

**SIX PROPOSALS TO REVIVE THE HUMANITIES**

by Robert Weisbuch

[Editor's Note: Several NCPH members read this article when it appeared originally in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* in 1999 and suggested that we reprint it for our public history audience because of its relevance to our discipline. NCPH gratefully acknowledges the author's permission to reprint this article.]

Today's consensus about the state of the humanities—it's bad, it's getting worse, and no one is doing much about it—is supported by dismal facts. The percentage of undergraduates majoring in humanities fields has been halved over the past three decades.

Financing for faculty research has decreased. The salary gap between full-time scholars in the humanities and in other fields has widened, and more and more humanists are employed part time and paid ridiculously low salaries. The "job crisis" has existed for over a quarter of a century—no crisis, then, but a semi-permanent depression. As doctoral programs in the humanities proliferate irresponsibly, turning out more and more graduates who cannot find jobs, the waste of human talent becomes enormous, intolerable.

More broadly, the humanities, like the liberal arts generally, appear far less surely at the center of higher education than they once did. We have lost the respect of our colleagues in other fields, as well as the attention of an intelligent public: The action is elsewhere. We are living through a time when outrage with the newfangled in the humanities—with deconstruction or Marxism or whatever—has become plain lack of interest. No one's even angry with us now, just bored.

Our collective responsibility as humanists is to face those facts. But it is also to refuse fatalism.

Why not the following for a future? Graduates of our doctoral programs not merely well and fully employed, but fought over by universities, businesses, and public agencies. Children of any age, not just those between 18 and 21, taught to learn by experts. Cultural and educational institutions cooperating to such a degree that humanists go back and forth between sectors, and the publicly acting intellectual becomes the norm. A widespread adoption among citizens of a once-popular assumption: that the humanities uniquely provide a hard-won wisdom, gleaned from the total experience of humankind. The humanities holding sway, profoundly influencing decisions large and small.

That future, I insist, need not wait on the powers that be to experience an epiphany (or suffer a breakdown). But to achieve it, we must question why we have fallen so far. Who's to blame? In a recent essay in Harvard's alumni magazine, the literary scholars James Engel and Anthony Dangerfield name their chief villain in the title: "The Market-Model University." Certainly, there is fault in a society that spends billions on the health of the nation's body and chump-change on its

**ABOUT OUR MEMBERS**

**Jo Blatti** is the new executive director of the Old Independence Regional Museum in Batesville, Arkansas. She is working with area residents and trustees to develop an active schedule of temporary exhibits and public programs.

**Bruce Craig** has been named the new Executive Director for the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History in Washington, D.C. Craig, formerly the supervisory historian at Gettysburg National Military Park, will begin in May 2000 before current director Page Putnam Miller retires this summer.

**Martin Melosi** has published a book entitled, *The Sanitary City: Urban Infrastructure in America From Colonial Times to the Present* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000).

**Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library** has announced that it has received the prestigious honor of reaccreditation by the American Association of Museums (AAM). The accreditation process requires a year of self-study and an on-site review by a team of experienced museum professionals from other accredited institutions.

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► *Proposals continued from pg 1.*

soul. But that crazy imbalance, after all, measures not only others' coarseness, but also our own failure. After spending much time haranguing educational capitalism and a new administrative crassness—we administrators are crass, but that's not new, nor is the power of money—Engel and Dangerfield acknowledge that humanists might share the responsibility for their own plight. Arguing "more and more only with themselves" in "unedifying disputes," the two authors say, faculty members in the humanities suffer from "endemic pettiness, bad faith, and guilt by association."

One simple reason for the decline of the humanities is that they have stopped being fun—for faculty members and students and for the public beyond academe. Coinciding with an emphasis on the sciences and with increasingly narrow career training, the culture wars might have chosen better timing. Like never.

But the nastiness—and there appears to be a record number of dysfunctional humanities departments now—is not limited to intellectual matters. In Richard Russo's novel *Straight Man*, the English-department chairman at a small college asks a colleague how things are going in other fields, such as French, Spanish, German, Italian, and classics. "Silly, small, mean-spirited, lame," his colleague answers. "Same as English."

The abusive pettiness that Russo satirizes is a climate. It is the weather of failure. The evil lies not in our cost-recovery stars, dear Brutus, but in ourselves. It lies in the defeatism of humanities departments; and insularity is its fearful twin.

I became aware of such defeatism when I spent a year recently as an interim graduate dean. I began to notice my reactions to the day's schedule. If a group of scientists made an appointment, I knew that I should lock the safe or get my checkbook ready for compelling and expensive proposals. If I saw that my colleagues in the humanities were coming by, I would reach instead for a tissue. The president of a major research university told me that, when he offered his faculty members funds for new proposals, he received more than 50 ideas from scien-

tists, 30 from social scientists, and nothing from humanists except requests to put more money into existing programs.

That's the problem. We sometimes confuse selling our disciplines with selling out, and wholesale distrust of our own institutions inspires neither us to ask nor the institution to give. Beyond that, we are not problem solvers. An engineer takes a problem and fixes it. A humanist takes a problem and celebrates its complexity. That is fine until we ourselves are the problem.

The current generation of humanities graduate students is not quietly accepting a losers' culture. That is laudable, even critical. But the complaining tone of the graduate-student caucus at last December's meeting of the Modern Language Association imitates the very voice of the mentors that the students chastised for not doing enough to ease the job shortage. And their reported opposition to a new emphasis on meaningful careers beyond academe also imitates their elders' myopia. Maximizing academic employment and populating the frontiers beyond the academy do not constitute alternatives. Those are not either/or solutions. They are interdependent.

Our insularity is a political and intellectual failure as well as an economic one. We have become increasingly interested in the world examined by the humanities, but we have never had less actually to do with that world. We have debated canons and taught Toni Morrison, but we have not engaged with urban schools and community groups. As a result, the percentage of African-American and Hispanic graduates of our doctoral programs remains dismally low.

In all, too much posturing and too few ideas headed toward action contribute to a culture of edgy despair and fretful infighting in the humanities.

Let me repeat the faults that I name (and I have been guilty of every one of them myself), I want to offer six proposals:

\* Act on fact. Humanists tend to substitute rhetoric for data, just as social scientists often substitute data for thought. What departments and programs do not know about their own graduates is stunning. I worry that we humanists often

do not collect information—about, for example, where our graduates get jobs—because we do not want to know what it will tell us. And the universities that gather data on their departments too often behave in the fashion of Dickens's Chancery, collecting mounds of statistics but using them only to fill storage rooms with paper. While the merely quantitative can be misleading, it also can spur dialogue.

\* Practice doctoral birth control. It is astonishing that there are now more than 140 doctoral-degree programs in English, when only about one-third of their graduates get tenure-track jobs in their first year on the market. Of course we must reduce enrollments and programs. I don't know how to discourage status-conscious universities from maintaining worse-than-useless doctoral programs other than by the kind of public disapprobation they are already beginning to attract.

Those departments that do want to be responsible might consider either of two rules of thumb in admitting students. First, any department should accept only 1.3 times the number of incoming students as the number of graduates in the previous year who found truly significant jobs—positions that they chose, not jobs that they accepted out of economic necessity. The extra 0.3 allows conservatively for attrition. That rule might lead to many fewer students—or it might encourage faculty members and students to collaborate to enlarge the range of meaningful careers. Alternatively, let any department admit as many new doctoral students as it can assuredly support through fellowships and teaching for every term of a five-year Ph.D. program. Less-than-full support prevents full-time education and encourages a lethargic approach to earning a degree. It's exploitative, an anti-luxury that no one can afford.

\* Reclaim the curriculum. In the near term, reducing enrollments is vital, but doing so is not free of the taint of defeatism: It is based on an assumption of a continuing shortage of opportunities for humanists. Humanists have the power to increase the number of dignified faculty positions: The key is to put new value on all courses being taught. How? Have the regular faculty members at large universi-

ties resume teaching those courses that many have shunned—chiefly freshman writing and language instruction.

If students don't want to take a particular course, and the faculty members don't want to teach it, better redesign the course. Redesign, then reassign—not to exploited adjuncts or part-timers, but to newly created tenurable positions (at best) or postdoctoral fellowships that (at least) constitute a carefully considered career step. If full-time faculty members teach the entire curriculum, then universities might combine adjunct lines into additional tenurable positions.

The humanities have always held two advantages over other fields: First, we attract a cohort that teaches wonderfully; second, our scholarship and teaching often have far more to do with each other than holds true in other fields. Shockingly, we've lost the lead in curricular innovation to the sciences during the past decade—perhaps out of fear that our emphasis on teaching is a result of how little our scholarship is valued. If that is the case, we must immediately lose our resentment and re-establish our pedagogical eminence.

\* Unleash the humanities from the insularity of academe. Even generating additional faculty positions will not get us to where we need to be. The math just won't compute. In my own department of English, at the University of Michigan, after two years of trying to persuade faculty members to teach more first-year courses and administrators to allow us to convert lecturer slots into assistant professorships, we created three new positions in a department of 75, an increase of only 4 per cent. Clearly, the economic status of the humanities within the academy will not change until there is a major improvement in job prospects for humanists beyond the academy—which will provide the kind of competition that universities face for scientists, engineers, lawyers, and even social scientists.

I won't go into the details of my own foundation's initiative to create jobs beyond academe for humanities graduates. Briefly, we're developing summer and postdoc internships for students in new-technology firms, businesses, news and entertainment media, schools, and cultural

institutions. We're not just after any job—we're after leadership positions. Even if the job shortage went away tomorrow, the effort would remain crucial, for our final concern is not jobs for the relatively few, but the potential of the humanities to make life better for everyone.

There is evidence that the world beyond academe is not hostile to humanists, and may even be welcoming. We have been swamped with e-mail offers of assistance and internships from a wide range of employers. Indeed, in Walt Kelly's phrase, "We have met the enemy and he is us"—those faculty members who remain wedded to the belief that the only successful outcome of a doctoral program is an assistant professorship at a research university or top college. Yet, we are also beginning to get letters of support and advice from faculty members who appear ready to shuck their "only cloning."

\* Redesign graduate programs. Most graduates of our programs who do achieve academic positions will be taking them at institutions of learning very different from their own, ones that stress teaching far more than research. That is why the Preparing Future Faculty program, sponsored by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the Council of Graduate Schools, and the Pew Charitable Trusts, matters so greatly: It sends students from research universities to other kinds of higher-education institutions to learn about other kinds of academic lives. That is also why our foundation will announce a competition to award newly created postdoctoral fellowships to people who wish to get experience teaching in other types of academic institutions. The fellowships will be in addition to the internships in the non-academic sector that we will sponsor: Both programs seek to widen the perspectives of humanists.

The stretch needs to include community colleges and, perhaps, the public schools. That possibility is likely to be controversial. Where is the opportunity for scholarship or for professional development in the schools? Conversely, where is the benefit to public education of an infiltration by a bunch of irrelevantly prepared elitists who approach the schools like imperial aristocrats visiting the colonies? What about the unions, the

school boards, the superintendents and principals, the damnable mound of certification requirements? Yet every objection is swept away by the equally important facts that we will need two million new teachers in the next decade, that many of our schoolteachers are inadequately prepared, and that we have unemployed Ph.D.'s. How dare we hold that our children of all ages do not deserve to be taught by bright people expert in their fields?

I am not saying that our graduate programs must change wholesale. Disciplines do have their own integrity, and that integrity should be guarded with religious intensity. But I would make a distinction between the scholarly aspect of programs and the surrounding activities of professional development. We need internships, carefully staged and guided development of pedagogical abilities, even degrees that combine a humanities discipline with necessary knowledge in, say, new technology or journalism.

\* Embrace contradiction. While we must insist on learning for its own human sake, we also must connect the humanities to the immediate challenges in our culture. To make the world safe for private scholarship that is deliberately, grandly, rightly unconcerned with consequence, we need to become newly public. That means requiring students to learn how to explain their work to non-humanists. And it means that all of us must speak up. We must make the case for the value of a liberal-arts education, and for the sense that the humanities make possible the thinking about values and creativity that no technology can produce—and without which any democracy will fail. Someone must have convinced us that sermonizing was out or that the song was tired—but when I state the value of the humanities to public groups, it is as if many in the audience are hearing the goldenest oldie imaginable, a song they loved, still love, and have not heard for too long.

Without that music, a culture dies. Triumph for the humanities? Just imagine the consequences of defeat.

*Robert Weisbuch, is president of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.*

# PUBLIC HISTORY: THE NEXT GENERATION

## REFLECTIONS OF A VETERAN

by Barry Hutcheson

Two inevitabilities—the passage of time and yet another round of organizational changes—have recently prompted me to reflect on my career in public history. After thirty years of working for state government as a public historian, I have accumulated some experience in the field. Perhaps this knowledge will be of benefit to students looking for direction, as well as to those directors of public history programs seeking to provide new workers for the field.

My introduction to public history began almost inadvertently in the fall of 1967 as a history graduate student at Texas Technological College (now Texas Tech University). I had completed my bachelor's degree the year before and had begun study for an advanced degree with no particular goal in mind. At the time, there were no organized public history programs; most of my colleagues were planning on jobs in academia. The department of Park Administration was offering a research assistantship for a history major in a relatively new program developed by Department chairman Professor Elo J.

Urbanovsky. An earlier project in this program included an evaluation of the Texas system of state parks, which resulted in the establishment of the present Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The program called for a small, multi-disciplinary group of graduate students to investigate the issues affecting outdoor recreation and tourism in Texas. Our group would consist of students in economics, park administration, history, landscape architecture, and forestry from the US, Canada and Australia. Dr. Seymour V. Connor in the History Department helped convince me to take the history position. He was associated with the Park Administration program to teach courses in Texas history, and he helped select likely history majors to participate in it.

From August 1967 until May 1969, our graduate student group investigated, studied, and recommended ideas for improving development of regional tourism in far west Texas, along the San Antonio River corridor and in the Dallas metroplex. We also looked for the answer to Professor Urbanovsky's question, "What's a look worth?" He was sure that the person who developed a

formula enabling planners to assign a monetary value to the simple act of viewing natural or historical sites would become a leader in the tourism industry. In some ways, his challenge anticipated the concept of nature and heritage tourism that is prevalent today.

My graduation in 1969 with a Masters in history and a minor in park administration coincided with a job opening in a new program being established with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Austin, Texas. The Interpretation and Exhibits Branch in the State Parks Division was part of a new initiative for the Department, as several historic sites were included as properties acquired for new parks. The Branch formally began with an archaeologist, a biologist and a historian. From that beginning, the staff grew or contracted, depending on the vicissitudes of the governmental bureaucracy and the whims of the legislature. In the intervening thirty years, we interacted with, and learned from, individuals in a variety of disciplines. Branch historians have been involved in conducting library and archival research; planning interpretive exhibits; writing park

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► *Public History continued from pg. 4*

brochures and interpretive articles; directing oral history interviews; contributing to site development plans; participating in long range, strategic plans; planning special events; participating in professional historical organizations; and learning administrative survival techniques. Many of these skills were developed on the job.

With the advent of formal public history programs, there is now greater opportunity to guide the development of new practitioners in the field. Graduates of public history programs should be capable of providing the widest variety of audiences with an awareness of and appreciation for the historical past, based on a foundation of academic excellence and using all available techniques and media. The challenge is deciding what courses to include in a 30- to 36-hour degree plan.

A public historian has two primary functions. One is discovering, preserving and then presenting historical information to broad segments of the public. This could range from governmental agencies to museums to businesses. The second function is providing and maintaining current information about organizations, institutions and individuals for future historians. While the work basically focuses on preserving and documenting the deeds of others, it is important to leave a record of how and by whom that work is carried out.

Based on my years of experience, I feel that the ideal public history graduate should have most of the skills (with coursework suggestions) listed below.

- A general history background, with coursework in national, regional and local history;
- The ability to conduct research projects—historiography and historical methods, including oral history;
- Skill in writing clearly and succinctly and the ability to accept and utilize literary criticism—technical writing, journalism, English;
- An appreciation for natural environment and the larger world—historical architecture, material culture, anthropology, art history, environmental history, educational methods, business history, project management, museum science, etc.;
- An awareness of the importance of self-

- documentation—records management, administrative history;
- A knowledge of funding sources and techniques—grant writing instruction;
- Skill in creative fields, as a bonus—photography, fine arts, computer layout and design;
- Flexibility and adaptability in all things
- A sense of humor

With well-rounded academic backgrounds, and with a willingness to be

creative in the job search, new program graduates should be equipped for a long and varied career in public history. And one final bit of advice: The aspiring public historians should be serious about their work and their personal performance, but they shouldn't take themselves too seriously. They won't start out with all of the answers.

*Barry Huteson is the Interpretive Planner for the Texas Parks and Wildlife, Austin, Texas.*

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by Michael J. Devine

## REFLECTION ON THE ADAM'S MARK ISSUE

**[Editor's Note:** It's springtime in the Rockies. Well, the date on the calendar suggests that it is. Spring is a time for renewal and, for the National Council on Public History, it is the time that we change leadership. The last minute alterations in the annual conference venue at St. Louis delayed our spring newsletter and so, in this issue, you are treated to a few words from both your outgoing and incoming president.]

It is too early to assess properly all the implications of the decision by the Organization of American Historians (OAH) to move the sessions of the joint OAH/NCPH/MCH annual meetings in St. Louis out of the Adam's Mark Hotel in an effort to protest alleged racist behavior. Nevertheless, it is not too soon to begin considering whether boycotts or other forms of economic action by our professional organizations are an appropriate and wise tactic in protesting complex social problems at home or abroad.

The decision of the OAH leadership to move all sessions out of the Adam's Mark was made just weeks prior to the start of the annual meeting and without prior notification to the NCPH leadership. In fact, just days prior to making their decision, I had been told by OAH leadership in a conference call that they planned to have most sessions in the Adam's Mark, hold some public protests and meet personally with Adam's Mark executives in St. Louis to discuss the issue of racial discrimination. When informed after the fact that the OAH leadership had decided to move all sessions out of the Adam's Mark, although they would not cancel the contract with the hotel corporation, the NCPH executive committee was left with the options of moving ahead with the agreement for the St. Louis meeting we had with OAH (not the Adam's Mark) or doing something else altogether.

The NCPH executive committee was, and is, concerned about racial discrimination and determined that NCPH gatherings take place in facilities where all members are treated fairly and respectfully. We doubted, however, the effectiveness of a boycott or quasi-boycott as a strategy in dealing with the allegations made against the Adam's Mark, particularly since the Adam's Mark would not be hurt financially by the OAH action and because both the OAH and NCPH stood to lose considerable revenue if the annual meetings did not take place. It was unclear how the Adam's Mark would be brought to its knees by the OAH and NCPH losing a lot of money.

In the end, the NCPH executive committee felt the most appropriate course was to support the decision made by the OAH leadership, which was not to actually boycott the Adam's Mark, but to move the sessions out of the hotel. The OAH leadership made a sincere, well-intentioned and carefully considered decision in an extraordinarily difficult and complex situation, and the OAH leadership worked diligently in their attempt to bring about a successful event in St. Louis. The NCPH leadership felt that a statement on the evils of racial discrimination in our society was appropriate, even if the OAH tactics seemed dubious.

The St. Louis meeting must be carefully analyzed in the months ahead and, once the passions have died down, objectively considered for implications it may have on how professional organizations conduct business in the future. Beyond the question of whether or not the OAH action in St. Louis really made a difference in the policies of the Adam's Mark, we need to consider whether professional organizations should place their financial health in jeopardy every time there are allegations of wrongdoing against a service provider with whom one of our organizations has a contract.

There are additional questions. Should we write off as locations for future meetings South Carolina (because of the Confederate Flag issue),

New York City (because of Rev. Sharpton's call for a boycott) and other states and cities that have done or may do something in the months and years ahead that offend one group or another? Is the boycott (or similar form of economic embargo) still an effective means of protest in our global economy and in an era where discrimination issues appear far less clear cut than in the 1960s? Is there actually any place in the United States where our professional organizations can confidently schedule a meeting and know for certain that there will not arise over the next couple of years issues of police brutality, racial or sexual discrimination, or matters of economic injustices towards factory workers, farm laborers, or hotel employees?

When OAH actions taken with regard to the St. Louis meetings are carefully and objectively reviewed, the leaders of our professional organizations will have to determine that, while we cannot be oblivious to the many social inequities that still afflict our nation (and other nations), historical organizations exist primarily to fulfill a specific professional mission and that economic boycotts and other actions that threaten the very existence of an organization should be taken only in the most extreme circumstances.

► *Members continued from pg. 1*

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# INCOMING PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



by Alan S. Newell

The President's Column has been used in past newsletters to focus the membership's attention on issues of importance to public historians. I will continue that tradition in the next four issues of *Public History News*. But, I also want to use this column to address matters that confront your Board of Directors and the various committees that are responsible for much of the day-to-day work of the NCPH. Volunteer organizations such as the NCPH rely on the efforts of committee members to keep the organization vital and responsive to its membership. Committees also are the training and mentoring ground for future board members and officers. In the coming year, I'll be asking committee chairs to report regularly on their activities and will use this column to show how their individual accomplishments further the goals of the NCPH and of public history.

Our joint conference with the Organization of American Historians

and the Missouri Conference on History in St. Louis provided us with the opportunity to begin the year's work. Your board approved a new five-year strategic plan that will be available for review shortly on the NCPH web site. The board also passed a resolution that would change our by-laws by requiring the Nominating Committee to select only one Vice-President (President-Elect), who would run unopposed for the office. Your elected Nominating Committee, whose members feel that a small organization such as the NCPH inevitably loses the services of talented and dedicated members who run in contested elections, recommended this change. The board will vote on this resolution within the next sixty days and I encourage you to write, e-mail, call or otherwise contact me, board members or David Vanderstel if you have an opinion on this proposed change.

As the dust settles from the frenetic activity of the last few months of conference planning, your board will be reviewing our policy of joint annual meetings. As many of you know, the NCPH has had an unwritten policy of meeting jointly with the OAH every five years. The annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in 2002 is a departure from this policy in that the OAH's presence in that city offers a venue

comparable to the successful meeting in 1995. Some NCPH members, however, question how often we should meet with an organization as large as the OAH. Our annual meetings have always been characterized by a degree of informality and by ample opportunity to interact with other public historians. This intimacy understandably is compromised in the larger setting with the OAH. Moreover, there are other organizations of comparable size to the NCPH, such as the American Society of Environmental Historians, that have expressed an interest in meeting jointly with us.

I have asked your newly elected Vice-President, Patrick O'Bannon, to form a small ad-hoc committee to review our meeting policy and to recommend criteria for future meetings. He will present his findings to the board at its Fall meeting. I encourage you to talk with Patrick or any of the organization's board members or officers, if you have an opinion on this issue.

Finally, I want to add my voice to the chorus of thanks to the OAH/NCPH/MCH local arrangements committee in St. Louis. They did a tremendous job. The OAH Board faced a difficult situation and with the good work of their staff and local arrangement committee members, including our own Kathy Corbett, who chaired the committee, they succeeded in hosting a productive and rewarding meeting.

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



by David G. Vanderstel

We often hear the statement, "It's history," which implies something that is outdated, obsolete, finished, useless. Unfortunately, many students think the same thing when they take a history course. Just a bunch of useless names, dates, and facts that have no meaning. Likewise, a good portion of the public does not see the connection between the past and the present. The past is something that is long gone, that has no relevance for today except for purposes of personal remembrance or public commemoration. But, if we scan the pages of our daily newspapers, we are faced with numerous stories that must be understood and appreciated within an historical context.

Since last Thanksgiving, the American public has been caught up with the Elian Gonzalez case. The media has presented a heart-wrenching story of a young boy, trapped between battling family members and dueling governments. Radio and television talk shows have been filled with emotional discussions about rights of parents and the merits of democracy over a Communist state. But, how much of the public coverage, except for the traditional, reliable outlets for comprehensive and reliable news, has examined the historical relationship between the US and Cuba? How many reporters have taken this opportunity to explore the history of this nation's immigration policy or its treatment of refugees? Clearly, there is an excellent opportunity to embark upon some larger public teaching through the media rather than simply feeding the flames of sensationalism and emotionalism.

Similarly, for months, we have followed the story of South Carolina's debate over the public display of the Confederate battle flag. Coverage has focused on the impassioned arguments from those who claim the right to display a symbol of Southern heritage and those who believe the flag to be a symbol of oppression and racism. But, has any reporter taken the time to examine the story from the perspective of the meaning (and changing nature) of symbols? Or, the current protests as an extension of the civil rights movement?

The recent joint meeting of NCPH, the Organization of American Historians, and the Missouri Conference on History provided a perfect opportunity for public teaching in an historical context. Faced with a conference hotel charged with racial discrimination, the OAH relocated our meeting to the St. Louis University campus and sponsored a couple public marches to "make racism history." But, apart from an inspirational presidential address by David Montgomery and coverage by local media, did the historians attending the conference really impact the public's knowledge and understanding about racism in American society? Or, did we basically preach to the choir?

These are just a few current examples where historians could and should participate in the public arena by shedding light on the present through the use of the past, thereby contributing to more meaningful and substantive discussions on public issues. There are, however, ways of reaching out to the public. The History News Service, a service to the news media coordinated by Joyce Appleby of UCLA and independent scholar James M. Banner, Jr., provides opportunities for historians to comment on current issues with an historical perspective, though it is not clear how widely it is used. Last year, amidst the public hoopla about the millennium and the passing of the century, I assisted the local

newspaper with a retrospective series on Indianapolis' history by providing an interpretive context for the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In such ways, historians can influence the public's understanding of the past in the present.

Back amidst the infamous Enola Gay incident, then Senator Robert Dole claimed that history was too important to leave to the historians. But, without someone to provide an understanding of where we have been, where we are today, and how we got there, how can we be effective makers of the future? We historians need to do a better job of changing the stereotypical image of being cloistered in the academy, especially since our colleagues in other disciplines are making significant headway in relating to the public and despite the fact that many historians work among the public. At the recent meeting in St. Louis, I heard several conversations and concerns expressed about matters of tenure, the use of part-time instructors, and the latest historiography. While these may be viable issues in the academy, a principal concern for the profession as a whole should be improving our communication outside the profession in order to ensure an audience for history, whether in the classroom or in the public arena, in the future.

Explanations of historical significance and context regarding the Gonzalez or the Confederate flag cases may not defuse the situations or reduce the emotionalism associated with these events. But, historical insights might just enlighten someone somewhere and provide a degree of understanding to approach these subjects in a level-headed, objective manner. And, such efforts might also change the image of the cloistered historian and make us a more viable and accepted part of the public arena.



# NCC WASHINGTON UPDATE



by Page Putnam Miller,  
Director of the National  
Coordinating Committee  
for the Promotion of History  
<pagem@capaccess.org>

[Editor's Note: Included here are excerpts of previously distributed NCC Updates.]

**NCC Board Selects Bruce Craig To Become New Executive Director**—Arnita Jones, the Executive Director of the American Historical Association and the Chair of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History's Board, announced the selection of Bruce Craig as NCC's new Executive Director to succeed Page Putnam Miller, who is stepping down from the directorship after 20 years. Craig, who is currently the chief of resources management at the Gettysburg National Military Park, will begin work at the NCC in the spring. This will provide an overlap period with Miller prior to her move to South Carolina, where she will teach at the University of South Carolina while pursuing several writing projects.

**Subcommittee Recommends NHPRC Reauthorization Legislation**—On 5 April the House Committee on Government Reform's Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology voted unanimously by voice vote to recommend to the full committee HR 4110, a bill to reauthorize the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for the fiscal years 2002 through 2005 with an appropriations ceiling of \$10 million.

**National Archives Requests Comments on Appraisal and Scheduling of Federal Records**—

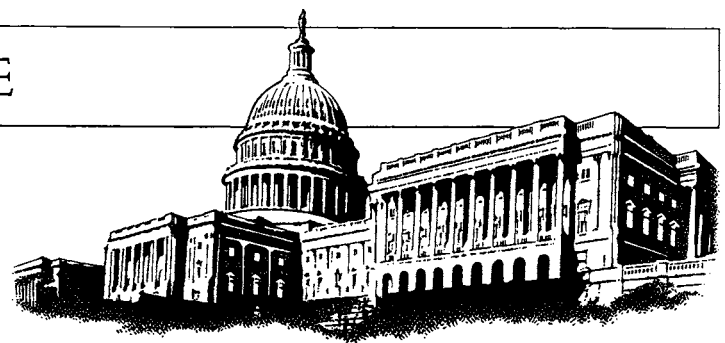
Last year, the National Archives began a major project of reviewing the policies and processes for the scheduling and appraisal of federal records since current policies are based primarily on paper-based record keeping systems. Archivist John Carlin has noted that now most records are created electronically and agencies need to know how to manage records in all media, not just paper. The Archives is seeking comment on the draft work plan for evaluating and analyzing current policies and making new recommendations for the digital environment. The draft plan may be reviewed at the National Archives' web site:  
[www.nara.gov/records/sap](http://www.nara.gov/records/sap)

**National Archives Loses 43,000 E-Mail Messages**—On 6 January the *Washington Post* reported on the loss at the National Archives last summer of 43,000 e-mail messages, accumulated over a four month period, from the Archivist's office, the headquarters office of the regional archives, and five staff units. Although the Archives was supposed to have a backup system that could replace missing e-mail messages, it was not working properly and Archives officials have been unable to determine what caused the erasures. Following the *Post* article, the National Archives released a statement stressing that no records of other federal agencies were affected, nor any Presidential, Congressional, or court records. The experience, however, emphasized the vulnerability of electronic records and the loss that can occur when an agency does not have effective and reliable electronic record-keeping systems. This was a particularly embarrassing experience for the National Archives since it is the agency in the federal government responsible for issuing guidance to other federal

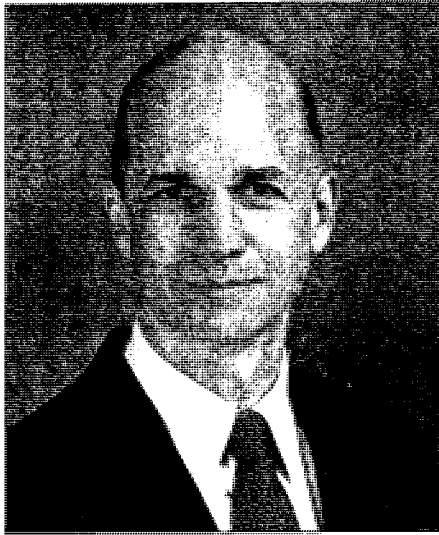
agencies on the preservation of their electronic records.

**Work of the Senate Historical Office Underscores Need for a House Historical Office**—The Senate Historical Office is undertaking an oral history project to create a record of the Clinton impeachment trial. The Senate Historical Office is focusing on senior support personnel and people who worked behind the scenes who would not usually be interviewed. Articles in the *Washington Post* and *The Hill*, a weekly publication focusing on Congress, have applauded the work of the Senate Historical Office and have pointed out the deficiencies of the House of Representatives in not having a Historical Office. Soon after Speaker of the House Gingrich (R-GA) fired the long time and respected House Historian in 1994, the House dismantled the Historical Office.

An editorial in the 19 January issue of *The Hill* stated, "Yet, unlike the Senate, the House—the institution that voted to impeach a president for the first time in 140 years—has no official mechanism to help scholars and future historians better understand the legal maneuvering, partisan conflicts and personal passions that led to impeachment." Likewise, an article titled "Revisiting Impeachment, With Senate Staff," appearing in the 17 January issue of the *Post*, noted that an official in the House of Representatives claimed that the House did not have the staff to make any special efforts to preserve the impeachment process. However, the *Post* article concluded on a positive note, stating that "the House has just begun the process of looking for a House historian."



# 2000 NCPH ELECTION RESULTS



## O'Bannon Elected Vice-President

In the recent election, NCPH members selected Patrick O'Bannon as the next Vice-President. O'Bannon, who has been an active member of NCPH since 1986, has served on the NCPH Board of Directors, as chair for the Nominating and Cultural Resources Management Committee, and as a member of the 1995 Joint NCPH-OAH Program Committee and the NCPH Endowment and Finance committees. He also helped to organize the Consultant's Working Group. Recently, O'Bannon completed a term as president of the American Cultural Resources Association, a national trade organization representing CRM businesses.

Since graduating from the University of California at San Diego, O'Bannon has spent his entire career as a public historian, working in historic preservation and cultural resources management with both the public and private sectors. He has had diverse work experiences, including stints with the National Park Service, a state historic preservation office, and private consulting firms. Currently, O'Bannon is a Project Manager/Senior Historian for HRA Gray & Pape in Cincinnati.

The new vice-president believes that it is important for practitioners and teachers of public history to work more closely to ensure that public

history students are provided with both sound work place skills and historical training. O'Bannon claimed that "NCPH can assume an active role in this area, which is vital to the future health and success of public history."

## Babaian Chosen as Secretary-Treasurer

Sharon Babaian, an historian at Canada's National Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa, was elected to a three-year term as the NCPH Secretary-Treasurer. Babaian has been very active in the organization since joining in 1993, serving on the Membership and Long Range Planning committees, and the Program Committee for the 1996 Seattle meeting. Currently, she chairs the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2001 Annual Meeting in Ottawa. Her experience includes serving for several years as secretary on the executive of Local 70401 Public Service Alliance of Canada, and as recording secretary for the editorial board of *Material History Review*, a journal published by the National Museum of Science and Technology.

Over the years, Babaian has worked for the provincial governments of Alberta and Manitoba, doing research related to historic sites and museums, and for a private consulting firm. She recently completed a work exchange at the National Archives of Canada where she researched and wrote an evaluation of the science and technology acquisition program within the Manuscript Division.

## New Members Selected for NCPH Board of Directors and Nominating Committee

NCPH members recently selected three new directors who will serve the organization for the next several years. Elected to three-year terms were Cindy Brandimarte, Marie Tyler-McGraw, and Judith Wellman.

Cindy Brandimarte directs the public history program at Southwest Texas State

University. Previous to her position there, she worked as Director of Cultural Resources at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department where she assured that 2 million acres of public lands received baseline surveys to improve management practices. Cindy was on the NCPH Local Arrangements Committee for Austin's 1998 annual meeting and recently served on the Student Project Award Committee and the Curriculum and Training Committee.

Marie Tyler-McGraw is a Historian and Education Specialist in the National Register, History and Education Office of the National Park Service. She has served as Museum Exhibits Review Editor for *The Public Historian*, on the *TPH* Editorial Board, on the Nominating Committee, and on the G. Wesley Johnson Prize Committee.

Judith Wellman is currently a Professor of History at the State University of New York at Oswego. She also worked as archivist and coordinator of the college's Special Collections and was the first historian at Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls.

Selected as new members of the Nominating Committee were James Delgado and Vivien Rose. Delgado is the Executive Director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum in British Columbia. Vivien Rose is the historian at the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York, part of the National Park Service.

In congratulating and welcoming new members to positions of leadership in NCPH, we also wish to extend our appreciation to those outgoing board members who have served during the past three years:

Martin Blatt,  
Katherine T. Corbett,  
and Rose Diaz.

We also extend special recognition and thanks to Elizabeth Brand Monroe for her service as Secretary-Treasurer of NCPH from 1997 to 2000.

## CONSULTANT'S CORNER

The Consultants Working Group Committee (CWGC) is dedicated to promoting the interests of NCPH members who provide historical services as consultants or contractors. The CWGC wishes to highlight professional accomplishments among contract historians, contract firms, and other independent researchers. Forward news of finished projects, contract awards, contract report publications, ongoing oral history projects, or anything else that might be of interest to practicing historians. E-mail items to Jason Gart, Consultants Working Group Committee, at [jason.gart@asu.edu](mailto:jason.gart@asu.edu). Please be sure to include your full name and address.

**Dale Stirling**, historian with the environmental and public health consulting firm of **Intertox, Inc.**, has joined the advisory board of the *Environmental Periodicals Bibliography*, which is published by the Environmental Studies Institute of the International Academy at Santa Barbara, California. The bibliography, which has been published since 1972, is now available on the World Wide Web and on CD-ROM as *Environmental Knowledgebase*. It is the world's leading guide to environmental periodical literature. Stirling will draw on two decades of experience as an environmental historian, archivist, and information specialist to help guide the bibliography into the new millennium. Stirling joins twelve other advisors representing academia, government laboratories, environmental publications, and consulting.

**William F. Willingham**, consulting historian in Chicago, has joined the staff of **Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc.**, in Portland, Oregon. Willingham will serve as Senior Historian of the CRM firm. Willingham also recently authored *The Classic Houses of Portland, Oregon, 1850-1950*, available at [www.timberpress.com](http://www.timberpress.com).

The City of Phoenix has hired **Jason Gart**, principal historian of **History International, Inc.** in Mesa, Arizona, to prepare a

comprehensive list of graduates of the Phoenix Indian School. The names will be integrated into a memorial presently being designed for the new Steele Phoenix Indian School Park.

The **Arrowrock Group, Inc.**, an historical research and consulting company based in Boise, Idaho, completed two large development-related historic sites survey projects. A contract for the city of Boise City resulted in the survey of more than seven hundred properties in the historic North End neighborhood. The consultants' recommendations will help determine whether to extend the boundaries of the North End Historic District. Also completed was a survey of two hundred rural sites in Ada County, which will assist the county in future planning endeavors.

**History Associates Incorporated** of Rockville, Maryland, is preparing to celebrate its twentieth anniversary in 2001. ~ In December, HAI President Philip L. Cantelon completed his term as chair of the Organization of American Historians' Committee on Research and Access to Historical Documentation. Drs. Cantelon and Barbara Howe of West Virginia University also co-edited the Summer 1999 issue of *The Public Historian*, which commemorated the twentieth anniversary of the National Council on Public History. ~ Cantelon was the plenary speaker at a career symposium for humanities Ph.D.'s at the Duke University Career Center. He was also a panelist on a session titled "The Past as Pork: Realities and Possibilities of Public Spending on Public History" at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians and NCPH in St. Louis. ~ HAI's Rodney P. Carlisle co-authored *Brandy, Our Man in Acapulco: The Life and Times of Colonel Frank M. Brandstetter*, with Dominic Monetta. The book, published by the University of North Texas Press, chronicles the experiences of Brandstetter, a Hungarian immigrant who became a noted Army

intelligence officer, hotelier, and raconteur. ~ HAI's digitization project team working on the National Library of Medicine's *Profiles in Science* website has posted the manuscript collection of biochemist and Nobel laureate Martin Rodbell. The website showcases accomplishments of prominent biomedical scientists of the twentieth century, most of whom are Nobel laureates and former NIH researchers. ~ HAI Senior Historian John C. Rumm was one of two keynote speakers February 25th at a workshop in Tempe, Arizona, on consultancy in historical organizations. At the workshop sponsored by the Coordinating Committee for Arizona History, Dr. Rumm discussed guidelines for ensuring a good relationship between clients and consultants.

The **Prologue Group**, in Redwood City, California, hosted the March 2000 meeting of the Business History Conference, the world's largest professional society devoted to the history of the firm and business culture. The Prologue Group is a consultancy specializing in corporate history.



**The National Council on Public History** promotes the application of historical scholarship outside the university in government, business, historical societies, preservation organizations, archives, libraries, professional associations, and public interest groups.

For details contact NCPH President Michael J. Devine, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071-3924; or David G. Vanderstel, NCPH, Cavanaugh 327, IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140; (317) 274-2716; E-mail: [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu).

**For change of address**, write UC Press, 2000 Center St., Suite 301, Berkeley, CA 94704-1223.

**Submissions to Public History News** should be sent to David G. Vanderstel, Editor, at the address above.

## BOOKNOTES

***National Landmarks, America's Treasures: The National Park Foundation's Complete Guide to National Historic Landmarks.*** S. Allen Chambers, Jr., with a foreword by Hillary Rodham Clinton. [John Wiley & Sons, 1999; 0-471-19764-5; 576pp.; \$29.95 US/\$44.95 CAN]. National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant buildings, structures, sites, districts, and objects officially designated by the Secretary of the Interior. The book, based upon information in the National Park Service's nomination files for each National Historic Landmark, is organized by state and county and provides a description of each landmark. For information about the book, contact John Wiley & Sons at 1-800-225-5945 or [custser@wiley.com](mailto:custser@wiley.com). For more information about the National Historic Landmarks Program, see <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nhl/>.

***The Passage of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, 1992-1992: The Metropolitan Water District Perspective,*** [Bancroft Library, University of California, 1999, viii, 152pp.; \$65.00 plus \$4.00 shipping]. In this sixth volume on the passage of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Carl Boronkay, general manager (retired) and Timothy Quinn, deputy general manager of the metropolitan Water District, discuss water marketing and their actions to secure transfers in the CVP reform bills moving Congress, 1991-1992. In their joint oral history interview, Boronkay and Quinn explain MET board approval of water marketing despite opposing pressures, and shattering the historic relations with the agriculture community. They examine activities of representatives of urban, environmental, and water communities within and outside of Congress and tensions behind the scenes. In addition, Quinn considers current arguments regarding attempts to dovetail CVPIA and CALFED. This oral history adds vital links to the history of the CVPIA set forth in the previous five volumes.

***Passage of the Central Project Improvement Act, 1991-1992: The Central Valley Project Water Association Perspective.*** [Bancroft Library, University of California, 1999, viii, 99pp.; \$50.00 plus \$4.00 shipping]. In this seventh volume on

the passage of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Stuart Somach pulls together many of the theories for the failure of the Central Valley Project Water Association, its members, and its lobbyists to defeat Congressman George Miller, Senator Bill Bradley reform bills, and pass their senator John Seymour-backed reform measure. He explores his role drafting a compromise bill with Thomas Graff, the widespread tensions this created, and discusses what parts of the draft were inserted into the final CVPIA legislation. He considers how the exhausting contentious two-year battle over CVP reform affected long-time relationships and his career.

**New Volumes in Sierra Club Oral History Series.** The Sierra Club oral history series of the Regional Oral History Office of The Bancroft Library is an in-depth record of the club's contributions to the development of the environmental movement and its role in shaping twentieth century American life. The oral histories in the series, in conjunction with the club archives and personal papers of its leaders collected at The Bancroft Library, document the leadership, programs, strategies, and ideals of the national Sierra Club as well as grass-roots activities at the regional and chapter levels over the past eighty-five years, from education to litigation to legislative lobbying, from energy policy to urban issues to wilderness preservation. The two latest volumes in the series are: J. Michael McCloskey, *Sierra Club Executive Director and Chairman, 1980s-1990s: A Perspective on Transition in the Club and the Environmental Movement* [Bancroft Library, University of California, 1999, viii, 281 pp.]; and Gary J. Torre, *Labor and Tax Attorney, 1949-1982: Sierra Club Foundation Trustee, 1968-1981, 1994-1998* [Bancroft Library, 1999, x, 303 pp.]. Other recently completed oral histories in the Sierra Club and related series complement these volumes with perceptive accounts of the development of ecological thinking and environmental awareness and their impact on natural resource management and policy.

## CALLS FOR PAPERS/PROPOSALS

**Edward T. Linenthal**, department of religious studies, University of

Wisconsin Oshkosh, and Kym Rice, assistant director of the museum studies program at George Washington University, are the new contributing editors for the "exhibition review" section of the *Journal of American History*. In addition to continuing coverage of museum exhibitions, they plan to publish short reviews on various representations of history in American public culture: living history projects, historical pageants and reenactments, memorials, historic preservation projects, and virtual museums. They also plan to publish critical essays of 3000-3500 words on critical issues in the representation of history in public. They are now actively seeking ideas for relevant essays and reviews. They may be reached at [etl@uwosh.edu](mailto:etl@uwosh.edu) or [kym@gwu.edu](mailto:kym@gwu.edu).

**The American Association for the History of Medicine** invites proposals for papers on topics related to the history of health and healing, of medical ideas, practices and institutions, the history of illness, disease, and public health—from all areas and regions of the world, for its meeting to be held **18-22 April 2001 in Charleston, SC**. All papers must represent original work not already published or in press. Send six copies of a one page abstract (350 words maximum) to Janet Golden, History Department, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ 08102. Abstracts should not merely state a research question, but describe findings and conclusions. Also include the following: name, preferred mailing address, work and home telephone numbers, present institutional affiliation, and academic degrees. Abstracts must be received by **September 15, 2000**.

**The American Society for Environmental History and the Forest History Society** invite panel and paper proposals for its joint 2001 meeting to be held in Durham, NC.

The conference theme is "Making Environmental History Relevant in the 21st Century."

Papers that examine any aspect of human-environment interactions over time are welcome, although the program committee especially encourages proposals related to the theme of the meeting. Proposals from scholars in all fields are welcome. The program committee strongly

encourages proposers to organize complete panels with two or three papers, a chair, and a commentator. Interest in environmental history is rapidly expanding and competition for space on the program is limited. Individuals may not present more than one paper at the conference, but paper presenters may also serve as chair of another panel. Proposals should be postmarked no later than **August 1, 2000**.

Send five copies of proposals to: Dale Goble, College of Law, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844; phone 208.885.7976; email: gobled@uidaho.edu

**The Pioneer America Society** is soliciting proposals for papers, special sessions, and panel discussions for its 32<sup>nd</sup> annual conference to be held **12-14 October 2000 in Richmond, VA**. The theme for this year's conference is "Nineteenth-Century Industrial Development." Papers on all material culture topics of interest to the society are welcome. Deadline for submitting abstracts is **1 September 2000**. The conference will feature a morning walking tour of Richmond's early industrial and transportation sites, a midday cruise of the James River, and an afternoon tour of Jackson Ward, a historic African-American district. For complete guidelines and conference information, contact Marshall E. Bowen, Geography Department, Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, VA 22401; phone: 540.654.1493; fax: 540.654.1074; email: <mbowen@mwc.edu>

**The Savannah River Site Historical Council** invites individual papers and/or complete panel proposals for a two-day, interdisciplinary conference that will examine the historical impact of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site in Aiken, SC on the region and the nation. The conference will be held in **Augusta, GA and Aiken, SC on 23-24 March 2001**. The conference committee welcomes papers that will explore the political, technological, social, economic, medical, and environmental changes that the Site has engendered in the Southeast, especially in South Carolina and Georgia. Send a brief abstract of the proposal to: Eric Emerson, Program Chair, South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, SC 29401, (843) 723-3225, Fax (843) 723-8584.

Those wishing to organize sessions should include vitas from each participant in the proposed panel. The deadline is **May 31, 2000**. Notification of acceptance will be made by June 14, 2000.

#### CONFERENCES

The **Film and History League** and **Film & History: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Film and Television Studies** announces "The American Presidency on Film: A National Conference," to be held **10-12 November 2000**, at the Westlake Hyatt Hotel in Simi Valley, CA. Pre-registration (by 1 June 2000): \$150; on-site registration: \$200. Fees include conference registration, banquet, and one year subscription to *Film & History*. For more information, contact: Peter C. Rollins, Film and History League, RR 3, Box 80 Cleveland, OK 74020 (918)243.7637; or send queries to [FIlmHisLeag@aol.com](mailto:FilmHisLeag@aol.com)

The **Library of Congress and the US Department of Defense** announce a joint conference on "Cold War Archives in the Decade of Openness," to be held **28-29 June 2000, at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.** The conference will highlight the Cold War military records collection established recently at the Library of Congress. The collection results from a Department of Defense collaborative program with Central European archives to microfilm Cold War documents and make them available for researchers through the Library. (See <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/european/specproj.html>)

Archives participating in the program include: the Central Military Archives in Warsaw; the Hungarian Archives of War History; and the Military Archives of the Romanian Ministry of National Defense. The directors of these archives will comment on the changes the decade has brought to the policies and function of each institution. Library of Congress specialists will review the content and significance of the collection. A panel of representatives of research institutions with interests in access to Cold War records will also discuss historical records issues of the previous decade. For further information, visit [http://www.pims.org/SProject/military\\_archive\\_conf.html](http://www.pims.org/SProject/military_archive_conf.html) or contact Frank Schubert at 703.695.2114 or ([frank.schubert@js.pentagon.mil](mailto:frank.schubert@js.pentagon.mil)) in the

Department of Defense, or Helen Fedor at 202.707.3704 ([hfed@loc.gov](mailto:hfed@loc.gov)) in the Library of Congress.

**The National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators** will hold its annual meeting **July 18-22, 2000 in Columbia, SC**. Entitled "Preparing for the 21st Century: Education as the Foundation," the meeting will feature five days of workshops and special events, including two days of pre-conference workshops on management and other topics, and three days of annual meeting sessions. The full conference program booklet will be available in May. For information, contact the NAGARA Office by phone (518.463.8644) or email ([nagara@caphill.com](mailto:nagara@caphill.com)), or check the NAGARA website ([www.nagara.org](http://www.nagara.org)).

The 21<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the **Vernacular Architecture Forum** will be **7-10 June 2000 in Duluth MN**. The conference theme is "Pines, Mines and Lakes." Sessions include: Cultural Landscape of the Iron Range; Duluth and Lake Superior's North Shore; Industrial Order; Native American and Slave Architectural Traditions; Conservation Philosophy and Archaeological Practice; among many others. Co-sponsors of the meeting include: the State Historic Preservation Office at the Minnesota Historical Society; Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Minnesota Humanities Commission; Duluth Preservation Alliance; Graham Foundation; and SISU Heritage, Inc. For more information, contact Michael Koop, State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN 55102-1906; 651.296.5451; [michael.koop@mnhs.org](mailto:michael.koop@mnhs.org).

**The Winedale Museum Seminar on Administration & Interpretation**, a ten-day residential training program, will be held **5-16 November 2000**. The seminar is designed to improve the quality and promote the continuing development of museums, historical organizations and cultural institutions. It is open to staff members and experienced volunteers of museums, historic sites, and cultural organizations of all sizes. Participants are selected

through an application process. Topics include: administrative issues, grant writing, trustee relations, legal issues, volunteer management, web site design, object research, historical photos, educational programming, living history, program evaluation, design and fabrication of exhibits, conservation of collections, security, and special events. Twenty participants live dormitory style at the Winedale Historical Center, a property administered by the Center for American History, University of Texas. A registration fee of \$600 covers room and board and all materials, including a seminar manual. Deadline for applications is **19 September 2000**. For information or an application, contact: Kit Neumann, Seminar Coordinator, Texas Historical Commission, PO Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711; 512.463.5756; kit.neumann@thc.state.tx.us.

**Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library** will sponsor its annual Winter Institute, a graduate-level course in early American decorative arts, from **21 January to 9 February 2001**. The course, titled, "Perspectives on the Decorative Arts in Early America," surveys objects made or used in northeastern America during the colonial and early republican eras. Course work includes lectures, workshops, room studies and field trips, as well as introductory sessions on object study and handling, connoisseurship techniques, and use of Winterthur's scholarly facilities. The Institute offers a chance to work with curators and guide specialists in workshops and period rooms. Weekend options include tours of nearby historic sites, special subject tours, and research in the library. The Winter Institute is open to museum and university professionals, as well as anyone seriously interested in American decorative arts. Application will be available **1 June 2000** and must be returned by 15 August 2000. Information is available online <[www.winterthur.org](http://www.winterthur.org)> or contact Cynthia Doty, 1-800-448-3883 ext. 4923 or email [cdoty@winterthur.org](mailto:cdoty@winterthur.org).

The **Third National Conference on Women and Historic Preservation** will be held **19-21 May 2000** on the campus of

**Mt. Vernon College in Washington, DC.** The conference will promote the exchange of knowledge related to the identification, documentation, interpretation, and protection of places significant in the history of women. This meeting may be of particular interest to those working in the fields of women's history, public history, preservation, and American Studies, though the presenters at this conference come from an even wider array of locations. Detailed information on the conference and registration information is available at the conference website <<http://www.caup.washington.edu/womenpres>>. Queries about the conference should be directed to <[womenpres@hotmail.com](mailto:womenpres@hotmail.com)>.

#### GRANTS

The **James J. Hill Library** will award a number of grants of up to \$2,000 to support research in the James J. Hill, Lewis W. Hill, and Reed/Hyde papers. The James J. Hill papers (1856-1916) are an extensive and rich source for studies of transportation, politics, finance, Native American relations, art collecting, philanthropy, urbanization, immigration, and economic development in the Upper Midwest, Pacific Northwest, and Western Canada. The Louis W. Hill papers document similar subjects, as well as his involvement in the development of Minnesota's iron mining industry and the development of Glacier National Park and the related tourist industry. Additionally they detail social and cultural activities from the Gilded Age through World War II. The Reed/Hyde Papers (1853-1960) document the business activities, family, and social lives of four generations, beginning with Samuel Reed, a civil engineer who was best known for his work during construction of the Union Pacific Railroad in the 1860's. Subsequent activities included farming, flour milling, and mining, as well as important service in the Red Cross in Europe during World War I. Deadline for applications is **1 November 2000**. For information, contact W. Thomas White, Curator, James J. Hill Library, 80 West Fourth Street, St., St. Paul, MN 55102. Telephone: (651) 265-5441. Email: [twhite@jjhill.org](mailto:twhite@jjhill.org)

#### INTERNET

The Department of Historical Documentation of the **Chicago Historical Society** invites you to explore its new project, "Global Communities: Chicago's Immigrants and Refugees," now featured on the CHS web site at <http://www.chicagohistory.org/Immigration.html>. "Global Communities" addresses recent immigration, which has made Chicago one of the most diverse cities in the world, and supports the CHS mission of commitment to diversity in every aspect of its work. The project focuses specifically on Chicago's southeast side Mexican community, the Polish community on the northwest side, and the Southeast Asian community on the north lakefront.

The **Federal Judicial Center** announces the launch of its History of the Federal Judiciary site at <http://www.fjc.gov>. The site, part of the Center's Web page, provides a major, previously unpublished reference source for the history of the federal courts. The Judges section contains the Federal Judges Biographical Database and includes the service record and professional resume of presidentially-appointed judges since 1789. The site allows users to create their own queries about groups of federal judges, including the justices of the Supreme Court. The Courts section of the site contains the legislative histories of courts and circuits within the federal judiciary, as well as lists of chief judges and information on the location of the official records of each court.

The OAH, AHA, the University of Illinois Press, and the National Academy Press have joined forces to create the **History Cooperative**, the premier resource for historians on the Web. For the first time, the full text of current issues of the *Journal of American History* and the *American Historical Review* will be available electronically to members of the OAH and the AHA, as well as to institutions that subscribe to print versions. As the site grows throughout 2000, access to the materials on [www.historycooperative.org](http://www.historycooperative.org) is free to all. If your institutional library participates in JSTOR (an electronic archive of about 100 "core journals"), you can search full text of all issues of *JAH*

and *AHR*, beginning with Volume 1 and going up to five years ago (1995).

The **Library of Congress** has recently added new on-line collections to its American Memory Web Site. The "Abraham Lincoln Papers" consist of approximately 20,000 documents, dating from the 1850s through Lincoln's presidential years, 1860-1865. The materials include drafts of the Emancipation Proclamation, his second Inaugural Address and a memorandum stating his expectation of being defeated for reelection in the upcoming presidency. The Music Division's "Leonard Bernstein Collection" is one of the largest and most varied collections in the division and represents the breadth of one of the 20th century's most important musical figures. The 400,000 items include music and literary manuscripts, correspondence, photographs, audio and video recordings, fan mail, and other materials that were carefully kept by Bernstein's longtime friend and secretary, Helen Coates, who donated them to the Library. The Rare Book and Special Collections Division presents "From Slavery to Freedom: The African-American Pamphlet Collection, 1824-1909," which consists of 397 pamphlets by African American authors on slavery, African colonization, emancipation, Reconstruction and other related topics. These collections and more can be found at the Library of Congress web site <[www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)>.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

### **Associate Curator of History.**

The Milwaukee Public Museum, a major institution devoted to both human and natural history, is seeking a full-time position as Associate Curator of History. Our interests are American, European and Asian history, with major collections of decorative arts (glass, ceramics, ivory, etc.), firearms and accoutrements, typewriters and business machines, and clothing/textiles. We also hold lesser collections of fine and folk art, dolls/toys, ethnographic items, horological (watch/clock) holdings, some furniture, musical instruments and generic Americana, numismatics (money) and philately (stamps). A small but specialized area is the ancient Mediterranean. Duties will

involve the curation and management of large and often diverse collections; an active program of scholarly grants, research and publication; active participation in exhibit development and educational programs; and regular involvement in departmental and museum-wide initiatives and planning, possibly including the teaching of classes in our museum studies program. A doctorate in an appropriate historical field is strongly preferred, with an established program of grants-writing and published research. Previous familiarity with museum exhibit and program development, is desired. The Milwaukee Public Museum offers competitive wages and an excellent benefit package. Submit a letter of application, resume, sample copies of publications and a list of three references to: director of Human Resources and Labor Relations, Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233; fax (414) 278-6905; e-mail [patti@mpm.edu](mailto:patti@mpm.edu) Equal Opportunity Employer; minorities and women are encouraged to apply.

**Executive Director.** The City of Topeka is seeking an Executive Director for the Director for historic Ward-Meade Park. This position is responsible for the daily operations of the 6-acre historic complex including several buildings of historic significance with a home on the National Historic Register. The Executive Director is responsible for a half million dollar annual budget. The successful candidate will possess excellent public relations and organizational skills to develop and maintain park operations and community fund-raising projects. Major responsibilities include the development and programming for new buildings; coordinates construction, renovation, and maintenance projects for the park and is responsible for management practices including all personnel-related functions. Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor's degree with major coursework in Parks & Recreation Administration or a closely related field. Major coursework in business or museum administration is desired. Must have at least three (3) years of Recreation Management

experience to include successful community and fund raising and grant-writing experience. An advanced degree may be substituted for one year of experience. Retail/food management experience and knowledge or experience in building/construction processes helpful. Must possess a valid Kansas drivers license. \$34,164-\$36,171 annual salary, depending on experience and qualifications. Applications accepted until position is filled. Send applications to: City of Topeka, Kansas, Human Resources Department, 215 S.E. 7<sup>th</sup>, Topeka, KS 66603-3914; phone 785.368.3867; fax 785.368.3603.

**Research Historian.** Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA), a company of cultural and environmental resource consultants, seeks a full-time research historian for its Seattle office. Salary DOE; benefits include vacation and sick leave, health and disability insurance, and 401K plan. Job starts in late June of 2000. Responsibilities could include researching the following topics: historical fish and wildlife populations and habitat conditions; hazardous waste sites (contamination and land-use histories); and development of natural resource agencies (for administrative histories). The work could involve interacting with client representatives and agency personnel, and requires travel.

Qualifications include a master's degree in American history, with an emphasis in environmental history preferred. Experience in Cultural Resources Management an advantage, but not required. Applicant must demonstrate ability and experience in research and writing, have good interpersonal skills, and be willing to undertake occasional travel. HRA is a Montana corporation, with offices in Missoula, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. Since 1974, HRA has undertaken projects for public and private clients throughout the United States. Historians in the Seattle office work in the Pacific Northwest and support company projects in other areas. Send resume and writing sample to: Historical Research Associates, Inc., 119 Pine Street, Suite 207, Seattle, WA 98101; [mighthetto@hrassoc.com](mailto:mighthetto@hrassoc.com) Deadline is **26 May 2000**.

# The National Council on Public History, the National Park Service, and Parks Canada

*announce*

## **Old Sites, New Stories: An International Workshop on the History, Interpretation, and Management of Fur Trade History Sites**

**21-22 September 2000**

**Grand Portage National Monument**

**Grand Marais, Minnesota**

The goal of the workshop is to bring together fur trade historians with the park managers and public historians who are charged with the task of interpreting the history of the fur trade. The history of the fur trade has undergone significant revision since the time most historic sites were created. The workshop will discuss recent trends in research and the opportunities and problems with integrating new history into exhibits and programs at existing sites. Through the use of site visits, formal presentations, and the interaction of all participants, workshop coordinators hope to enhance the abilities of public historians to work constructively with the new history, build effective relationships with Native American/First Nation communities, and establish more effective ties between Canadian and American public historians charged with telling the story of the fur trade.

A limited number of scholarships to attend the workshop are available from NCPH. Contact Donald Stevens or Ted Karamanski if you are interested. Registration fee is \$30.00. For more information contact: Donald L. Stevens <don\_stevens@nps.gov>; Bob Coutts <Bob\_Coutts@pch.gc.ca>; Ted Karamanski <tkarama@luc.edu>.

## ***Public History News***

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