



THE WOMAN'S COLLECTION
Texas Woman's University
Denton, Texas

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NEWSLETTER

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: A REPORT FROM FRANCES

To those who have recently joined us and to our members of long standing, the most cordial of greetings. In a crucially important year we hope you will use your organization and this newsletter. We hope you will take an active part in helping your organization to grow. We hope you will perceive and enjoy the expanded horizons opening before us.

Last year when Penny Kanner was president we changed our name to become the Western Association of Women Historians and we reached a zenith in our early development: we had built an organization, we had compiled a record of achievements. The talented writers and speakers among us had projected a vision of women's full participation in work and in the world. And we had become solvent, with a balance on the respectable side of our bank account. Rousing accomplishments?

Yet despite these successes the gains for which we have struggled stand in peril. As individuals and as an organization we face stresses, uncertainties, diminutions of freedoms, even likely defeats in areas as vital as ERA. Such circumstances mandate new roles for women historians, as they indicate new uses for our training and our experience. We must survive in a climate of officially endorsed economy, an economy of cutbacks that by any name falls heavily upon us. More than that. We must achieve in a period of contractions what our predecessors began over a hundred years ago. We must contribute those conspicuously missing ingredients now understood as vital components of human histories.

Can we meet these demands? The answer is plain: Alone, we cannot. We must therefore build a new consensus of culture. How can we do this? We must include and honor the needs of our sisters outside the academy and of our sisters in every endeavor, in every religious, racial, and ethnic situation. We must make room for broad differences in cultural orientation. We must consolidate the support of housewives, politicians, working women, working men, church people; most of all we must consolidate the support of men of good will. We must refuse to allow the consensus of culture that does exist to be fragmented by those who raise specters of polarities that do not exist. Particularly we practitioners of the historical arts must set the records straight: There never existed a fundamental antagonism between feminists of both sexes and the institution of the family, in whatever form that institution is manifest. There never was an immutable law that sexual inequalities have to characterize society either within or beyond the family. There never was a denial of the right to bear and to nurture children. I am suggesting an outreach for us. American women historians have a vital role to play in making these truths evident and in relating them to the foundations of our society. I am suggesting a prospectus of directions for the '80s.

Becoming effective in ways outlined above will take time and thought. For the immediate future there is inviting news. Our conference next spring will take place over the weekend of May 20-22 in the beautiful settings provided by the Huntington Library in Los Angeles, California. With selfless dedication Betsy Perry, Penny, and others have explored accommodations; they are delightful, less expensive than we might have feared, promising in affording us those opportunities to relate to one another we have come to cherish. Carole Hicke will provide full details in our next newsletter, including plans for housing everyone who wishes to come. Let me tell you too that Francesca Miller and her Program Committee are working with great diligence. The word from them is that we will present a most exciting offering, in which many of us will take a part, and which the rest of us will not want to miss. Look for details in future newsletters. I hope that in Los Angeles we can develop discussions of directions for ourselves and our organization. I hope we have only begun to discover the influence of which we are capable. Let us hear your thoughts.

THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HISTORIANS presents CONFERENCE XIV

DIRECTIONS IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH 1982

May 21-22-23

at THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, San Marino, California

CALL FOR PAPERS! Please direct all program suggestions and proposals for papers, panels, and workshops to:

Francesca Miller, Conference Program Chair
908 Fordham Drive
Davis, California 95616
(916) 756-1250

DEADLINE: February 1, 1982. The program committee requests that proposals be submitted in duplicate, and that a current curriculum vita for each participant be attached. Please include a brief paragraph abstracted from each c.v. for use in the program notes. We are exploring the possibility of publishing selected proceedings from Conference XIV.

This message comes from our immediate Past-President, Penny **Kanner**: Dear Friends and Colleagues of WAWH: Many thanks for your award to me of the beautiful engraved tray commemorating my service to WAWH. I will always remember with loving appreciation the presentation of the award at our meeting at Asilomar. The tray symbolizes one of the most satisfying experiences of my professional life. I cherish your thoughtfulness in providing me with the reasured symbol.

JOB OPENING: Dept of History, Pomona College; tenure track position in Medieval History beginning academic year 1982/1983, for teaching in both Latin West and Greek East. Write Prof. Robert L. Woods, Jr., Medieval History Search Committee, Dept of History, Pomona College, Claremont, CA 91711.

CALLS FOR PAPERS.: The Missouri Valley History Conference will be held **March 11-13, 1982**, in Omaha, NE. Papers and sessions are presented on topics in virtually every field of history, in various area and interdisciplinary studies, and on questions of research, quantification, and teaching methodology. Proposals for panel, papers, and commentators should be submitted by **Dec 11, 1981**, to Prof. Bruce M. **Garver**, Dept of History, U. of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE 68182.

The National Women's Studies Assoc. is calling for papers from historians for the Conference June 16-20, 1982, at **Humbolt State U.**, Arcata, CA. The theme is "Feminist Connections Throughout Education." Interested scholars can write to Phyllis Chinn, Women's Studies, **Humbolt State U.**, Arcata, **CA 95521** for further info.

The Women Historians of the Midwest are sponsoring a Conference on the History of Women to be held at the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota, April 30-May 2, 1982. Persons who wish to present papers or to suggest topics for conference sessions should send two copies of their one-page abstract by Nov 1 to: Conference on **the History of Women**, The College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota 55105.

The Midwest Victorian Studies Assoc. invites papers for its April 30-May 1, 1982, meeting to be held in conjunction with the Annual Theatre History Conference at the Theatre Research Institute, Ohio State University. The theme will be Victorian Humor. Papers or detailed abstracts should be sent by **Dec 1, 1981**, to Frederick Kirchhoff, Dept of English and Linguistics, Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805. A stamped, self-addressed envelope should be included if the return of a manuscript is desired.

The Modern Language Assoc. is calling for papers on "Women's Self-Expression in Religious Literature, Medieval to 19th Century" for a proposed special session to be held **Dec 1982** in Los Angeles. Ten pages maximum; abstracts by **Dec 15**; papers by **Mar 1, 1982**. Sent to: Gail Berkeley (Dept of English, Reed College) or Mitzi Myers (Dept of English, **UCLA**). Participants must be members of MLA at time of presentation. The session is open to interdisciplinary approaches.

THE FUNDING CRISIS IN CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EDUCATION: The following remarks were part of a panel at the WAWH conference presented by Virginia Mulrooney, Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles Community College Guild/AFT, and Jess Flemion, President, United Professors of California, San Diego State University.

Now, more than ever before, Californians will have to ask themselves if there is life after Proposition 13. For three budget years the effects of the massive property tax reduction voted in June of 1978 have been delayed by enormous state budget surpluses which have been used to supplement the cost of public services on the local and county level. This cushion is now gone. The results are clear enough. The very day that the WAWH conference at Asilomar opened, California newspapers were headlining the crisis in public education with stories about the thousands of layoff notices being sent to public school teachers across the state. Against this background the panelists discussed the financial prospects of higher education in the current and coming years.

California's three tiered system of higher education has been affected differently by the reduction of property taxes, the indexing of state income tax and the prohibition against tax surpluses--all of which are part of California's tax revolt. The 9-campus University of California system has been affected less immediately and directly because more than half of its monies are derived from sources other than state level decisions. Nevertheless, the current budget, approved in mid-June, provides only a 1% increase in state funding while double digit inflation continues to seriously erode the purchasing power of the university.

The SCUC system, 19 campuses servicing 230,000 students, dependent for more than 70% of its budget on the state, has experienced serious erosion of its funding level since Proposition 13 passed. The first two years of budgets since 1978 provided total budget increases of 5% when inflation increased prices by 23%. The current budget recently approved for 1981-82 provides a 1.5% decrease over current spending.

The Community Colleges are an entirely different complex of educational institutions and have been most immediately and catastrophically affected by Proposition 13 because 70% of their funding, in June of 1978, came from local tax sources--mostly property taxes. Comprised of 106 institutions, their immediate situation was desperate and the long-established tuition-free base of the community colleges became imperilled. Through legislation, the state has made up 80% to 90% of the previous funding. Yet, the first year still saw a loss of nearly 5% of the faculty positions in community colleges. Most of those let go were part-time instructors and may have exceeded 7,000 persons. As from this, another obvious change is the loss of local control over community colleges.

The budget battle just recently completed in the legislature points up the truth about the nature of California's funding crisis. Money is not only salaries, important as they are. Funding cuts of the kind higher education has been experiencing in recent years results primarily in faculty cuts resulting in course cuts. This in turn increases enrollment and curricular problems. Much of the cutting in CSUC has involved elimination of upper division courses prolonging the time required to complete a degree in many majors and, in disciplines like history, further driving away potential majors who can't get courses they want or need. The funding crisis has had serious impact upon faculty control of curriculum as well, as financial expediency has replaced pedagogical reasons in curricular decision.

Cuts of the magnitude already experienced erode standards of quality as well by increasing class size, reducing individualized help, reducing support for research, professional and course development, library acquisitions and basic equipment and supplies. Innovation has been one of the chief victims of this new fiscal expediency while affirmative action efforts dies on the vine in higher education systems which have few, if any, new permanent positions to offer. In some respects the worst result of all is the heightened strain on faculty who fear for their jobs. Sharpened conflict between part-time and full-time faculty and between junior and senior faculty is an inevitable part of these circumstances.

The recent budget struggle points up a still more ominous conflict brewing on the horizon. That is the struggle between segments of education--between higher education units and between them and the K-12 system --for the ever scarcer resources which Californians are currently willing to devote to educational purposes. Since 1978 California has fallen from one of the ten top states to 47th in funding for higher education based upon per capita income. We now spend less on higher education than states such as Alabama and Arkansas. And the future is bleak for California's nearly free system of higher education unless we who care about it

join the efforts for tax reform to rebalance the excesses committed by passage of Proposition 13. That initiative gave 2/3 of the total property tax relief to corporations and landlords, not to single family home owners. Currently, the proposal which seems to have the best chance to produce tax reform and increase revenues is the so-called "split roll" tax reform, a proposal which would tax commercial and single family homes at different tax rates, thereby raising additional sums from commercial property. The proposal has been before the legislature this year without much success. However, an initiative attempt is likely to be mounted shortly to try to place it on the ballot. Members of WAWH are urged to learn about the proposal and the initiative movement and support it with funding and personal activity. The future of California higher education lies ultimately in our hands and those of our colleagues and students. We must be willing to take the lead in convincing Californians of the need for adequate funding for all three segments of higher education, lest one of the most valuable institutions of California society become inaccessible to large numbers of citizens.

REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP MEETING: May 22, 1981, Asilomar, California

President Penny Kanner called the meeting to order. She welcomed people to the conference and pointed out how much our Association has grown since it was founded some 13 years ago. Betsy Perry gave a treasurer's report. She reminded members that dues are payable on January 1 for the ensuing year. Membership now totals 366 members, and we have members from 14 different states. Members were encouraged to contribute to the Graduate Students Assistance Fund so that more unemployed and student members will be able to attend our annual conferences. This year we have collected \$165 for this fund.

Jackie Barnhart reported on the membership directory that she is preparing. A discussion was held on how much we will have to charge for copies and whether we should charge nonmembers more. It was pointed out that we want to get the directory to as many university departments and academic publishers as possible. A motion was made and seconded to allocate \$300 to \$400 for publishing the directory. It was suggested that nonmembers would not buy the directory if they had to pay \$10. One member suggested that each fully employed member buy a copy for herself and another copy to give to her academic department. Jackie reported that the directory will include a description of our Association and instructions for using the directory.

Barbara Dubins reported from the Nominating Committee. She introduced the following names as candidates: President-Elect, Jess Flemion; Vice-President (Directory), Jaqueline Barnhart; Vice President (liaison), Linda Popofsky; Sec-Treas. Betsy Perry; Graduate Student Coordinator, Elizabeth Weisz-Buck; Program Coordinator, Francesca Miller; Social Action Coordinator, Marilyn Boxer; Membership Coordinator, Ruth Friedlander; Nominations Coordinator, Barbara Dubins; Newsletter Editors, Carole Hicke and Mary Agnes Dougherty. Officers were accepted by vote.

Penny closed the meeting after thanking her board members.

Our 1981 conference was both intellectually rewarding and spiritually stimulating. Gigantic bouquets must be awarded to Linda Popofsky and her Program Committee, and to Mollie Rosenhan and Katherine Poss and their committee who made the arrangements at lovely Asilomar.

NOTES ON MEMBERS: Penny Kanner is completing her book Victorian Women in English Social History and has accepted a university appointment as Visiting Scholar in the History Dept at UCLA for 1981-82.

Ingrid Winther Scobie has received an NEH Research Division grant for her study of Helen Gahagan Douglas for 1981-82. She presented a paper on this subject at the 1981 Berkshire Conference.

Ruth Friedlander's play Saul was read by the San Francisco Playwrights' Center at Fort Mason in July

Helene S. Weinstock, who works as a psychological counselor at the nonprofit West County Counseling Center in Huntington Beach, CA, received her M.A. in Psychology (Clinical-Counseling emphasis) from California State U., Los Angeles, and her state registration as a Marriage, Family and Child Counselor Intern.

Joyce Falk has been appointed to the staff of the library of the University of California, Irvine, as reference librarian and coordinator of database searching.

GRADUATE STUDENT COORDINATOR, Beth Weisz-Buck, writes: I am very pleased to have been appointed graduate student coordinator of the WAWH. The concerns of graduate students as they join female colleagues in the job market reflect the tension and pressure generated from the current economic and political crisis. Declining opportunities for employment and grant support are major issues for pre and post-doctoral women. In a moving speech given by Joan Scott at the 1981 Eerkshire Conference, Scott noted the paucity of tenured female faculty (figures substantiated in a recent AHA report on the status of women historians). Less publicized are the cuts in fellowships, assistantships and grants to graduate students and faculty. Those of us who find ourselves committed to a profession in which women are crowded into the nontenured, part-time, temporary positions are alarmed by the declining employment status of women historians. A recurring theme among graduate students and professionals, this issue is of increasing importance in 1981. I expect that the Western Association of Women Historians will find an enthusiastic audience in its female graduate students concerned with the status of women in the profession.

Those individuals interested in meeting to discuss these issues during the December meeting of the AHA please contact Beth Weisz-Buck, History Department, UCLA, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024 or call (213) 473-4682 after September 15, 1981. Please write with suggestions for an agenda.

WAWH DIRECTORY OF WOMEN HISTORIANS: Jackie Barnhart writes: The directory is taking shape, although many of you still have not sent the questionnaire or a vita for inclusion. Following discussions at the May conference, I have decided to request funding for the project from outside sources. If such funding becomes available we will be able to give (rather than sell) the directory to institutions, publishers, speakers bureaus, etc. A cover letter will accompany the directory to inform the recipient that we are offering the document as a potential resource for affirmative action hiring, manuscript and review readers, speakers, outside dissertation committee members, and consultant experts. Some of you did not fill out the questionnaire with sufficient thoroughness to be useful. If you wish to send additional information, please do so soon: Prof. Jacqueline Barnhart, Dept of History; California State University, Chico; Chico, CA 95929

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Third Annual HERS/West Regional Institute met at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, August 5-8. This institute provided training, insights and experiential learning, addressing the issue of power for women in higher education. WAWH member Jane Slaughter gave a crucial keynote address on "History as Power". Jane is also co-editor of a book, European Women on the Left, to be available August 20 from Greenwood Press. The book contains a chapter on Madeline Pelletier by Marilyn Boxer.

Also in Albuquerque, Nancy Theriot is currently editing a special edition of New America focusing on childhood. And the New Mexico Historical Journal has available a list of all materials on women that have ever appeared in the Journal; Editor Dick Etulain will send copies on request. Address him at the Dept of History, U. of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131.

Interest in the Southern California Institute for Historical Research and Services is high and membership has been growing steadily. For more information about the Institute, contact Alice Clement, 604 Swarthmore Ave, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272.

The Institute for Historical Study, a similar group located in Northern California, has now been incorporated for a year and has a membership of 70 historians, a quarterly newsletter, and has offered a series of "Work in Progress" sessions.

WOMEN EDUCATORS announces the 5th Annual 'Research on Women in Education' Award to be presented at the American Educational Research Assoc. meeting in N.Y., Mar 19-23, 1982. Published or unpublished research reports in journal article format on any aspect of women in education are eligible if conducted or written up in 1980-81. The deadline for entries is Dec 1, 1981. Send 5 copies (on 4 of which the author is not identified) of the entry, and 5 copies of a 200-250 word abstract of the entry to: Cheryl L. Wild, Coordinator Elect, WOMEN EDUCATORS, Educational Testing Service, Princeton, N.J. 08941

A conference on the history of women in the Episcopal Church will be held at the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas. Proposals for papers or sessions should be sent to Mary S. Donovan, 5920 North Grandview, Little Rock, AR 72207. For further information, write the EWHP, General Theological Seminary, 175 Ninth Ave, N.Y. N.Y. 10011. A local member of the steering committee is Joanna Bowen Gillespie, 3550 Jackson St., San Francisco, CA 94118.

NOTE: ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE AND PAYABLE ON OCTOBER 1, 1980! Send to Betsy Perry (below)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

University Affiliation _____

Fields of Interest (1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

_____ Fully employed, donor member: \$10.00

_____ Permanently, full-time employed: \$7.50

_____ Part-time employed and graduate students \$5.00

_____ Tax-deductible contribution: \$5.00

Please change my address to: _____

Please return this page to Betsy Perry, 296 Redwood Drive, Pasadena, CA 91105

PLEASE SEND FULL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR HISTORY FIELD AND INTERESTS AND WORK AND ACTIVITIES AND BACKGROUND. ALL INFORMATION WILL BE ENTERED ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP RECORD.



296 REDWOOD DRIVE/PASADENA, CA 91105



Martha Swain
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