National Council on Public History
Annual Report 1988-89

The Council's ninth year has been a successful one with many old issues resolved and new programs begun. Our annual meeting, which was held jointly with the Organization of American Historians in St. Louis, offered a wide range of sessions and workshops. A new contract for The Public Historian was negotiated with the University of California Press. Through our Finance Committee a new budgeting process has been established which we hope will ensure the Council's fiscal health in the short run and lay the foundation for a more active public history movement in the future.

Publications

The most important service of NCPH to its members is our ongoing publication program. During the 1988-89 year we published a Directory of Historical Consultants. The text was compiled and edited by Philip C. Cockrell under the guidance of the Publications Committee. It was the first publication to profile the field of historical consulting since Page Putnam Miller's 1981 survey. The Council is already planning to prepare regular updates of the directory, in order to keep tabs on this expanding branch of history.

The Publications Committee has a new chair. Anna Nelson, who had served long and well at the head of that committee, resigned at the end of the 1988-89 year. Anna and Barbara Howe worked very hard in negotiating a new contract with the University of California Press. Thanks to their efforts the Council now enjoys a much clearer and more stable relationship with the press. Beth Luey, Director of the Historical Editing and Publishing Program at Arizona State University, will be the new chair of the committee.

Among the projects the committee will be addressing during the next year will be a new edition of Public History Education in America. The first edition has completely sold out and a new survey of education programs is being planned.

Wayne Anderson began updating the NCPH syllabus exchange in the spring of 1989. It's publication will be announced in the newsletter. Teachers who have the old packet, and those preparing or contemplating new public history programs, may wish to see what new curricula is being offered at other universities.

Our public history series with Kreiger Press will issue three new volumes in 1989. Arnita Jones and Philip Cantelon have edited Corporate Archives and History: Making the Past Work, Ted Karamanski has edited Ethics and Public History, and Phyllis K. Leffler and Joseph Brent have edited Public and Academic History.

Public History News

Our quarterly newsletter has continued to flourish under the editorship of Wayne Anderson. Regular features such as "Council Update," which includes features by NCPH officers and "Perspective," which offers commentary on issues faced by public historians, have been added. Ken Owens has edited a regular column on cultural resources management, and Page Putnam Miller has contributed a series of "Washington Updates." The newsletter has also added paid job advertisements as well as vacancy notices to its roster of membership services. NCPH institutional sponsors will receive free listings of any job vacancies they wish to advertise.

The Public Historian

During the past year The Public Historian featured reports from the field on such diverse areas of practice as "History in the U.S. Forest Service," and "History and the Challenges of Disaster." Craig E. Colten's "Historical Questions in Hazardous Waste Management" discussed an exciting new area of public history, while Arnita Jones' provocative "Practicing History Without a License" addressed some of the field's recurring problems.


Carroll Pursell, editor of the journal, has accepted a position at Case Western Reserve University, and concluded his term with The Public Historian in July, 1989. Pursell had edited the journal since the fall of 1987. His work on the journal insured a quality publication for NCPH. The new editor will be Otis Graham. He is the author of Toward a Planned Society, An Encore for Reform and several other books. He has been a contributor to The Public Historian and says it is "an exciting opportunity" to assume the job of editor.

Randolph Bergstrom of the University of California, Santa Barbara, History Department, has become the new book review editor. With assistant editor Cail Evans, Bergstrom is working on expanding the list of reviewers and developing guidelines to select books for review and match them with the proper reviewers.

Richard S. Kirkendall of the University of Washington has replaced David Trask of the U. S. Army Center of Military History as chair of The Public Historian's editorial board.

New members of the editorial board appointed for 1989-1991 are Heather Huyck, professional staff member of the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands; Paul Scheips, retired from the U. S. Army Center of Military History; Michael Schene of the National Park Service; Janelle Warren-Findley, historical consultant; and Karen Benedict, archival consultant.

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NCPH Workshops and Sessions: The March 1990 Annual Meeting in San Diego
By Murney Gerlach
University of San Diego

The preparations for the March 1990 annual meeting of NCPH and the South-west Oral History Association continue as the program committee and local arrangements committee complete confirmations of workshops, sessions, tours, hospitality, and accommodation arrangements. We are excited about the strength of the program, and we hope that as many of you as can will attend the conference, March 7-10.

NCPH will offer six workshops, and SOHA two, focusing on a range of topics and issues pertaining to social and oral history, urban parks and museums, historical consulting, historic preservation, and public history programs. Several tours have also been planned—to Balboa Park, the downtown Gaslamp Quarter, and the Maritime Museum and San Diego Harbor—to compliment the workshops and sessions.

Management in Urban National Parks will be led by Gary Cummins, Cabrillo National Monument Superintendent, and Jerry Rogers, Associate Director of Cultural Resources, National Park Service in Washington, DC. It will consist of presenting a number of ideas, concepts, and problems associated with managing urban national parks. Participants will have the opportunity to exchange ideas with the presenters and panelists and consider other park's successes and struggles.

Wednesday, March 7, 1:00-6:00 pm; fee: $20 SOHA members, $30 non-members - enrollment limited to 35.

The second SOHA workshop, entitled Concealed Dynamics of Oral History: Cultural Context, Goals and Ethics, and Historiographical Structure, is targeted for those who have practiced oral history previously but want to consider ways to per-

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Curriculum and Training

Philip Scarpino, chair of the Curriculum and Training Committee, reports that the production of "Public History Today" is already underway. "Public History Today" will be a high quality video overview of the career opportunities offered in public history and the ethical, business and research challenges faced by professionals in the field. The new production grows out of the committee's initial plan to update NCPH's slide-tape show "History Goes Public."

Through the help of video veterans Daniel Walkowitz and Gerald Herman, and in-kind support from Northeastern University, the committee has moved quickly to develop a script and plan a shooting schedule. The tape will show the work of public historians in the larger context of the profession as a whole, and it will focus on the interpretive and problem-solving work of historians at historic sites and corporations and in consulting firms. The production is being funded largely through donations from individual and institutional sponsors.

Cultural Resources Management

Kenneth Owens of California State University, Sacramento, chaired the CRM Committee in 1988-89. His column, "Cultural Resources Management," has been continued in Public History News. The committee has worked during the last year to develop a nationwide network of historians involved in CRM. The goal is to determine the potential of a CRM-history interest group. The committee is interested in either expanding further the Public History News CRM section or issuing a separate CRM newsletter that would print the titles of recently completed CRM reports, provide updates on on-going projects, and share information on the problems and prospects of CRM historians.

From Vignettes to A Global Vision

NCPH chair Barbara J. Howe was one of two historians named to the Commission on Research and Resource Management Policy in the National Park System. Sponsored by the National Parks and Conservation Association, the commission was charged with the task of assessing the roles of resource management and research in the future of the national parks.

In March of 1989 their report, National Parks: From Vignettes to A Global Vision, was issued. NCPH formally endorsed the report in April of 1989. Among the specific recommendations of the report which NCPH referred to the Secretary of the Interior's consideration were: that the Park Service assume a leadership role in the development of CRM preservation and interpretation techniques, that within an expanded research program there would be a contractual component, that park service research be subject to peer review, and that professionally educated historians and scientists manage regional programs and that their professional development be encouraged and supported.

Awards Committee

Committee chairman Patrick Harahan, of the On-site Inspection Agency, reports that the committee spent the past year developing a long-range plan for a comprehensive NCPH Awards Program. The Awards Program will include a book award, a historic preservation and exhibit design award (which will rotate each year between the two categories), a public history education award, an NCPH distinguished service award, a premier institutional award, as well as the James Phinney Baxter Prize to recognize the contributions of those new to the field of public history. NCPH expresses its thanks to HMS Associates for funding the (G.Wesley) Johnson Prize and History Associates, Inc. for the Baxter Prize.

Outreach Committee

Created

In April 1989 the NCPH Board voted to create a new standing committee dedicated to advocating the cause of public history outside the ranks of the historical profession. Committee chairman Stanley Hordes hopes that the committee can spearhead greater use of historians in law, planning, and business by promoting more visibility of what history has to contribute to work in these diverse areas.

Annual Meetings

The 1990 Annual Meeting will be held in San Diego, March 7-10. NCPH will be meeting jointly with the Southwest Oral History Association. The Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Ray Brandes, has several tours and workshops in some of the city's most attractive locations. The general theme is History: Cities, Parks, and People in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego's Balboa Park. Headquarters for the conference will be the Horton Grand, a recently restored Victorian hotel in a downtown historic district.

Last year's meeting was held, in conjunction with the OAH, at St. Louis in April of 1989. The conference was extremely well attended. NCPH Program Chair Patricia Mooney-Melvin arranged 15 public history sessions and a series of workshops, tours, and roundtable discussions. NCPH chair Barbara J. Howe addressed the membership at a session in the historic Mercantile Library. Her topic, "Reflections on an Idea: NCPH's First Decade" was an engaging, sometimes funny, account of the council's birth and growth over the past ten years. Special thanks are reserved for Kathleen Corbett and the wonderful local arrangements committee for being such gracious hosts.

The 1991 meeting will be held in Toledo, Ohio. Diane Britton of the University of Toledo will be chairing the Local Arrangements Committee.

Welcome to the New,

Farewell to the Old

NCPH wishes to thank its outgoing officers for their work in the past year: Barbara Howe, chair; Arnita Jones, past-chair; Brit Storey, secretary; and Stanley Hordes, treasurer. We would also like to thank our out-going board members for their hard work and commitment: Cullom Davis, Martin V. Melosi, Paul J. Scheips, Daniel J. Walkowitz, and Jannelle Warren-Findley. We are also grateful for the work of outgoing editorial board members Richard Cox and David F. Trask.

Our new board will be led by the following officers: Theodore J. Karamanski, chair; David E. Kyvig, vice-chair; Michael A. Schene, secretary-treasurer; and Barbara J. Howe, past-chair.

New board members elected to three year terms are: Philip Scarpino, George Mazuzan, and Edith Mayo. Marilyn Nickels and Richard Baker are the new members of the Nominating Committee. Special thanks to Gordon Olson, who chaired the Nominating Committee for 1988-89, and to the members of the committee. NCPH also thanks all of those who were willing to run for a position this year. We appreciate your commitment to the profession and your interest in the organization.

The work of NCPH was greatly aided this past year by the support of the staff at Northeastern University, especially Wayne Anderson, Jo Madden, and Gerald Herman.
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effect it within the context of an advanced seminar setting. Arthur Hansen, former Director of the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton, and Sherna Gluck, Coordinator of the Oral History Resource Center, California State University, Long Beach, will lead this workshop. Thursday, March 8, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon; fee: $20 SOHA members, $30 non-members - enrollment limited to 30.

Planning Exhibitions for City and Local History Museums will be led by James Vaughan, Executive Director, San Diego Historical Society; William Pretzer, Curator of Communications, Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village; and Chief Curator of History, The Oakland Museum, L. Thomas Frye. These presenters will analyze some of the various interpretive approaches to urban and social history exhibitions and explore the relationship between ideas, artifacts, and the visitor. Materials for the new Museum of San Diego History will be used for a case study. Thursday, March 8, 1:00-5:00 pm; fee: $50 - enrollment limited to 25.

There will be two workshops on public history—one for administrators or veterans of working with public history programs, the other for present or recent graduate students. The former, Administration and Teaching of Public History, will be led and moderated by Noel Stowe, Arizona State University, but also will include presenters Connie Schulz, University of South Carolina; Jeffrey Brown, New Mexico State University; Diane Britton, University of Toledo, and Pat Mooney-Melvin, Loyola University of Chicago. They will consider the introductory public history course and the politics and resources within the university or college setting which influence public history programs. Some discussion of degree requirements will also be included. Thursday, March 8, 1:00-5:00 pm; fee: $50 - enrollment limited to 20.

Learning Public History, and Employment Experiences will be coordinated by Michael Landon, recent graduate student, Sacramento State University, and Christine Savage, University of California, Santa Barbara, presently a public history graduate student. This workshop will look at various course offerings in public history programs, and at internships, thesis topics, and employment possibilities from the perspective of the graduate student. History students from various programs and universities will be participating. Thursday, March 8, 1:00-5:00 pm; fee: $25 - enrollment limited to 30.

Historians in Consulting: Preparing Proposals will be an all-day workshop led by Michael Schene, Historian, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, and Alan Newell, President, Historical Research Associates; both of whom have extensive practical experience in consulting. This workshop will review the kinds of services agencies contract for, steps in the contracting cycle, RFP responses, and pricing guidelines, and will present case study materials. Registrants will also receive "The Historian's Contracting Guide" prepared by Schene and Newell for this workshop. Saturday, March 10, 9:00-4:30 pm; fee: $100 - enrollment limited to 25.

Historic Preservation Planning at Naval Activities and Installations will discuss and illustrate through case histories the current approach of the Department of the Navy to historic preservation planning. James Glass, Historic Preservation Specialist, Greenhorne & O'Mara Inc.; Neil Robison, Archeologist, US Army Corps of Engineers; and Lou Wall, Historic Preservation Planner, Western Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command will draw upon their experiences working on plans for such installations as the Norfolk Naval Base and the Key West Naval Air Station, or the Mobile District in Alabama, Camp Pendleton, and other sites in California. References will also be made to reports, plans, and surveys for the US Army Corps of Engineers and the US Marine Corps. Saturday, March 10, 1:00-5:00 pm; fee $50 - enrollment limited to 30.

Registration forms for workshops can be obtained from NCPH Executive Secretariat, Department of History, 403 Richards Hall, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115, (617) 437-2677, or from the Graduate Division and Continuing Education, University of San Diego, Alacala Park, San Diego, CA 92110, (619)260-4800 or (619) 260-4579.

Sessions will focus on the theme "History, Cities, Parks, and People," and there will be exhibits or events which look at San Diego and Balboa Park in 1915, since 1990 is the 75th anniversary of the 1915 Panama California Exposition in Balboa Park. But sessions will also typically examine issues in historic preservation, cultural resources management, public policy, and historical resources. Be sure to mark your calendars now for March 7-10, 1990—more information will appear in the next issue of Public History News. ■