PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I joined the Western Association of Women Historians (then the West Coast Association of Women Historians) in 1974, I might have foreseen the day when I would write this first message as president if I had given it some thought. The organization was small enough then (and, I hope, is aware now) that a new member was not only welcomed but led into participation if she was willing to spend the time. I became a graduate student representative in 1975 and have worked my way up through the tanks to very happily hold this office for the 1987-1989 term.

The WAWH has certainly been good to me, as it has to many of you. I got my job at CSU, Chico through two members who heard me deliver a paper at the 1976 conference and supported my hiring. Like many of you, I have tried to reciprocate. But the organization is, and always has been, more than a network for jobs. It is a network of friendships, contacts, and professional — and if needed, emotional — support. All of this, in addition to its traditional function of offering an annual conference for the presentation of scholarly work by women historians. (A conference, by the way, with such a growing history of excellence that each new program chair quakes in fear of breaking the tradition.)

Because of my strong feelings for WAWH I am particularly pleased to hold this office during the twentieth anniversary celebration in 1989. My agenda for my two year term is, first and foremost, to continue the high standards set by my predecessors; second, it is to continue to build on the reputation we have gained as vanguards for the continued improvement of the status of women historians. And finally, to begin to put together a history of the WAWH.

Yes, as surprising as it no doubt is to you, we do not have a history of our own organization. With that shocking fact in mind, I am requesting all of you, past officers as well as long-term members, to consider writing up your experiences with WAWH. What was it like in 1969, '70, '71? How has the organization changed? What were its original goals? dreams? purposes? Why did you join? And, for newer members, what do you hope to see as the future of WAWH? We have, the constitution, financial records, growing membership numbers, but it is you, the members, who are the primary source of our history. Help me put together a beginning chronicle of the WAWH. Send me the reminiscences and experiences of your organization.

Jackie

Conference 1987

As usual, the annual WAWH conference was a great success. Congratulations to Peggy, Francesca, Lorrie et al. for their hard work. And a collective thanks to the Davis Women's Studies Program and the fantastic participants for unparalleled excellence.

* ***************************************************
* Networker                                      *
* Editor Needed!                                 *
*                                              *
* For very valid reasons our newsletter editor has had to resign. Here is a great chance for you to GET INVOLVED in your organization. *
* Volunteer! Contact Jackie                       *
* Barnhart, History Department,                  *
* California State University,                   *
* Chico, CA 95929-0735.                           *
* **************************************************

(pause to get over the shock)
In this edition of The Networker, we inaugurate a new column directed to the concerns of the graduate student membership of the WAWH. Content will vary depending on input from grads. For this issue we focus on fellowship announcements and interest in creating an AAUW Educational Foundation, 2401 Virginia Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20037, (202) 785-7700.

1) The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the oldest program of graduate fellowships for U.S. women. In 1983, $1,000 awards were made to women working on doctoral degrees in liberal arts, sciences, and education. Application deadline is November 13. Write: AAUW Educational Foundation, Department of Women's Studies, Box 642, Princeton, NJ 08540, (609) 924-4666.

If you have any information about other fellowships or suggestions for topics you wish to see addressed here, send comments to: Margaret Jones, Grad Student Representative, WAWH, 2115 Verde Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304-2742.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The May 24, 1987 meeting was called to order by President Francesca Miller, who extended her thanks to those who had helped to make her presidency and this year's conference so successful: Georgia Davidson, Lorrie O'Dell, Ann Johnson, Diane Pritchard, Peggy Renner, the Women's Resource Center, and the university of California, Davis, History Department.

In the absence of the Nominating Committee Chair, President Miller presented the following slate of candidates for WAWH offices:

- President: Jacqueline Barnhart, California State University, Chico
- President-Elect: Mary Elizabeth Perry, University of Southern California
- Secretary: Lorrie O'Dell, The Institute for Historical Study
- Treasurer: Ann Hagerman Johnson, California State University, Sacramento
- Student Representative: Margaret Rose, University of California, Los Angeles.

The election was held by voice vote. The slate was unanimously accepted by membership. President Barnhart chaired the remainder of the meeting.

After discussion, it has moved and seconded, that the WAWH accept the invitation of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association to sponsor its annual meeting to be held at San Francisco State University in August 1988. The motion was passed.

After discussion, the motion was moved and seconded, that the Treasurer present her report. After discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's term of office be changed to coincide with the fiscal year of June through June. The motion was passed.

After discussion, the motion was moved and seconded, that the California educational commission's report for the integration of history into the K-12 curriculum.

Penny Kanner proposed a new association award, an "Achievement Award to represent the spectrum of diversity within the broader profession." It was moved and seconded to present the proposal in the Networker and to act upon it at next year's meeting. The motion was passed. President Barnhart will appoint a committee to work with Penny to formulate the guidelines and proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Lorrie O'Dell, Secretary.
Wall Street Journal.

Mr. Massie and other authors say the tax change could even influence the kind and quality of books being written: a writer who couldn't command a big advance could recover expenses much faster from a sensational, fast-selling book than from a well-researched volume with a long shelf life. "It just seems to be bad public policy for the tax law to encourage quick, exploitive work as opposed to long, serious work," says Mr. Lukas, who spent 7-1/2 years researching and writing Common Ground, which traced three families in Boston and won a 1986 Pulitzer Prize.

Footnote foes may have a better chance of winning their fight than most other lobbyists pressing for technical corrections to the tax act. They already have an important legislative ally in New Jersey Democratic Sen. Bill Bradley, one of the prime movers behind the tax-overhaul effort, who himself wrote a best-selling book on his basketball days. At a recent hearing, Sen. Bradley said, "Wherever this footnote came from, whatever it was meant to do, I certainly don't think it should apply to authors. It is fairly onerous to try to make the case that something like a poem is a tangible piece of property.

Book publishers, who are subject to the same basic limitations as authors under the disputed footnote, are taking a somewhat different tack. If they must be treated like other manufacturers, they argue, then they should be able to deduct research and development costs just like other businesses, at least for the costs of developing textbooks and other educational, professional, and reference works.

Publishers' research and development costs represent an old and unsettled question with the tax collectors. Publishers contend they're hurt most by being unable to deduct their costs each year in developing works like textbooks and reference works, which require long lead times and lots of experimentation and have long shelf lives. For example, Random House spent $9 million over 20 years to prepare a revised edition of the Random House Dictionary. Under the new law, the firm might not have started deducting some of those expenses until the dictionary reached bookstores.

Mortimer Caplin, counsel to the Association of American Publishers and a former IRS commissioner, says the change will add to the costs of doing business, and publishers will be less likely to innovate, to take chances on borderline books.

Outstanding Women Historians

A proposal was made at the 1987 business meeting that WAWH should publicly recognize Outstanding Women Historians in the Association. Such recognition would go beyond the traditional accomplishments of outstanding teaching and/or publication to take into account extraordinary -- unique -- unusual -- professional careers. Most of us know of members who have not had traditional careers, women who have had to overcome circumstances, adversity, handicaps to enter the profession. Many outstanding women historians -- Affirmative Action notwithstanding -- have remained active and productive despite having to take jobs outside academe.

Recognition would not take place annually, but on the basis of the carefully scrutinized nomination of a truly Outstanding Woman Historian.

If you have an opinion on this proposal (to be voted on at the 1988 meeting), send it to: Penny Raner, 467 Comstock, Los Angeles, CA 90024.
NEW PUBLICATIONS

Carol Holleuffer, California Women in Botany, oral interviews conducted 1985, Regional Oral History Office, The Bancroft Library (University of California, Berkeley, 1987).


Sarah Ebert, A Runner for Home: Louisa May Alcott's Place in American Culture (Rutgers University Press, 1987).

Winner of 1987 American Book Award: Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum, Librazione delle Donne: Feminism in Italy (Wesleyan University Press).


Karen Ocen:

"Qui est Jenny P. d'Héricourt? Une Identité retrouvée," 1848: Revolutions et Mutations au XIXe Siecle, no. 3 (1987): 87-100;

"Feminism, Antifeminism, and National Family Politics in Early Third Republic France," in Connecting Spheres: Women in the Western World, 1500 to the Present, ed. Marilyn J. Boxer and Jean H. Quataert (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987);


New Publications

Congratulations, Penny!

Barbara Penny Kanner has just published her book on Victorian/Edwardian women's autobiographical writings. It is volume 3 of her 3-volume work: Women in English Social History 1800-1914: A Guide to Research (New York: Garland Publishing, 1983). (Volumes 1 and 2, each about 800 pages, will be out later in the year.) Autobiographical Writings begins with an introductory discussion of the genre of women's autobiography in the hands of historians and literary scholars. Kanner's style of bibliomethodology combines her own text with annotated bibliographical entries. Feminist literary criticism and feminist autobiographical criticism are also well represented in the introduction. The bibliographical section is arranged alphabetically. More than 80% of the entries are annotated. There is a subject index for the over-600 autobiographies presented.

1988 Sierra Award

The Western Association of Women Historians will award the 1988 Sierra Prize of $500 for the best monograph by a WAHW member at its annual meeting in May 1988. Authors must be WAHW members; the book must be a monograph based on original research (not an anthology or edited work); the prize is open to all fields of history. Send three copies no later than March 1, 1988 to Tanis Thorne, Chair, Sierra Prize, History Department, UCLA, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

1988 Article Prize

All members of the WAHW are encouraged to submit articles published in 1986 and 1987 to the article prize committee. All fields of history will be considered; submissions must include full scholarly apparatus. The prize will be announced at the Presidents' Dinner at the 1988 annual conference. Inquiries and submissions should be directed to Marguerite Renner, Chair, 775 North Mentor Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91104. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 1988.

1988 Graduate Student Fellowship

The WAHW Graduate Student Fellowship is open to graduate student members of the WAHW who have completed all work toward the Ph.D. degree except the dissertation. The current award is $500. For guidelines and further information, contact Fellowship Chair Paula Eldot, 5341 State Avenue, Sacramento, CA 94819.
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S. Barbara Kanner
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Los Angeles, CA 90024
(213) 474-4450

Networker Editor
Volunteer for
This Important and
FUN Job
WOMEN'S HISTORY AT SACRAMENTO

If ever there were a chance for women's history to be included in the State-required curriculum, kindergarten through twelfth grade, this was it! At the May Davis WAWH Conference, Peggy Boegeman of the California Humanities Project alerted us to the scarcity of women's history in the barely circulated History-Social Science Framework to be adopted by the Board of Education in July, after a Public Input Session on June 10. As WAWH Social Action Coordinator I was asked to do what could be done to include more than a token representation of women in the Framework. Whatever was done had to be ready for presentation to the Board at its June meeting.

Frances Richardson Keller, Jean Wilkinson, Lauren Coodley and I hastily assembled with our suggestions and those of others. We wrote and rewrote a 15-page list of recommended insertions of women in history for all grades. Since the Framework also includes statements on history but mentioned few books which included accomplishments of females, or books by females, we filled this void also.

Our introduction "suggested" that the State Board comply with California law, which requires equal representation of women in instructional material. We also included a paragraph stating "Because all students should have an equal opportunity to relate to the achievements of historical personages, to relate to positive role models, and because there are as many girls in history-social science classes as there are boys, the history of women should be taught to the same extent as the history of men."

I secured a place on the agenda at the Public Input Board meeting and was one of 41 people given five minutes to speak. The important thing was to leave with the Board. I will follow up through the Department of Education, History-Humanities, Department Manager, Diane Brooks, to see if our recommendations are included in the next draft of the Framework. As I was walking out of the Board meeting at lunchtime, a woman Board member told me she really liked what I had to say. As we walked together for a block or so, we talked about the lack of women in history books. If our recommendations are not included in the next issue of the Framework, I will get in touch with her.

Thanks to the women who came forward hurriedly and stayed with the task of putting the recommendations together, this was the best chance we've had to get women's history accepted into the educational mainstream. Of the 41 people at the Board meeting, I was the only one there speaking for women's history. Thank goodness someone alerted us!

—- June Stephenson,
WAWH Social Action Coordinator

GRANTS

The Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP) announces a grants program to support research about THE IMPACT OF WOMEN IN PUBLIC OFFICE. Funded by the Charles H. Revson Foundation, this program is the most recent in a series of studies by CAWP aimed at increasing our understanding of women's participation in American politics. CAWP wishes to encourage researchers to examine the important and largely unexplored question of whether and how women who hold elective and appointive office in the United States are having a distinctive impact on public policy, political processes, and governing institutions.

CAWP is concerned with discovering and understanding both the ways in which women public officeholders may have an impact on policy, processes, and institutions distinct from the impact of men and the conditions under which women's impact is most likely to reflect this dual concern.

Eight to ten grants of $5,000 to $10,000 will be awarded. Applications must be postmarked by October 31, 1987. Awards will be announced on or before April 1, 1988. For information, contact: Debra L. Dodson, Program Administrator, Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP), Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. (201) 828-2210 or (201) 932-9384.

CALL FOR PAPERS

WAWH: First call for papers.
The 1988 WAWH meeting will be held at the Huntington Library on May 6, 7, 8, 1988. Send preliminary proposals for panels or papers to: Program Chair, Bonnie Ford, 2916 Regina Way, Sacramento, CA 95818.

The Pacific Coast Branch AHA, in conjunction with the Western Association of Women Historians, Call for papers.
1988 Conference, August 10-13, 1988, San Francisco State University. Papers and sessions in all areas of history are invited; the deadline for submission of proposals is December 15, 1987. Send inquiries and proposals to: Jess Fleming, Program Chair PCB, Department of History, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182.
The CCWHP and Its Questionaire

Some members of the Western Association of Women Historians also belong to a national organization, the Coordinating Committee of Women in the Historical Profession (CCWHP). By way of inviting others who might find substantial benefits in CCWHP membership, let me tell you about the questionnaire CCWHP has sent to candidates for offices in the American Historical Association.

In just a few years the CCWHP questionnaire has become an important tradition. Not only does it ask candidates to articulate their views about issues that matter to women historians; it gives colleagues in every area of our profession an opportunity to learn where those candidates would plan to lead our thinking. We learn as well what sorts of actions candidates would take if elected. What this does, if we take advantage of it, is give us an informed voice in the conduct of professional affairs, a voice to which, by every criterion of numbers and of morals, we are entitled. The CCWHP questionnaire has become a tool for achieving a practical and democratic kind of leadership in our professional lives. Usually the answers have been gracious and candid. In the few cases where candidates have failed to answer, their silence has spoken.

It is true that the AHA, as venerable as it is, does not represent all of us historians in all of the aspects in which we function. It no longer even numerically outstrips all other historical associations. The AHA remains, however, a symbol understandable to all of us and to the public. It has long set patterns of communication for individuals and for groups, in private and public matters. It mediates among historians and the agencies which determine their opportunities.

Testament to these observations is the eagerness with which historians of many persuasions seek copies of the issue in which we publish candidates' unedited answers to our questions; in the past we have simply run out of copies. While the answers reveal hopeful trends, it is clear that we need to remember that large problems still loom for women historians.

I hope that members of the Western Association of Women Historians who are not also members of CCWHP will consider joining in time to receive the next newsletter. I hope that they will participate thoughtfully in the questionnaire possibility, as in other possibilities CCWHP offers. I have no doubt that sustained participation can make a difference for all of us.

One can join CCWHP by notifying Nupur Chaudhuri, 1737 Vaughn Drive, Manhattan, Kansas 66502 of one's interest. She will send information and forms. Believe me, for women historians, CCWHP is a bargain.

-- Frances Richardson Keller
Chairman, CCWHP

Read for Belkan Database

Susan Groag Bell and Barbara Penny Kanner have an NEH seed-grant to build a database for an annotated bibliography of autobiographies written or published by British women between 1790 and 1950. "British" women were those who spent a considerable part of their lives in Britain, including women who were born there but later lived, or became citizens, elsewhere.

This annotated bibliography will be an invaluable research tool for scholars in the humanities and social sciences. We plan to produce a volume with separate thematic indexes identifying work patterns, professions, lifestyles, spirituality, politics, and many other issues.

In the near future we shall have a list of autobiographies to be annotated. We would like to hear from anyone who is interested in furthering her own research by helping us with these annotations. If you would like to participate in reading these autobiographies and helping with the annotations, contact either of us during the Berks, or write to us at The Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Serra House, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305.

Home addresses and phone numbers:

Susan Bell, 185 Forest Avenue, #3A, Palo Alto, CA 94301, (415) 325-0615

Penny Kanner, 467 Comstock Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024, (213) 474-4450 or (213) 879-3737

To all our colleagues: we would welcome suggestions of women's autobiographies with British connections from your own field, whatever the geographic area.
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

PLEASE CLIP AND SEND TO: Jacqueline Barnhart,
History Dept., CSU, Chico, CA 95929

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

Notice of Publication (use extra sheet if needed):

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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Member News:

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MEMBER NEWS

Bogna Lorence-Kot will be teaching at the California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, CA. She would like to hear ideas from colleagues on developing courses at CCAC on "The History of Thinking About Art."

Margaret DeLacy, President of Northwest Independent Scholars Association, located in Portland, Oregon, would like to hear from other independent scholars who need NISA's help or those interested in the formation of a national coalition.

Nina Gelbart, Associate Professor, Department of History, Occidental College, has a piece in Press and Politics in Pre-Revolutionary France, edited by Jack R. Censer and Jeremy D. Popkin, published by University of California Press, and mentioned in a recent New York Review of Books ad on female journalists. She is now working on two new projects, the medical press of the Enlightenment and a biography of a midwife. She has a grant from the National Institutes of Health for this work in the history of medicine.

Karen Offen, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Stanford University, was appointed Chair of AHA's International Historical Affairs Committee in 1986 and will serve as U.S. delegate to the congress (in Athens) of the International Committee on the Historical Sciences later this year.

Ruth Rosen, Associate Professor of History, University of California, Davis, has received a Rockefeller Gender Roles Fellowship to complete her book on the origins and transformation of American feminism, 1945-1980. Her article "Search for Yesterday" appeared in Watching Television, edited by Todd Gitlin (Pantheon).

* * * START PLANNING NOW! * * *
* * for the 1989 * *
* * Twentieth Anniversary * *
* * WAWH Conference * *
* * Asilomar * *
* * Second Weekend May 1989 * *
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