PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Prostitutes, visionaries, and healers in Counter-Reformation Spain may seem unlikely models for present-day women historians, but a closer look at these deviant females raises some possibilities. These women not only survived very oppressive institutions that strongly resisted change; they also made an impact on their world. Their subversion may be a valuable lesson for us, who work in a sometimes rigid and unfriendly professional world: rather than bitterly concluding that we are mere victims, we can choose to become subversives.

In teaching the ideas of the late-Victorian period, Mary R. Anderson showed how deconstructionism can be demonstrated in teaching the ideas of the late-Victorian period, and Bogna Lorence-Kot used deconstruction to analyze her experiences as a classroom teacher. Considering both papers together, Peggy Renner provided a comment drawing on her ten years of teaching and her research on the development of the public schools in nineteenth-century Pennsylvania.

In August several WAWH members attended the PCB/AHA conference in Portland. At the WAWH luncheon, we heard a stimulating address by Lois Banner, who reminded us that growth and age necessarily include changes: in our bodies, our political and personal lives in the women's movement, and our professional insights as we perceive the older woman in history. Both men and women gave serious consideration to her ideas. One male historian later said that Lois Banner's address was the best thing that he had heard at the conference.

We can feel proud of the WAWH members who participated on conference panels. WAWH sponsored a panel entitled "Challenges and Realities in the Teaching of World History." Mary R. Anderson showed how deconstructionism can be demonstrated in teaching the ideas of the late-Victorian period.

Maintaining close ties with the PCB/AHA serves our own WAWH purposes, for their annual meeting offers an additional forum in which we can present our work, as well as another group of historians whom we can impress with the contributions of women to the historical profession. Some of us may hesitate to attend the 1990 PCB/AHA meeting in Utah, a state that opposed the ERA. I sympathize with that point of view, but it may be more important to use this meeting as an opportunity for subversion, reminding other historians of a very real female presence in the profession and demonstrating the exciting work that women historians are doing.

Though women lag behind in tenured academic positions and professional leadership offices, there is no longer any doubt that women have made a significant impact on the historical profession. I am glad to see the many ways that WAWH members are making a difference in the practice of history and I am very pleased to engage in this subversion with you.

Betsy
REMEMBERING RENA

She has been called an early feminist. With more precision, perhaps, Rena Vassar was a woman of the postwar generation of *ethnic* outsiders called "the best and the brightest." She had a feminist consciousness but the roots were ancient and *ethnic*, and the assurance derived latterly, perhaps, from being the smartest girl in school and class valedictorian, as well as holding a history doctorate from UC Berkeley. Writing an authoritative social history of education in the US, she was a champion of the best and the brightest. She had scholarships, fellowships, professorships....

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Born into an orthodox Jewish family in Pueblo, Colorado, Rena's strict religious training had something to do with. I think, with the uncompromising integrity she brought to scholarship, professionalism, and political perspectives. As she matured she seemed the very model of the cool, rational, good-looking professional woman. This may have been a role she learned.

After grad school, when she was in London on a Fulbright fellowship, she fell in love with a European scholar. Yet she said good-bye to him to return to the United States to professorships at Indiana, Colgate, Claremont, and Northridge - seeing him only once thereafter, many years later.

Her superb intellect was evident in the lectures she carefully prepared for classes in US colonial, social, and women's history. Nurture emerged in the pages of comments she penned for every student's exam, every students paper, the hours she spent talking with young people. Her character was visible in political or professional discussions when Rena would take the high moral ground on an issue, not easily suffering inanity or hypocrisy.

My last remembrance of Rena is of last summer when she peered, with almost a child's curiosity, into the innards of my computer. How appropriate that she willed her own computer -- on which she annotated and updated what must be the best US social history lecture notes extant -- to her 2-year-old great nephew, David.

When she learned that she was dying, in February of this year, she told anguished friends not to grieve: "I've had a very good life." When chemotherapy could not prevent the rapid spread of the cancer, Rena decided, in April, to return to teaching. Although in pain she completed the semester and graded and wrote comments on every single paper, every single exam.

In a coincidence that her historical sense would surely have noted. Rena was felled by a stroke on July 4 and died on July 14 -- a significant participant in the cultural and political revolution of women in our time.

Lucia Chiavola Birnbbaum

WAHW CALL FOR PAPERS

The program committee for the 21st annual meeting of the Western Association of Women Historians, to be held at the Henry E. Huntington Library and Museum, San Marino, California, May 5, 6, and 7, 1990, invites proposals for papers, workshops, panels, and sessions, focusing on the theme "Links with the Past, Lessons for the Future." While the committee favors proposals for complete sessions, equal consideration will be given to individual paper proposals.

Proposals should be sent by February 1, 1990, to the WAWH Program Committee, c/o Gloria Ricci Lohrop (Chair), Dept. of History, Cal Poly Pomona, Pomona, CA 91768. For further information, write to the above address or phone (714) 629-2501.

GRAD NEWS

It is not too early to begin planning for our 1990 conference at the Huntington Library. We are again planning a roundtable on dissertations-in-progress. In addition, there has been some demand for a "strategy session," at which we could discuss problems like picking a dissertation committee, preparing grants, finding sources, and writing the dissertation. If you are interested in participating, please get in touch with me, Sherry Katz. 916 Neilson St., Albany, CA 94706; (415) 527-9179. Meantime, here is information on funding sources that may be of use to you or someone you know.

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships are available to candidates for the Ph.D., Th.D., or Ed.D. degrees in the US. They have a stipend of $10,000 and 40 are given each year. The fellowships are designed specifically to support work on ethical or religious values; applicants must finish all pre-dissertation requirements by December 1, 1989 and expect to complete their dissertations by August 1991. The awards are intended to fund the last year of research and writing. Write to Newcombe Dissertation Fellowships, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, P.O. Box 642, Princeton, NJ 08542. The deadline is December 15, 1989.

Two types of fellowships are available through UC Berkeley. Una's Fellowship in History, which pays all fees plus a living allowance, is available to one female grad student at any University of California campus, for the first year of graduate study at UC Berkeley's history department. The Bancroft Library at Berkeley also offers awards of $5000 to use its holdings. Fellowships are for registered UC students only, who are beyond their first year of grad study. For more information, contact: The Committee on Fellowships and Graduate Scholarships, 1 California Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720. The deadline is usually the first Monday in January.

The Business and Professional Women's Foundation offers several grants to doctoral candidates, ranging between $500 and $3000. The Lena Lake Forrest Fellowship and BPW Research Grants support research that has policy implications in one of the following areas: changing employment patterns, gender, race, and class; women in organizations: work and family. The Sally Butler Memorial Fund for Latina Research supports work by and about Latinas (also with regard to the policy issues listed above). Monies are given for field research, conferences, workshops, and symposia.
expenses, computer time, printing and duplicating, transcription, supplies and postage, and travel to the research site. Last year applications were available between September 1 and December 15 and were due in January. For information, contact The Business and Professional Women's Foundation, 2012 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

The Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America offers dissertation travel grants to facilitate use of its holdings. Write to the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, Radcliffe College, 10 Garden St., Cambridge, MA 02138. In the past the deadline has been in early February.

INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS

San Diego Independent Scholars plan a one-day conference on Saturday, October 14, at Johnson House, at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Topics will include publishing, computers, and grants. No advance registration is required and there is no fee. For information, contact Alice Goldfarb Marquis, 8963 Caminito Fresco, La Jolla, CA 92037; (619) 453-1878.

Some local independent scholars groups active in our region include:

- Independent Scholars of Asia. Ruth-Inge Heinze, 2321 Russell #3A, Berkeley, CA 94705; (415) 849-3791.
- Independent Scholars of Sacramento. Contact: Margaret Wensrich, P.O. Box 22248, Sacramento, CA 95882; (916) 392-7131.
- Institute for Historical Study. Contact: Lorrie O'Dell, 1791 Pine St., San Francisco, CA 94109; (415) 3759.
- International Association of Independent Scholars. Contact: Joan Leopold, P.O. Box 1453, Reseda, CA 91335; (818) 342-7591.
- Northwest Independent Scholars Association. Contact: Susan Wladaver-Morgan, 2513 NE Skidmore St., Portland, OR 97211; (503) 282-9470.
- Pacific Western International Institute for Independent Scholarship. Contacts: Ray Chasse or Pete Zweren, 600 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049.
- San Diego Independent Scholars. Ariss Treat Sedgwick, P.O. Box 314, La Jolla, CA 92038; (619) 454-5236.

JOBS

Oberlin College has begun a search for a full-time tenure-track position in the history of Hispanic North America and post-independence Mexico; the job would begin in the fall of 1990. Minority candidates are especially encouraged to apply. The deadline for complete applications is October 15, 1989. For information, contact Clayton R. Koppes, Chair, History Department, Rice Hall 315, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH 44074-1095; (216) 775-8520.

California State University, Bakersfield, solicits applications for a tenure-track (assistant professor) position in Western European and/or British history since 1789, to begin September 1990. Secondary field in Russian/Soviet history, women's history, or European imperialism preferred. Responsibilities include survey courses in modern Western civilization and upper division, grad courses in European

The University of California, Riverside, has three positions this fall, with three different deadlines.

The first, in the American Studies Program, seeks a specialist in Asian-American studies with a strong interdisciplinary background in socio-cultural analysis. A successful candidate will have wide-ranging research and teaching interests and a demonstrated ability to teach intro American Studies. Assistant or associate professor rank. Ph.D., interdisciplinary research and publications record, and interdisciplinary teaching ability. Please send letter of application, CV, three letters of recommendation, two or three writing samples and teaching evaluations to: Jose Limon, Chair, American Studies Program, Oakes College, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064. Please refer to this position as #163-890. Deadline: October 1, 1989.

The second is a tenure-track assistant professor appointment in 19th and 20th-century Latin American social history. Preferred areas of specialization are the Andes, the Caribbean, and the Southern Cone, with an ability to teach Mexican history as well. The person selected will be expected to teach a wide range of undergrad and grad courses, as well as supervising senior orals, theses, and independent studies. Serious consideration will be given to field experience and proficiency in Spanish and/or Portuguese. Send letter of application, CV, and three letters of recommendation to: Latin American Search Committee, Board of Studies in History, Cowell College, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064. Deadline: October 16, 1989.

The third is a tenure-track assistant professor position in Ancient History. The person selected will be expected to teach undergrad classes in Greek and Roman history and occasional language courses in Greek and Latin, as well as senior orals, theses, and independent studies. Experience in other ancillary fields of ancient history may be taken into consideration, but is not necessary. Please indicate in letter of application if you plan to attend the AHA in San Francisco or the APA in Boston in December. Send application, brief description of current or projected research activities, c.v., three letters of recommendation to: Ancient History Search Committee, Board of Studies in History, Cowell College, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064. Please refer to this position as #186-889 in your application. Deadline: November 1, 1989.

The University of California, Santa Cruz, has three positions, both with a deadline of November 15, 1989.

The first is an assistant professor, tenure-track position in Russian history, any specialty from the Petrine period to 1917. Ph.D., in hand, as well as teaching experience and strong research programs. Write to Professor J. Arch Getty, Chair, Search Committee, Dept. of History, UCR, Riverside, CA 92521.
The second is a senior position (associate or full level) in the history of the trans-Mississippi American West. Scholars with distinguished research records and a strong commitment to teaching excellence are encouraged to apply. Write to Roger L. Ransom, Chair, Search Committee, Dept. of History, UC Riverside, Riverside CA 92521.

PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

The 12th National Third World Studies Conference will be held October 5-7, 1989, at the Peter Kiewit Conference Center, Omaha, with special emphasis on global education and health care issues. To register, contact College of Continuing Studies Business Office, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE 68182-0695.

The History Guild will hold its fall gathering at Occidental College on October 6, 1989. The main speaker will be John Brewer from UCLA, who will give a slide lecture on “Political Cartoons in Eighteenth Century England.” For more information or reservations, call the History Dept. at Occidental (213/259-2751) by October 4.

"The Future of the Past: California’s Heritage in the 21st Century” is the theme of the conference of the California Committee for the Promotion of History, October 27-28. Contact Don Taylor, Mendocino Museum, 400 E. Commercial St., Willits, CA 95490; (707) 459-2738.

"Life at Home, 1890-1930" will be the theme of the McFaddin-Ward House Museum Conference, November 16-18, in Beaumont, Texas. It will focus on domestic service, the impact of technology on housework, and related subjects. Contact Henda Dyer, McFaddin-Ward House, 1906 McFaddin Ave., Beaumont, TX 77701; (409) 832-1906.

The Social Science History Association will meet in Washington, DC, November 16-19, 1989.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

The Stanford Humanities Center offers eight external fellowships for 1990-91, intended for post-doctoral scholars and teachers working on related projects who would be interested in spending the academic year at Stanford. Recipients devote one-sixth of their time to teaching, and the remaining time on research. The deadline for application is December 1, 1989. For information, write to Morton Osoba, Stanford Humanities Center, Mariposa House, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-8630.

The Cushing Center for the Study of American Catholicism and the University of Notre Dame Press sponsor a competition for a manuscript on the American Catholic experience. The winner will receive a $500 award and the book will be published by the University of Notre Dame Press. Scholars interested should send 2 copies of their manuscript by December 15, 1989, to Cushing Center for the Study of American Catholicism, Room 614, Hesburgh Library, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556; (219) 239-5441.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Meetings

The Southern Historical Association and the Southwest Social Science Association invite proposals for papers and sessions for the 1990 meetings in Fort Worth. Topics may include US History, European/Asian History, and Latin American/African History, with a $100 prize to be awarded in each of those categories. Proposals must be sent by October 1, 1989 to L.H. Cummins, Box 1506, Austin College, Sherman, TX 75091.

The Society of American Archivists solicits papers and panels for its meeting in Seattle, August 30-Sept. 3, 1990. Send Proposals by November 1, 1989 to SAA Program Committee, c/o Brenda Banks, Georgia Department of Archives and History, 330 South Capitol SE, Atlanta, GA 30334.

The American Studies Section of the Western Social Science Association invites paper or panel proposals for the 1990 WSSA Conference in Portland, OR, April 25-28, 1990. Particularly sought are proposals on US/Asia or US/Canada relations and nuclear/environmental issues. Paper proposals should be a 200-word abstract and a cv; panel proposals should include a cv of each participant. Send all proposals by November 15, 1989 to Bob L. Frye, ig1sh, Box 32972, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX 76129; (817) 921-7240.

The Southwest Labor Studies Conference will be held at Chi State Long Beach, April 20-21, 1990. Send proposals for papers on any aspect of Quakerism, especially the history of Quakers west of the Appalachians, by November 1, 1990. Proposal, send to Robert W. Cherry, Dept. of History, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA 94132; (415) 338-1604.

The Conference on Quaker Historians and Archivists will take place at George Fox College, Newberg, OR, June 22-24, 1990. Proposals for papers on any aspect of Quakerism, especially the history of Quakers west of the Appalachians, are especially encouraged. Send a 1-page abstract to H. Larry Ingle, Dept. of History, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, Chattanooga, TN 37403. Deadline is December 1, 1989.

Publications

The Social Science Research Council solicit authors for chapters on a volume on origins of the urban underclass in America. Chapters will be organized around 3 areas: work, space, and mobility; institutions and policies; and families and neighborhoods. Scholars at all levels are eligible to apply by October 15, 1989. For information, contact Social Science Research Council, Urban Underclass Program, Historical Volume, 605 Third Ave., New York, NY 10158; (212) 661-0280.
Editors seek original essays for multi-disciplinary anthology, "Minority Women and Health: Gender and the Experience of Illness," to be published by Wayne State University Press. Submit proposals or essays in duplicate to Susan E. Cayleff and Barbara Bair, Department of Women's Studies, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182. Deadline is November 15, 1989.

A new periodical, Gender and History, specializes in articles on historical questions about femininity and masculinity and the roles of women and men in the past. For a free sample copy, write to Journals Marketing Manager, Basil Blackwell, Box 1320, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Send manuscripts to Nancy Hewitt (Editor), Dept. of History, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620.

WAHW PRIZES AND AWARDS

The WAWH proudly offers the following prizes, the winners of which will be announced at our May meeting. The deadline for all submissions is March 1, 1990.

1990 Sierra Prize

The WAWH will award the 1990 Sierra Prize of $100 for the best monograph by a WAWH member at its annual meeting in May 1990. Authors must be WAWH members; the book must be a monograph based on original research (not an anthology or edited work); the work is open to all fields of history. Send three copies to Karen Blair, Sierra Prize Chair, History Dept., Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA 98926; for further information, call her at (509) 925-3128 (home) or (509) 963-1877, ext. 1655 (work).

Judith Lee Ridge Prize

All members of the WAWH are encouraged to submit articles published in 1988 and 1989 to the article prize committee for the $100 prize. All fields of history will be considered; submissions must include full scholarly apparatus. The prize, named for the daughter of Martin and Sally Ridge, will be announced at the President's Dinner at the 1990 annual conference. Inquiries and submissions (in triplicate) should be directed to Barbara Corrado Pope, Dept. of History, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403.

1990 Graduate Student Fellowship

WAHW annually offers a fellowship of $500 to a graduate student for work on a doctoral dissertation in history. The WAWH Graduate Student Fellowship is open to members of the WAWH who have been advanced to candidacy and expect to receive the Ph.D. no earlier than December 1990. For additional information and applications, please contact: Carole Srole, Dept. of History, California State University at Los Angeles, 5151 State University Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90032.

A WAWH MEMORIAL PRIZE

(A proposal to the membership from Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum.)

Everyone who knew Rena Vassar, Professor of History at California State University, Northridge, has been saddened by her death on July 14, 1989. Some of us have discussed how we can commemorate this unique woman historian, a feminist pioneer who brought wit and warmth, along with unbendable standards, to teaching, research, and life.

Rena was a founding member of the Western Association of Women Historians. It seems appropriate that there should be a WAWH prize in her name in the field in which she did research in the latter years of her life, perhaps a Rena Vassar Prize for the best essay in the field of the history of women in higher education in the United States.

The Northridge department of history is coordinating plans for (a) a memorial service at Northridge in the fall of 1989; (b) a photograph/painting of Rena in the history reading room where her library, on the history of women and education, will be placed; and (c) an undergraduate scholarship prize in Rena's name. Northridge would welcome donations of WAWH members' own books to be part of her library.

Rena's sister and the Northridge department of history enthusiastically support the possibility of a WAWH prize in Rena's name in the field of the history of women in higher education. The prize could be with or without stipend, as appropriate. Please write to me (Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum, 349 Gravatt Dr., Berkeley, CA 94705) about your ideas on how to honor this outstanding woman.

AMONG THE MISSING

Victoria E. Bynum
Kay Hamod
Ricky Jane Manoff
Doris Brinker Tanner

Janet M. Everts
Nerys W. Levy
Sister Margaret A. Renehan

Please send news of their current whereabouts to Alison Klairmont Lingo, 1088 Cragmont, Berkeley, CA 94708.

RESOURCES

The Universite des Femmes (Brussels) has a new volume in its magazine Chronique feministe. The essays include theoretical articles on advertising, cinema, and television, and the portrayal of women as objects. The image of women in various media is analyzed. Their role as professional workers in media is also explored. Chronique feministe incorporates a catalog of the activities organized by Universite des Femmes for the European Year of Television and The Cinema. The price for this edition is 300 Belgian francs. For information on this publication, write to: Universite des Femmes, La Place Quetelet, 1030 Bruxelles, Belgium; telephone: 32-2-219.61.07
EDITOR’S NOTE

Please send change of address notices, as well as dues, to Alison Klairmont Lingo, because she is in charge of mailing labels and membership lists. Keep sending your professional news to the Networker. The deadline for the next issue is December 4.

MEMBER NEWS


Marilyn Boxer is now the Vice President for Academic Affairs at San Francisco State University.

Margaret DeLacy has just received a three-year grant from the Humanities, Science, and Technology program of the National Endowment for the Humanities, to fund researching and writing her book on the medical profession in England in the 18th century.

Barbara Engel's article, "The St. Petersburg Prostitute in the Late Nineteenth Century: A Social and Personal Profile," is forthcoming in The Russian Review.


Gail Greenwood has accepted a position as head of the history department at Mission College In Santa Clara, CA. She notes that the school just hired a new teacher for a tenure track position, but less than 20 percent of the applicants were women. They expect to expand hiring soon, so get those applications in.

Karen V. Hansen has taken a position at Brandeis University and has also contributed an article titled, "Helped Put in a Quilt: Men's Work & Making Intimacy in Nineteenth-Century New England."

Karen L. Jolly accepted a position at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, beginning Fall 1989.

Marie Laberge has received a Schlesinger Library Dissertation Grant for 1989-90, for research on "The Forgotten Era: Wisconsin Women's Social and Political Activism in the Post-World War II Period."

Gloria Ricci Lothrop coedited A Guide to the History of California (Greenwood Press, 1989). This fifth volume in a nationwide series contains 29 chapters in which area specialists have cited materials in major depositories and on key topics. Lothrop has written several chapters, including "California Women."

Margaret M. Moody and her husband have left for a four-month stay in Turin, Italy, where she will spend most of her time in the National and City Archives, doing primary research for her dissertation.

Alexandra Nickliss is researching and writing a biography of Phoebe Apperson Hearst. She would like to hear from anyone who has found references to her in the private letters of individuals outside the Hearst family. Please send any information to Alexandra Nickliss, City College of San Francisco, Dept. of Social Science 50 Phelan Ave., San Francisco, CA 94112.


Mary Elizabeth Perry has written a new book, Gender and Upson in Early Modern Seville, will be published by Princeton University Press.

Barbara Bennett Peterson has returned from her sabbatical leave as a Fulbright scholar teaching US history at Wuhan University, China.

Diane Pritchard and her husband have been named to the editorial board of The Californians, a popular magazine of California history. Her latest article, "John Muir: A different perspective," will appear in September 1989. She is also contributing an article, "Russia/Hispanic Relations in All California, 1812-1841," to the catalog of an upcoming exhibit on Russian America.

Margaret Rossiter, now at Cornell University, has received a MacArthur Fellowship with which to continue her research on women in the sciences.


Michele Stenehjem is working as a consultant to the federal Centers for Disease Control for the Hanford Thyroid Morbidity Study, and as a consultant to the Washington State Historical Society. She is writing a book on the history of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation under a grant from the American Association for State and Local History.

Louise C. Wade will spend 1989-1990 as a NEH Fellow at the Newberry Library, working on a biography of Mary E. McDowell, a progressive era reformer and settlement house director.

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MEMBER NEWS

PLEASE CLIP AND SEND TO:

Susan Wladaver-Morgan
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Research and Teaching Fields

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Fulltime Employed $15.00
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