Greetings from Joanna Cowden

For us here at CSU, Chico the spring semester ended two months ago. Summertime with its shifted focus, leisurely pace and sweltering temperatures is upon us. I am currently doing a slight revision on an article, writing up a script for a TV program on historians and their research—and cleaning out my kitchen cabinets—after five years.

Looking back to April and the 1979 meeting, I want to repeat my thanks to Frances Keller, Program Coordinator, and to Estelle Friedman who was our woman-on-the-spot in Oakland, responsible for arrangements at Mills College. Both the topical approach to the program and the setting were eminently right for a meeting such as ours.

News at this time is a bit scarce but there are two items: one decided and one pending. First, after consulting with some members of the executive board, we decided that this organization should contribute $50 to Dana Cook, a student at Occidental College, who recently won the Phi Alpha Theta prize for the best undergraduate paper submitted at the California-Nevada conference. Consequently, Ms. Cook was invited by the Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA to present her paper at the Hawaii meeting in August. Unfortunately, she did not have the money to travel to Hawaii. So fellow students, faculty and administrators at Occidental established a Dana Cook fund and contributed to it. Penny Kanner then suggested that the OAH contribute an appropriate sum and this was done. Ms. Cook was a student of Penny's and originally submitted this paper to her as part of her course work. The paper is titled "Towards An Understanding of the Phenomenon of Miscegenation in the Old South: A Survey of Attitudes, Policies and Penalties."

Second item: I have been in close contact with Alice Clement who in turn is consulting Debbie Kennel and Penny Kanner, my Los Angeles contacts, to arrange a place for our meeting next spring. We have now made what we assume will be the final arrangements and await the arrival of a contact. Our plan, soon to be confirmed, is to hold the 1980 meeting on March 7-9 in Aldersgate, a commodious Victorian home in Pacific Palisades (Los Angeles environs) which will accommodate all who require lodgings and meals. We will also make use of the adjacent Pacific Palisades Women's Club, a large building, which we will use for meeting space and for luncheon on Saturday. Please look for further details in the next Newsletter.

Let me remind members that at our last business meeting held at Mills College, we decided that henceforth we will convene in late February or early March rather than April. April is an incredibly busy month for most of us because it incorporates the OAH meeting, Passover and Easter and a number of smaller meetings.

May the remainder of your summer be relaxed and/or productive.

Post-Presidential Message

As we look back on the past year, we can point to several advances for ourselves as women historians. The successful change of the position of the AHA Council to one of support for the boycott of anti-ERA states as convention sites is to be applauded. As outgoing President of the WCWH, I thank those of you who aided Joan Hoff Wilson, the President of the Coordinating Committee on Women in the Historical Profession (CWHF), in the boycott campaign. Second, Gerda Lerner's selection as Resident-Elect of the OAH marks the culmination of work within that organization for the recognition of women historians and women's history.
POST-PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE, cont.

Within our own group, 1978-79 witnessed a fine conference at Mills College (see D'Ann Campbell's report in this newsletter) and, on a more mundane level, success in our effort to formalize and update the constitution. At the business meeting of the April conference, the membership present voted to affirm the proposed substitute constitution presented in earlier copies of the newsletter with slight modifications. The business meeting also asked next year's conference planners to consider a date in Late February, given the potential conflicts with Easter, Passover, and the Czech and Victorian Studies conferences during our traditional month of April.

In closing, I wish the best of luck to the new President Joanna Cowden and the other officers. I also encourage you all to subscribe to the newsletter of the COAH and the Conference Group in Women's History (CGWH), which I have found an invaluable source of information about the profession. Membership ($12 tenured faculty, $9 non-tenured faculty, $5 grad students and unemployed persons) should be sent to Anita Rapone, Matted Route #8, Box 373, Plattsburgh, NY 12901.

WCAH BUSINESS MEETING APRIL 1979

After discussion, the proposed new constitution was adopted with the following amendments:

1. To Article 4, Sec. 3. shall be added a Second Vice-President, a Newsletter Co-Editor and a Social and Political Action Coordinator.

That the duties under Article 6, Sec. 2 and 4, defining the V.P. and Newsletter editor's duties apply to the respective new offices.

That the duties of the Social and Political Action Coordinator be as follows: The SPAC shall monitor issues and keep the members of the organization abreast of developments and apprise of the need for action in matters affecting their roles as historians, teachers, researchers and professional women through the newsletter.

2. In recognition of the past contributions, experience and concern of previous presidents of the WCAH, that we add to Article 4, Sec. 5. Past Presidents of the WCAH are ex officio members and advisors to the Executive Board of the Association.

SISTERSHOD AND SCHOLARSHIP: HAM IN HAM: A REPORT OF THE WEST COAST ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HISTORIANS' ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

(Reprinted from "Newsletter" of the COAH)

Deep in Oakland apart from the stream of urban traffic and amid the splendor of Julia Morgan's architectural achievements, the WCAH held its eleventh annual meeting at Mills College. Out of towners stayed in dormitories and ate breakfast on the open air veranda. For those of us from the Midwest, some signs of spring were a cultural shock. A pity that there weren't more such "foreigners" in attendance.

The Conference theme was "The Historian and the Craft of History." The program committee structured the morning sessions as "Framework sessions," "Concepts" or "Methods" and the afternoon sessions as "Filling the Frames." The format was original and intriguing, the conference was well organized. Morning sessions included "The Historian in Museums and Archives," "The Historian as Political Activist," "The Historian of Racial and Ethnic Struggles," "The Historian and Methods of Research," "The Historian and Quantitative Techniques in Women's History," "The Historian and Techniques of Oral History," "The Historian and Psycho-Historical and Socio-Biological Approaches." The afternoon sessions were concrete examples of the morning conceptual and methodological topics. The audience served as the commentators.

In addition to the sessions described above, the program began with an evening session on "The Historian and Her Alternatives" and "Academic Couples," included a special afternoon reception "Conversation with Ella Wolff" with Bertram Wolff, author of Three Who Make a Revolution, and evening with a witty "Bulbul, A Feminist Cartoonist," and finally a brunch panel the following morning with Joan Hoff Wilson speaking on "The State of Women in the Historical Profession, Where Do We Go and How Do We Get There?" Those wishing a break from formal papers could attend a guided tour of the Julia Morgan Buildings on campus.

As is possible but not necessarily assured in such small-scale conferences, the papers and discussions were uniformly high in quality. It follows that the biggest complaint heard was for more time and less sessions scheduled at the same time. Indeed 17 sessions scheduled at the same time in the afternoon, two time slots with nine sessions each would have doubled the attendance at each session. The papers deserved large audiences and dividing 100 people 17 ways didn't do such sessions full justice. With 20-20 hindsight we can see that Ella Wolff would have made a good luncheon speaker which would have freed afternoon time for more papers. But how many of us can run conferences where the complaint is too many conflicting good things in which to participate?

The speech by Sister Magdalene Coughlin, President of Mount St. Mary's College was a justification of history as an essential tool to any broad cultural education. When Joan Hoff Wilson and Jess Flemion talked about their own personal and professional backgrounds, it was clear that the history profession had opened its doors or had them forced open even by "Bullocks." And Joan's brunch talk which listed a number of key recent victories in the OAH and the successful ERA boycott campaign in the AHA left one feeling mildly optimistic about the future of women in our
REPORT OF THE WCAH ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING, cont.

profession.

But the session on "Academic Couples" highlighted the tension generated and fostered by the scarcity of jobs at least the types of full-time teaching positions which seemed a necessary requisite for any "self-respecting" historian. The issue of shared appointments, special arrangements for spouses versus competitive tenure-track part-time appointments versus research appointments versus public historian appointments all surfaced. The crisis of our profession is real and most of us stand at the crossroads still not sure where we must go. Yet nowhere did I find surfacing the tension between those with full-time teaching appointments versus the rest of us—employed, under-employed, mis-employed or unemployed. It was as if through cooperation and understanding and above all else the maintenance of top quality standards in research and writing, we were going to survive, i.e., sisterhood and scholarship, hand in hand.

Frances Richardson Keller and the Program Committee she coordinated and Estelle Freeman who coordinated the Local Arrangements deserve high honors and a vote of thanks. In fact, at the conference end, they were given a bottle of champagne. We need more such conferences, more such chances to share, to listen, to comment, to question and to critique.

—D'Ann Campbell, Associate Director, The Newberry Library Family and Community History Center, Chicago, Illinois

LETTER TO JOAN W. SCOTT, CHAIR, AHA COMMITTEE ON WOMEN HISTORIANS, JUNE 23, 1979

At the April conference of the West Coast Association of Women Historians a session devoted to the discussion of the problems of "Academic Couples" generated much interest. Out of that session came a suggestion that your committee investigate the problems that face couples both of whom are historians seeking employment. While not the majority of historians, this category represents a significant portion of the profession. And, although the problem is not exclusively a "women's problem," the difficulties of finding two good jobs in these hard times often fall heavier on women, given the continuing pattern of discrimination and inequities.

Thus, the WCAH asks that the CH initiate a formal consideration of the problems facing academic couples. Specifically, it should:
1. investigate the extent of the problem within the historical profession: what number of employed historians are married to or otherwise tied to an unemployed or underemployed historian who is seeking fulltime or secure parttime employment? what portion of un- or underemployed historians are limited in their geographic or professional mobility because they are tied to another historian or other academic?
2. investigate what remedies have been generated: how have institutions responded to requests for a shared position, for parttime tenure, or other suggested solutions? What are the obstacles to these or other solutions, both for the institution and for the individuals?
3. make recommendations to the AHA

We hope that this issue will be discussed within the other affiliates as well as by the Committee on Women Historians. As we see the problem as a very complex one with no easy answers. Nonetheless, without serious consideration of the extent of the problem and the structural nature of the problem and its potential solutions, we will not be able to eliminate the situation of women and men in academic couples.

For the WCAH,

J. G. Strobel, Past President

NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE: REPORT FROM FEG

The NSWCA celebrated its first annual conference at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, from May 30 to June 3. I say celebrated because of spirit and energy released by the bringing together of over 1000 feminist educators from myriad institutions. As one of the conference organizers I may have been a prejudiced participant observer. But many others voiced my own excitement: a "sensory overload" claimed one woman, referring to the combination of panels, continual film-showings, dramatic performances and a concert.

The NSWCA's vision of integrating the academy and the activist, of uniting teachers from pre-K through 12 grades with university teachers and feminist educators in community programs, was only partially achieved. But the conference succeeded in offering a forum for assessing the progress of women's studies in the past ten years. Panels addressed programmatic issues, curriculum and teaching problems, new research and theory in various disciplines (among them history), and community projects.

Significantly, the most controversial areas involved minority and Third World women. Mirroring our society at large, the attendance was very largely white women. The Third World Caucus noted the relatively small amount of programming that concerned minority women and the irritating, if unconscious, articulation of racist attitudes on the part of several white panelists. The presence of representatives from the Women in Development Office of the Agency for International Development (AID) on the program and in the exhibit area provoked heated response from many circles. Critics of AID argued that the well-meaning WID who sought to have foreign aid reach Third World women, could at best only integrate such women into a dependent position within a capitalist world economy. Defenders offered a tautology-from-within strategy for social change.

In the midst of the heated discussion, plans were formed for the ongoing work of the organization (begun in
NMSA CONVENTION, cont.

1977) and for the next conference, to be held at Indiana University, Bloomington, May 16-20. For information regarding membership in and activities of the NMSA, contact Elaine Reuben, Coordinator, National Women's Studies Association, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742.

Peg Strobel

NOTES OF MEMBERS FROM PENNY

Peg Strobel has become the Director of the Women's Studies Program and Associate Professor of Women's Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle (Chicago, IL 60682). Her book, Muslim Women in Mombasa, 1899-1976, published by Yale University Press, is scheduled for release this fall.

Ruth B. Jessell (English Department, UCLA) has been awarded the coveted Guggenheim Fellowship for research for her study, "Marriage Proposal Scenes in English Fiction."

Marilyn Garber (CSU Dominguez Hills) passed the California Bar and combines the activities as a lawyer with her career as historian. In addition to teaching in the history department (U.S.; History of Law; Colonial Labor Law; Women and the Law) she is starting a Legal Services Research Center at CSUDH which will serve students, train paralegal interns and become the base of social science, hist — 2 and legal research.

Maryanne Horowitz (Occidental College) has been promoted to Associate Professor. During 1979-80 she will conduct research on the East Coast and teach as a Research Associate in the Theology Department of the Harvard Divinity School.

Joyce Duncan Falk (Director, American Bibliographical Center, Clio Press, Santa Barbara) has had a new article published: "Research Opportunities at the Theater Institute Library, Barcelona," It appears in Performing Arts Resources, 4 (1978) pp. 9-27. On March 9, 1979 she reviewed data archives and online bibliographic database in a commentary on three papers covering information retrieval and the historian. This was at the Missouri Valley History Conference, Omaha, Nebraska.

Paula Gillett (UC Santa Cruz, College V) has completed her report, "Careers for Historians." This is an analysis of the results of a project, funded by the Graduate Division of UC Berkeley, to investigate non-teaching careers which holders of graduate degrees in history are especially well qualified to fulfill. Paula was director of the project.

Barb Oakes Woods' fine contributions to the activities of the Los Angeles group of WCAH will be missed. (So will Barb herself.) She has moved to 1009 James Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn 55403.

Louise Miller was appointed last October to fill a vacant seat on the City Council in San Diego and will be running for election this fall. Good luck, Louise!

Melinda Young Frye (Consulting Curator for Cultural History) has completed research and planning for a two-year project to study the career of pioneering ethnographic collector and museum curator, Charles P. Wilcomb who was founder of San Francisco's Golden Gate Park Museum (now the DeYoung Museum) and the Oakland Park Museum.

Sandra Miller (208 Fordham Drive, Davis, CA 95616) is moving ahead with "preliminaries" involving the establishment of an Institute for Research in History. (See short article in Newsletter of December '78, p. 10.)

Martha Vosler (English Department, CSU Fullerton), Susan Gross Bell (Crow, Stanford) and Kathleen Casey (Women's Studies Program, UCLA) will be among our members researching in England this summer. (I expect to have recovered completely by mid-July so that I can join them— and you?)

This column is dependent upon correspondence from members. Do write me at WCAH address (667 Comstock Avenue, LA. 90034) or at History Department, Occidental College (1800 Campus Road, LA. CA 90041).

NEWS:

Joan Hoff Wilson is searching for an editor for a women's history calendar for 1980. The calendar will contain data on American and/or foreign women. Until she finds an editor any suggestions for inclusion should be sent to Joan at: Woodrow Wilson Center, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., 20560.

All Contributions will be anonymous (i.e. no credit for data submitted), however, if successful this will be the first women's history calendar compiled exclusively by women historians.

Gerda Lerner is slated to become president of the OAH in 1981. She would like to know the priorities and concerns of women members of the OAH and what they would like to see her try to achieve through the organization. Please write to her at Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, N.Y., 10708.
AERA AND WOMEN EDUCATORS

(Reprinted from the announcement of award winners at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, April 8-12, 1979.)

In order to encourage the production and dissemination of research on women and education, Women Educators, a group of educators whose purpose is to provide a mechanism for promoting equality of opportunity at all levels, for women in the American Educational Research Association and generally in the field of educational research, instituted a research on women in education award in 1978.

The quality of the entries was such that 19 of the original 29 entries received further consideration. One entry was unanimously recommended by all five reviewers as at least the Honorable Mention level, and was also the only entry that a majority of reviewers recommended as the Award winner. That entry, the Award winner, is the report "The Study of the Academic Employment Patterns of Women in Science and Engineering," by Clare Rose, Sally Ann Memminger, and Glenn E. Myrick, from the Evaluation and Training Institute. The study was funded by NSF (Grant No. SRS-76-82705 and SRS-77-16927). Summaries of the research are available from the authors at: Evaluation and Training Institute, 12401 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA. 90025. Two additional entries received recommendations by four of the five reviewers at least the Honorable Mention level. These two entries are the recipients of Honorable Mention in the Second Annual Research on Women in Education Award. They are: "Women's Wives and the Problem of Perceiving Competence" by Bertrice Bartlett and Elizabeth Barnes, of Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri, and "But We Will Persist: A Comparative Research Report on the Status of Women in Academe," by Suzanne Howard, Assistant Director of Program-Education, of the American Association of University Women. The latter study was funded in part by a grant from the Ellis L. Phillips Foundation. Copies of the report are available from the AAW Sales Office, 2401 Virginia Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C., 20037.

CONFERENCES

BERKSHIRE CONFERENCE OF WOMEN HISTORIANS — The Fifth Berkshire Conference on Women's History will hold its fifth conference on Women's History at Vassar College in June 1981. Panel proposals are invited from interested researchers. These can be in the form of panels, workshops or papers. Panel proposals should include a title indicating the theme of the panel, names of participants and titles of their papers, and names of commentators and chairpersons. Proposals should include a brief abstract of each paper and the address, phone number, and brief vita of each participant. Include a self-addressed postcard for acknowledging receipt of proposals. Additional direct mail and phone contact panel packages are particularly welcome. Please submit to JoAnn McNamara, 500 West 11th St., New York, NY, 10025 by December 15, 1979 (late date March 15, 1980).

BRITISH STUDIES

The regional Northwest Conference of British Studies and the National Conference of British Studies will be meeting concurrently, October 18 to 20, 1979, at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia. The regional program will include two joint sessions with the National Conference of British Studies as well as independent sessions. The joint sessions will be concerned with political violence in Britain in the early modern period. The program committee for the regional conference has suggested themes for its sessions the family and children in British history and literature. — Charles Hamilton, Regional Program Chairman, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C., Canada V3A 1S5.

HISTORY OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A national conference in women's history entitled "Women in New Worlds: Historical Perspectives on the United Methodist Tradition" will be convened by the Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church under the auspices of its Women's History Project, on February 1-3, 1980, in Cincinnati, Ohio, at the Netherland Hilton Hotel. The scholarly public is cordially invited to attend. A published volume of articles is expected to result. Historians engaged in research which would be appropriate for inclusion are welcome to submit a one-page prospectus of a proposed paper with their curriculum vitae to the Project Coordinator before August 1, 1979.

Further information on the conference may be obtained from Ms. Hilah F. Thomas, Project Coordinator, Women's History Project of the United Methodist Church, Room 1700-B, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027.

SOUTHERN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Contact A. Elizabeth Taylor, Box 23687, Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas, 76209 for pertinent information.

PCB/AHA

The 1979 meeting of the PCB/AHA will be held August 9-12 in Hawaii. Rex A. Wack-Chairman, Dept. of History, University of Hawaii at Manoa.

1980 MEETING

BRAINSTORM: IDEAS FOR TOPICS, PAPERS, AND PARTICIPANTS ARE NEEDED FOR THE NEXT 1980 CONFERENCE. PLEASE WRITE OR CALL BETSY PERRY, PROGRAM COORDINATOR WITH YOUR SUGGESTIONS. CALL (213) 257-4986, OR WRITE 296 REDWOOD DRIVE, PASADENA, CA. 91105. ANY AND ALL SUGGESTIONS ACCEPTED HAPPILY!
But What Will Persist, a new report on the status of women in academe, has been published by the American Association of University Women under the direction of Suzanne Howard. Using a sample of 600 four-year colleges and universities, the report concludes that women in higher education are far from achieving equal status with men despite six years of affirmative action, Title IX and equal opportunity laws. Most depressing: the statistic for the percentage of female full-time faculty has not budged from the 25 percent it was in 1970. The report is available from the AAUW, 2401 Virginia Ave., NW Washington, DC 20037, at $8.50, prepaid.

EXTRACT FROM "THE SUMP" BY MARY BINGHAM

The following organizations have endorsed the ERA boycott resolution: OAH, AHA, Social Science History Association, Society for the Historians of American Foreign Relations, Oral History Assoc., Italian American Historical Assoc., Southern Historical Assoc., and Society of American Archivists.

PUBLICATIONS:


Annual subscription rate: $10; for individuals, $16 for libraries and institutions; single copy rate: $4 (individuals), $6 (libraries).

SEXISM IN ACADEME

A candidate for a job in education at an eastern university was asked the following questions in her interview:

1. Do you have "command presence"? (It was explained, following her inquiry that "command presence" was a Midwest term for an ability to command respect.)

2. Were you a cheerleader in college?

3. Have you ever taken ballet? Lesongs?

4. "Can you love the white male?" When she asked what this question meant, it was elaborated, "Can you love the white male as much as you love women?"

Remarkably, she must have answered the questions correctly, whatever the proper answers might be to such questions, for she was offered the job.

---Peg

To comply with affirmative action guidelines the above university should ask the same questions of male candidates. It would make an interesting interview. Think about it!

---Editor

LA LOCAL of WCAWH will help Gail Escobar and others "up north" to form a statewide organization, similar to the NY. Based Center for Historical Research, to aid women historians with no (or marginal) academic affiliation in obtaining research grants, help in publishing, etc. This could be an invaluable aid to many who must practice "without portfolio." Interest is high. Hope to print further information in next newsletter. To participate in the L.A. area contact: Alice Clement (213) 454-1801, or Emily Abel (213) 395-0674.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name____________________________________Institution__________________________

Home Address_________________________________________Phone_______________________

City________________Strto________________Zip________________________

Mail tor________________________________________

Faculty: Job Title________________________Subject________________________

Student _____ Unemployed____ Non-teaching historian________________________

Fields of interest________________________________________

DUES: $5 for employed persons; $2 for students and unemployed

Send directly to Debbie Kennel, 1230 Norman Place, L.A., CA 90049

Copy for the next Newsletter should be sent to Jackie Barnhart, Dept. of History, CSU, Chico, Calif. 95929.

The numbers in the upper right-hand corner of the label indicate the last year in which dues were paid. Please pay up—the dues are a bargain, considering the information provided by the Newsletter.

WEST COAST ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HISTORIANS

467 COMSTOCK AVENUE / LOS ANGELES, CA. 90024

Susan Bell
8 Montecito Rd.
Woodside, CA 94062

Address Change Requested