or business). In the case of academic interviews, reading up on the faculty doesn't hurt one bit. If possible get some idea of what you will be asked to discuss and take time to prepare thoroughly. Be familiar with texts which you might use in courses and give some thought to how you might organize the courses you would be teaching.

6. If you seek only teaching work, be prepared for possible underemployment (part time status). Junior Colleges may offer more hope for teaching but you should be aware that part time work rarely leads to full time employment whatever hopes may be held out to you. There is also a bias against Ph.D's as too research oriented. Again, if you are going to pursue employment aggressively in the community college system it is worth the effort to learn as much as possible about the teaching environment of those institutions. A reading of the principal magazine, The Junior College Journal will help acquaint you with the unique problems and needs of two year schools.

1. Richard Bolle's book, What Color is Your Parachute? was written specifically to aid highly trained academics to assess their skills, recreate their vitae and successfully seek alternative jobs in today's shrunken academic market.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

Sojourner, a Third World Women's Research Newsletter, began publication in November 1977. Edited by Harriet G. McCombs, Department of Psychology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, the newsletter will contain announcements of publications, conferences, grants, etc. The following items were announced in the first issue:

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESS will be publishing a series of books in Women's Studies called the Women in Culture Series and is requesting abstracts or outlines of manuscripts at this time. The Series is aimed to students and professionals in Women's Studies as well as the more established disciplines of history, literature, the arts and the social sciences. Write Louise Tilly, Director of Women's Studies Program, University of Michigan, or Carol Mitchell, Assistant Editor, University of Michigan Press, for more information.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT-BLACK WOMEN: Radcliffe College has received a two-year grant from the Rockefeller Foundation in the amount of \$98,700 to support a biographical oral history project on the lives of Black women. The grant will be administered by the Schlesinger Library. In the course of the project, interviews will be conducted with women educators, business women, entertainers, writers, artists, social workers, community organizers, religious leaders and women in politics, government, and the health professions. Interviewees will be older Black women most of whom began their involvement in civic and professional activities prior to the 1930s, and whose contributions and achievements have resulted in the improvement of the quality of life for Black people. The final selection of the women to be interviewed will be made by the Advisory Committee, whose members welcome suggestions of possible interviewees as well as information on other oral history projects in similar areas. Suggestions can be sent to PATRICIA M. KING, Director of The Schlesinger Library, or BETTY S. LEONARD, Coordinator of the Black Women Oral History Project, The Schlesinger Library, 3 James Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

The Radical Teacher has a special issue (No. 6, December 1977) devoted to Women's Studies, including articles on poetry in prison, feminism in the Bible belt, sex education in a Catholic high school, rewriting Afro-American literature, Southern women's bawdy humor, lesbian culture, women's studies on liberal arts, agricultural, technological, and community college campuses, and more. Write The Radical Teacher, P.O. Box 102, Cambridge, Mass. 02142. Single issue \$2.

Frontiers, A Journal of Women's Studies has just published a special issue on women's oral history, guest edited by two of our members, Sherna Gluck and Joan Jensen. Single copies of this issue (Vol. 2, No. 2, Summer 1977) are available for \$3.25 from Frontiers, Women's Studies Program, Hillside Court, #104, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80309.

The Berkshire Conference of Women Historians will award its 1978 prizes to the best book and the best article in any field of history written by a woman and published during 1977. Inquiries and nominations, including two copies of the book or article, should be sent to Dr. Amy Hackett, c/o Professor Mary Hartman, Department of History, Douglass College, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST (Continued)

All persons interested in being appointed to OAH Committees are urged to send their vita (and preferences for positions if any) to D'Ann Campbell, Chair, OAH Committee on the Status of Women, Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

The Women's Labor History Film Project is happy to share with you news of an important new film in women's and labor history. With Babies and Banners is a 35 minute, 16 mm, color documentary which highlights women's critical role in the Flint Sit Down Strike of 1937, and the formation of the Women's Emergency Brigade. The film is about the changes which took place in the lives of these women as they broke out of the isolation of their homes and organized themselves in support of the strike. The film will be ready for distribution in April 1978. The WLHP is located at 1735 New Hampshire Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20009. For information regarding distribution contact Lyn Goldfarb, 108 Museum Annex, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48109.

Karen Offen has organized the special double issue of the Third Republic/Troisieme Republique (Nos. 3-4) around the theme "Aspects of the Woman Question during the Third Republic." Her contribution to the issue is "The Woman Question as a Social Issue in Republican France," with bibliographical essay. The special issue may be had by subscription to TR/TR: write Department of History, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. The low rates are \$5.00 for one year; \$9.00 for two.

### Victorian Studies People

Nineteenth century specialists in English and Anglo-American history are considering the formation of a Western Region Victorian Studies Association on the model of the Victorian Studies groups of the East and Midwest (newly formed).

The plan to gauge the interest of scholars in the western states was hatched at the business meeting of the Midwest meeting, November 19th in Chicago, when attendees from California noted that future VS meetings were planned to take place mainly east of Chicago. West area people realized that they would always have to travel far for conferences if they did not form their own group.

Because of the high interest of most of the VS groups in women's history, and the focus on questions about women at the Chicago meeting, it is especially important for those of us who are specializing in women-in-history research to consider forming a regional association whose meetings will provide opportunity for exchange of ideas. The example of the Chicago meeting will serve to illustrate this point. The MVSA met in joint sponsorship with the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals. The theme of the VS portion of the meeting was "A Strange Diagonal--From Harriet Taylor Mill to S.W. Gilbert." The RSVP portion of the program included two women's history/women in lieterature papers: "A Glossary of Prudery: Rhoda Broughton's Not Wisely but Too Well" by Sally Mitchell and "The Significance of the Maiden Tribute of Modern Babylon" by Ann Robson. Attendance was fairly well divided between history and English Lit scholars, and the quality of the program as a whole was excellent. Most aspects of Victorian studies were represented in the group.

WCAWH members who are interested in discussing the possibility of forming a Western Association for interdisciplinary sharing of interest in Victorian Studies generally, including the history of women in the Victorian Age, please contact Penny Kanner at WCAWH address. I will be working on this with Linda Bunnell Jones (California State Universities and Colleges), English Literature specialist.

ITEMS OF INTEREST (Continued)

New Organization: Women in Business and Economic History

At the February 1977 meeting of the Business History Conference, Barbara Kohn, Martha Trescott, Susan Krooss, and others formed a new network of professional women. The group plans to meet again in the spring, 1978, at the Eleutherian Mills Library and Hagley Museum, Wilmington, Delaware. WIBEH seeks research papers on topics related to women's work and roles in the history of business enterprise, industry, and the economy at large, in the U.S. or elsewhere. If you are interested in associating with this group or presenting papers, write Martha Trescott, 406 E. Green, Apt. 101, Urbana, IL 61801.

1978 MEMBERSHIP FORM

## Conference Group in Women's History

newsletter: affiliated with the coordinating committee on women in the historical profession

1. (check one) I  would like to renew my membership;  
 I am a new member  Library or archive  
 Organization exchanging mailings
  2. Name \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Mailing address- \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  4. Current position and institutional affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  5. Research and teaching fields \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  6. Professional news (for Newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  7. Are you currently a member of the AHA?  OAH?  ASA?   
Other historical associations? \_\_\_\_\_
  8. Can you give time to CCWHP activities, either as a future officer or as a contributor to the publications? We would very much like to have articles contributed by members on matters concerning the status of women in the historical profession in their areas of the country. The editors of the Conference Group in Women's History would also like to have your input.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  9. My interest is in: CCWHP & CCWH  CCWHP only  CCWH only   
\_\_\_\_\_
- Membership Rates (per year): \$12 Tenured faculty  
9 Non-tenured faculty and employed persons  
5 Graduate students and unemployed persons

PLEASE make check or money order payable to CCWHP and return with this form to the Membership Secretary and Treasurer: Anita Rapone, 226 Lafayette Street, NY, NY 10012

## CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

### Announcements:

Los Angeles members of the WCAWH will be gathering for several evenings in the coming six months. The program plans include January 20, slides about China and Chinese women; February 10, women in agricultural societies; May 26, funding and grants for women historians. For more details, contact Alice Clement (213/454-1801). Both members and non-members of the WCAWH are invited.

The Third Annual European Studies Conference will be held on October 12, 13, and 14, 1978 in Omaha, Nebraska. This conference, sponsored by the University of Nebraska at Omaha, is to be an interdisciplinary meeting with sessions devoted to current research, research techniques, and teaching methodologies, as well as to traditional topics. Abstracts of papers should be submitted by May 1, 1978, to Professors Garcia and Jung, Department of Foreign Languages, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska, 68101.

The IVth Berkshire Conference of Women's History will be held at Mt. Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts, on August 23-25, 1977. Persons who want to receive the program which will include local arrangements information should send their names to Dr. Gabrielle Spiegel, History Dept., University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. Program information will be mailed in the spring 1978.

The 1978 Organization of American Historians Program Committee will begin meeting November, 1977. Final deadline for submission of paper proposals probably will be March 30, 1978. Complete sessions (lining up possible commentators and chairs improve your chances) are preferred. Send proposals to: Michael Greenberg, Department of History, CUNY, St. George Campus, 130 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island, New York, 10301.

Announcements of additional conferences may be found in the newsletter of the Conference Group in Women's History.

## GRANTS

With the support of a generous grant from the Monticello College Foundation, the Newberry Library will offer for the first time a six-month fellowship for work in residence at the Newberry by a woman scholar. The stipend will be \$6,500. Applicants must have the Ph.D. The award is designed primarily for younger women whose work gives clear promise of scholarly productivity and whose career would be significantly enhanced by six months of research and writing. Preference will be given to applicants whose scholarship is particularly concerned with the study of women, but study may be proposed in any field appropriate to the Newberry's collections. Completed applications due March 15, 1978. For additional information and application forms, write to: Committee on Awards, The Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

## Reports:

The National Women's Conference that met in Houston on November 18-21, 1977, was widely reported in the press. Thousands of women, delegates and observers, from diverse backgrounds and representing different political perspectives, met to discuss women's issues. A part of the conference of particular interest to historians is the oral history project that sought to record the views of the variety of participants: what brought them there, what they thought of the issues before the delegates, what grass-roots developments were occurring in their home states. Perhaps 600 people were interviewed by the team of 30 oral historians, providing a wealth of information to be deposited in the National Archives for use by future historians.

Readers are directed to the newsletter of the Conference Group in Women's History for reports of several conferences, including "Women and Power," held in College Park, Maryland; the St. Paul, Minnesota, conference on the history of women; the "Second European Studies Conference"; the joint Latin American Studies Association and African Studies Association meeting; and the Southern History Association conference.

The West Coast Association-sponsored session at the Pacific Coast Branch meeting of the AHA, held in August at Northern Arizona State University, proved to be as popular as any, if an attendance of thirty-five plus is any indicator. The subjects of "Suffrage and Equality in the United States" were discussed in different ways by Dr. Beverly Beeton (University of Utah) and Dr. Constance Aston Myers. Dr. Beeton reported her research on "The Women Suffrage Movement and the Enfranchisement of Women in Nineteenth-Century American West," while Dr. Myers (North Charleston, S.C.) discussed the rhetoric related to both women suffrage and the ERA in "God, Darwin, and the Founding Fathers: Voices of Resistance to the Women Suffrage and Equal Rights Amendment." Ann Wiederrecht (U.C. , Santa Barbara) and Dr. Carl Degler (Stanford) provided insightful comments on these two papers. The WCAWH luncheon crowd of twenty-eight, among whom was the PCB president Wilbur Jacobs, heard Dr. Veronica Tiller (U. of Utah) describe the historiography of Indian women. She made very clear the difficulties facing those who plan to research and write the histories of native American women.

Call for Papers  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Anyone wishing to present a paper or produce a panel for the 1978 PCB meeting in San Francisco must immediately inform Rosemary Masek. The deadline for submitting proposals is mid-January. PCB meets August 17th to 19th on the University of San Francisco campus.



QUESTIONNAIRE

- Agree      Disagree      The WCAWH should respond affirmatively to the invitation from CCWHP to participate more actively within its framework.
- For example, WCAWH should contribute a group membership fee to CCWHP.
- Agree      Disagree      WCAWH should support the Pacific Southwest Regional Women's Studies Association.
- For example, WCAWH should contribute a group membership fee to PSRWSA.
- Agree      Disagree      The WCAWH should support a boycott of convention sites in states which have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment.
- Agree      Disagree      As a member, I support the action taken at the last annual conference concerning the Bakke case (i.e., The WCAWH opposes the Bakke decision eliminating, on the grounds of "reverse discrimination," affirmative action and minority programs on college campuses). See the latest MS. magazine for a discussion of the issue.
- Agree      Disagree      As a member, I support the resolution passed at the last annual conference opposing cutbacks in the educational programs in the UC and CSU systems.
- Status:      Fulltime faculty \_\_\_\_\_
- Part time faculty \_\_\_\_\_
- Graduate student MA \_\_\_ Ph.D \_\_\_

DUES for 1978 should be paid as soon as possible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Faculty: Job Title \_\_\_\_\_ Subject \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_ Unemployed

Fields of Interest \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$5 for employed persons; \$2 for students and unemployed

Mail to: Penny Kanner, 467 Comstock, Los Angeles, California 90024

CHECKLIST--How about sending us: \_\_\_\_ recommendations for members of a nominating committee, \_\_\_\_ nominees for next year's election of officers, \_\_\_\_ papers for the 1978 conference, \_\_\_\_ articles for the next newsletter.



467 Comstock Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Susan Bell  
8 Montecito Rd.  
Woodside, Ca. 94062

Address change requested