

# WEST COAST ASSOCIATION

OF

## WOMEN HISTORIANS

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April 23 - 25, 1971

STIMULATING AND EXCITING PROGRAM

PLACE: Tide Inn at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, California (near Monterey)

COST: Room and all meals: \$28.00 single room; \$24.00 each - double room

TIME: Registration and Social Hour, Friday, April 23, 5:00 p.m.  
Dinner, Friday at 6:00 p.m. through lunch, Sunday, April 25 at noon

Husbands Welcome

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Return to Prof. Linda Kerber, History Dept., Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

Please reserve (\$24.00) (\$28.00) room.

I need a roommate \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to report on my research \_\_\_\_\_.

Title of Research Project \_\_\_\_\_

Check for \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

WEST COAST ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HISTORIANS

NEWSLETTER

Vol. I, No. 3

March 15, 1971

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President: Dorothy A. Sexter, Ph. D.  
Sacramento State College  
Sacramento, California 95819

Secretary: Linda K. Kerber, Ph. D.  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California 94305  
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THIRD ANNUAL ASILOMAR CONFERENCE

This year our conference will again be held at Asilomar. Remember the dates--April 23-25 and try to join us for a stimulating conference in a relaxed and casual setting. We are trying to arrange for an unusual special event. Send your reservation to Linda Kerber before April 10. Upon receipt of your reservation, Linda will send travel directions. Program suggestions, including the topic of your current research, should be sent to Dorothy Sexter.

The December, 1970 AHA meeting:

Several West Coast women historians attended the meeting, including our officers. We attended the sessions planned by the AHA Committee on the Status of Women, participated in the meetings of the various regional women's groups. We are pleased to report that the business meeting voted favorably on the resolutions presented by the women's groups and the Committee on the Status of Women.

West Coast Report on the Status of Women in the Historical Profession:

Our president will report on the results of the survey we conducted on the West Coast at our Asilomar meeting. The report will be available for distribution after the meeting.

African Studies Association:

Barbara Dubins, San Jose State College, reports that at the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association in October, 1970 a women's caucus drafted resolutions on the status of women which were voted on and accepted at the business meeting. Valerie Bennett of Boston University is chairman of the Steering Committee of the Caucus; Barbara Dubins is a member of the committee.

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RECENT NEWS:

Paula Eldot, Sacramento State College, has an article in the recent issue of The Journal of General Education, "Five Decades of Student Life: From Fitzgerald to Savio."

Barbara Dubins, San Jose State College, chaired a panel at the October meeting of the African Studies Association on "The Role of Women in Africa. Papers presented were: "Nzinga of Ndongo: the Guerrilla Queen" (Roy Glasgow); "Ambivalence and Power: GEL Mediums" (Marion Kilson); "Women's Rights Movement in Kenya" (Audrey Wipper); "Ivory Coast Women's Banking Associations" (Barbara Lewis). Papers are available at moderate cost from the Paula Barker African Studies Association, 312 Shiffman Center, Brandeis University. Professor Dubins is planning a panel for the 1971 PCB meeting. She is interested in locating panel participants and especially interested in knowing of African women who could join a panel and who need not be academics,

Dorothy Sexter, Sacramento State College, promoted from assistant to associate professor,

Carolly Erickson's new work, The Records of Medieval Europe was published by Doubleday/Anchor in February. Protest and History: Transvaluation Movements in Western Society recently went to press at Houghton Mifflin. She is co-author of Women In Comparative History (with Michael Werthman) which will appear in Scott, Foresman's Comparative History series.

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Employment:

This fall, our members approved the suggestion that the WCAWH act as a clearing house for employment opportunities for women historians. We are all aware that job opportunities for historians appear to be almost non-existent this year. While we have no positions to offer, we do know of several woman historians who are seeking work. If you can offer any suggestions, please contact our president.

1. Published medievalist seeks teaching position within commuting distance of Berkeley;
2. Soon to be Ph. D. in medieval history seeks position;
3. U.S. historian, publications, Ph. D., experience, seeks position;
4. Modern European historian, Ph. D. 20th century Europe, experience, seeks one semester appointment, Spring, 1972, San Diego area.

ACTION ITEM

The New York area Women's History group has asked us to "trally around" several women historians and back these people for the AHA council and committee jobs. They have asked us to support their petitions to the AHA Nominating Committee. We have also been asked if we would like to put forth names of West Coast women historians for these positions.

Will you please notify our president if you approve of supporting these petitions. Also send the president your suggestions for women from the West Coast whose names could be added to the list on the petitions.

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From the mail bag:

The West Coast Association of Women Historians has come to the attention of women students in several colleges and universities. We are encouraged by the interest and offers of support we receive. The names of history students which are sent to us are placed on our mailing list so that they can be informed of our activities.

The following letter was sent to our president. Your comments are invited:

December 14, 1977

Dear Dr. Sexton:

I am disappointed that the WCAWH would invite membership from women without Ph. D.'s teaching history at the community college level, only after members had voted in a mail ballot in their credit by a 3-to-1 margin to approve such an invitation. I am equally disappointed that the WCAWH, unlike the AHA, has not yet seen fit to invite membership from and interested historians teaching--by choice or out of necessity--in secondary and college. That an organization formed to combat the historical establishment's sexual discrimination is willing to discriminate against colleagues with M.A.'s and those with unfinished doctoral dissertations whose decisions to "live full lives" sometimes as precluded their completing their studies in the graduate school--descri that our Association and others like it now seek to have relaxed, is ironic. Such an attitude strikes a mockery of the humane values historians profess to promote. Many women academicians (like their male counterparts) complain about the poor prior preparation students bring to their courses, yet they (also like their male counterparts) often seem unaware that today's elementary and secondary school pupils will be tomorrow's undergraduates and

graduate students. We abdicate a significant part of our responsibility for seeing that history in the schools will be taught in accord with the best techniques and the latest findings of our discipline, when we "read out" of our profession and exclude from our association well-trained women historians who devote their professional energies to giving our future students an understanding of the rudiments and--nore important-- the excitement of historical study.

I would like the above comments to appear in a future issue of the WCAWH NEWSLETTER, because I think my criticism speaks to a crucial shortcoming of the entire higher education establishment during the past several decades,

Yours very truly,

Helene S. Weinstock, M.A., C.Phil,

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SEND NEWS ITEMS, COMMENTS ON ITEMS IN THIS NEWSLETTER, AND OTHER ITEMS OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST TO:

Prof. Dorothy A. Sexter, History Dept.,  
Sacramento State College  
6000 Jay St.,  
Sacramento, Calif. 95819

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DUES ARE DUE.,,  
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If we are to continue to function, if we are to continue the newsletter, we need paid members, Please send your dues of \$2.00 to our secretary, Prof, Linda Kerber, History Dept., Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305. Attach your check to the coupon below. We hope to have a roster of members with their field of specialization ready for the Asilomar Conference,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Field of Specialization \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_