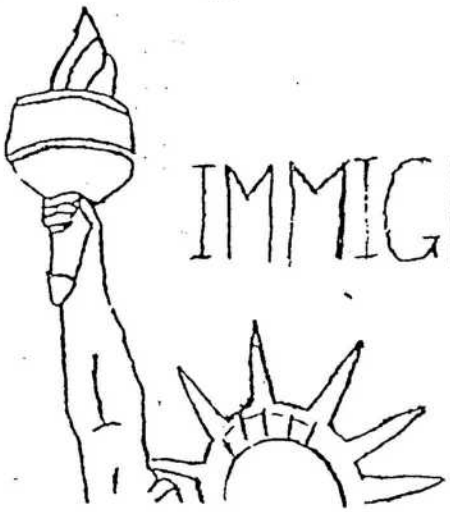

THE IMMIGRATION HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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THE ORIGINS AND AIMS OF THE NEWSLETTER

As a result of discussions at the recent American Historical Association meeting in Toronto and the Organization of American Historians convention in Dallas, the Immigration History Group decided to initiate a newsletter. The IHG did have an informal arrangement with the Immigration Research Digest edited at the University of Pennsylvania by E. P. Hutchinson for the American Immigration and Citizenship Conference. However, Professor Hutchinson resigned his position on the Digest and the future of the publication is at the moment somewhat uncertain. Therefore the IHG is sponsoring the Newsletter to assure the maintenance and expansion of communication among ethnic scholars. There is a strong likelihood of the Digest joining this bulletin soon.

This initial issue is being sent free to previous Group members and others who responded to my announcement in the AHA News. For future numbers an annual subscription will cost $3.00 which automatically enrolls the reader in the Immigration History Group and assures that he will receive all IHG publications.

The overall justification for this bulletin should appear obvious to anyone familiar with ethnic research. The continued growth of the social sciences, of cultural and urban studies, in fact the current domestic crisis in group relations all have created an urgent need for more theoretical and applied research in ethnic interaction. With the exception of work on racial attitudes, the scholarly community has been slow in response to the demand. It is the assumption of this Newsletter that some means of exchange is necessary to inform and encourage the various academicians in the area. Economists, anthropologists, sociologists, political scientists, and historians of acculturation ought to be aware of research going on in all these related disciplines. For the time being this publication will report on the following activities: past and future meetings on ethnicity, developments among the many nationality historical societies here and overseas, particular research being done, and recent publications likely to be overlooked by standard bibliographies. Future issues may have the same format or focus on specific activities.

Thus an ethnic studies news bulletin has begun and I hope that it proves helpful to those interested. To maximize its value, the publication also requires the assistance of its audience. I, therefore, urge readers to send me such information which they believe would aid teaching and research. Please do not hesitate, also, to offer suggestions and criticisms.

It is not the aim of this publication to duplicate the related newsletters but rather to supplement them. The earnest hope is that this informational clearinghouse will help produce ultimately that synthesis of ethnic adjustment which presently is so desired.

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PAST MEETINGS

Politics and Computors

A meeting entitled, "The Challenge in Immigration History Today; New Approaches," took place at New York State University College, Oswego, on May 3-4. One session on the use of computers was led by Guido Dobbert of Youngstown University. Rudolph Vecoli of the University of Minnesota chaired another panel on "The Immigrant and Politics." Dr. Luciano Iorizzo of Oswego directed the conference. Other participants were John Duff of Seton Hall University, Silvano Tomasi of the International Migration Review and Edward Saveth of the State University of New York, Fredonia.

"Backlash" and Ethnic America

As a result of the growing bitterness between Negroes and ethnic groups, the American Jewish Committee held a conference to examine the underlying causes of nationality hostility. This "National Consultation on Ethnic America" was held at Fordham University, New York, on June 20-21 and included scholars as well as social workers. The discussions revealed the surprising discovery that ethnic identity still exists as a strong cohesive force among America's lower middle class. Participants also concluded that insufficient attention has been paid to the desires and problems of ethnic America. Previous explanations of "backlash" as racism or the result of economic competition were clearly oversimplifications.

The director of the conference was Irving M. Levine of the AJC and papers included "Ethnicity as an Influence on Behavior" by Rev. Andrew Greeley of the National Opinion Research Center, Chicago; a talk on Italian case studies by Rev. Mario Zicarelli of New York; "The Social Framework of Ethnic Conflict" by David Danzig of Columbia University. "White Ethnics and Black Response," by Robert Gore of the Opportunities Industrialization Center; and "Strategy Models for a Progressive Ethnic America" by Robert Wood of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. A summary report, "The Reacting Americans," is available from the Institute of Human Relations, 165 East 56th Street, New York, N.Y.

A session of the AHA-Pacific Coast Branch was held last August entitled, "Ethnic Minorities in California". It will be summarized in the next Newsletter.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Immigration History Group

The Executive Officer of the IHG, Hyman Berman of the University of Minnesota, has informed me that there will be a business meeting of the Group at the American Historical Association Convention in New York. The specific time and place of the meeting has not been decided upon but it will likely be sometime on the 29th.

British in America

The Immigration History Group is jointly sponsoring a session with the AHA in New York on Dec. 20th. at 2:30 P.M. in the Orleans Room of the New Yorker Hotel. The topic is "Case Studies in British Immigration" chaired by Rowland Berthoff of Washington University. Papers are "The Cornish in America," A. L. Rowse, Oxford, and "Immigration and Cultural Nationalism; the Welsh in Nineteenth Century America," Maldwin Jones, University of Manchester.. Arnold Schrier of the University of Cincinnati will comment.

Jewish-Christian Relations in the United States, 1900

Unfortunately another ethnic history panel is scheduled at the same time at the AHA meeting Penn Top North Room, Statler Hilton. With the topic above, John Appel of Michigan State will read a paper, "Christian Science and the Jews," and Egal Feldman of Wisconsin State, Superior, will give "The Social Gospel and the Jews." Lloyd Gartner of CCNY and Winthrop Hudson of Colgate-Rochester Divinity School will respond.

THE ETHNIC HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

American Italian Historical Association

The AIHA held a conference on October 26 at the Casa Italiana of Columbia University. The topic was "Ethnicity in American Political Life: The Italo-American Experience." No report is yet available but the participants were both Italo-American political leaders as well as scholars. Information about AIHA activities can be obtained from Miss Jean Scarpaci, Editor, AIHA Newsletter, 319 East 116th. St., New York, N. Y. 10029.

Polish American Historical Association

The PAHA will hold its 25th Anniversary meeting in Chicago, Dec. 27-28 at the Sheraton-Blackstone Hotel. The first morning will be a tribute to its founder, Miecislaus Haiman, while a later meeting will examine the problems in ethnic research. Thomas Remeikas will speak on the Lithuanians, Rev. Joseph Swastek on the Poles, John Zventina on the Croatians, Joseph Cada on the Czechs, Abbot Theodore Kojis on the Slovaks. Rev. M. J. Madaj, PAHA President ,of St. Mary's Seminary, Mundelein, Illinois, is directing the sessions.

The Kosciuszko Foundation

The Foundation is offering two $1000 awards in fields closely related to

ethnic research. One prize is for the best dissertation on any Polish American subject. The other is to a graduate student who intends to write his thesis on the Polish National Catholic Church or its founder, Bishop Hodur. For additional information contact Dr. Eugene Kusielewicz of the Foundation, 15 East 65th. St., New York City.

American Jewish Committee

The AJC held a meeting, June 4, to discuss the commencement of an oral history archives. Scholars offering advice and encouragement were Arthur Mann of the University of Chicago, Yehudi Bauer of the Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Henry Simmons of Chicago State College and Marshall Sklare of Yeshiva University, N. Y. According to Mrs. Lucy Dawidowicz, the project has gotten underway. Her address is the American Jewish Committee, 165 E. 56th. St., New York.

Swiss American Historical Association

The latest issue of the Swiss American Historical Association Newsletter describes the recent address of Heinz Meier of Old Dominion College at the San Antonio (Texas) HemisFair. His topic was "Swiss Influences in the United States." The SAHA will hold its annual convention in New York, December 27. The Association's Secretary, is Leo Schelbert, 6305 Boulevard East, West New York, N. J.

Norwegian American Historical Association

This representative of an earlier American immigrant group maintains a high level of scholarly activity. The NAHA has about 1000 members, possesses a large archives at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, lists over 40 monograph publications which it offers to interested students, and recently assisted in the appearance of Einar Haugen's The Norwegians in America; A Student's Guide to Localized History (Teachers College Press, Colombia University, 1967). Mr. Lloyd Hustvedt is Secretary of the NAHA at St. Olaf College.

STATE RECOGNITION OF ETHNIC STUDIES

Texas

Two states have recently assisted the preservation of ethnic culture. Texas has erected an Institute for Texan Cultures on the grounds of the HemisFair '68. The exhibition, housed in a new $10 million modern structure, is a permanent display of 25 ethnic groups and their role in state history. The nationalities are rather diverse, including Anglo-Americans and the Wends. A research collection has already been established. The Institute's Director is R. Henderson Shuffler, Box 1226, San Antonio, Texas 78205.

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania has also recognized its ethnic composition officially. The Legislature set up an Ethnic Culture Survey to search broadly for pertinent folklore and nationality records. There is now a State Folklorist, Henry Glassie, who is in charge of the Survey and who just published A Guide for Collectors of Oral Traditions and Folk Cultural Material in Pennsylvania. Mr. Glassie is at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Box 232, Harrisburg, Pa. 17108

ETHNIC STUDIES ABROAD

Canada

In conjuction with the Canadian Centennial Observance in 1967, a number of historical volumes on the nation's nationalities were published with a subsidy from the Centennial Commission. I cannot determine how many studies appeared and the extent of coverage. However, the works were apparently a part of a series called Canada Ethnica. I received two very thorough publications, Joseph Kirschbaum, Slovaks in Canada (Toronto, 1967), 468 pp., from Jednota Press, Middletown, Pa. and Fr. Gaida et al., Lithuanians in Canada (Toronto, 1967), 370 pp. from the Lithuanian Publishing Company, Toronto.

Sweden

Late in August, 1967, a general conference on migration research problems took place in Vaxjo, Sweden. Professors Sten Carlsson (presently visiting at Macalester College, St. Paul) and Kjell Bondestad of Uppsala and Birgitta Oden of Lund among others gave accounts of their investigations while John Higham of Michigan offered a general statement on the effect of immigration on America. One of the concluding resolutions was a strong desire for closer Nordic-American cooperation among ethnic scholars. A detailed account of the meeting is in American Studies in Scandanavia (Summer, 1968), edited by Sune Akerman, Section of American History, Uppsala University, Sit Larsgatan 27S220, Uppsala, Sweden.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS OF READERS

The response to my announcement of this Newsletter was rather encouraging. A brief listing of the activity, interests, and recent publications of correspondents is listed below:

Joseph Zacek; History, State University of New York, Albany; Czech and Slovak immigrants

George J. Prpic; History, John Carroll University, Cleveland; Croatians in America in process of publication.

Joseph Brandes; Paterson (N.J.) State College, Wayne; American Jews

Francis P. Clark; Library, University of Notre Dame; has collected several thousand church jubilee albums on German and Irish parishes.

Jonathan Schwartz; Monteith College, Wayne State U., Detroit; Armenians in Detroit

C. Warren Vander Hill; History, Ball State U. Muncie, Indiana; The Immigrant In Michigan to appear in 1970 and Dutch Americans.

Leo Schelbert; Rutgers University, Newark, Die Wanderungen der Schweizer; Ein Historischer Uberblick, 'Saeculum XVIII, Munich and Swiss Americans.

Robert J. Smith; Anthropology, Cornell University; (with others), The Japanese and their Descendants in Brazil; An Annotated Bibliography (Sao Paolo, 1967).

Linda Degh; Folklore, Indiana University; "Approaches to Folklore Research Among Immigrant Groups, " Journal of American Folklore LXXIX (October, 1966), and Hungarians in northeast Indiana.

Sanford Gerber; Sociology, Clark University, Worchester, Mass.; Russian and Polish Americans.

C.W. Kiefer, Langley Porter Neuropsychiatric Institute, San Francisco; Aging among Mexican, Japanese, and Euro-Americans.

Edwin Eames; Anthropology, Temple University, Philadelphia; "The Socio-cultural Context of an Italian American Dietary Item," Cornell Journal of Social Relations, II, (Fall, 1967).

Leonard Dinnerstein; History, Fairleigh Dickinson College, Teaneck; The Leo Frank Case (Columbia University Press, 1968), and Jews in the South.

Ailon Shiloh; Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh; Early Jews in Pittsburgh.

Clark Johnson; Anthropology, University of Vermont, Burlington; New England Franco-Americans and Spanish-speaking Americans in the Southwest.

Jan Wepsiec; Library, University of Chicago; Polish American Periodical Publications, 1834-1967 (Ann Arbor, 1968) and Polish American radicals.

Sture Lindmark; Ralambsvagen 7, Stockholm, Sweden; Swedish Americans and the Depression Years, 1929-1932," Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly, (January, 1968).

John Yzenbaard; History, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo; Dutch immigration.

Andrzej Brozek; Opole Institute, Opole, Poland; "Poczatki Emigracji z Gornego Slaska do Ameryki. . . ," (Beginnings of Emigration from Upper Silesia to America. . .) Kwartalnik Historyczny, LXXV (1968).

John Appel; 219 Oakland Drive, East Lansing, Michigan - Michigan State U.; Jewish Americans, slide collection on immigrant stereotypes, forthcoming immigration anthology.

John Allswang; History, Los Angeles State College; ethnic voting in Chicago, 1919-1932 and seeks advice in formulating an immigration history course.

Michael Cutsumbis; Sociology, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa., southern European especially Greek immigration since 1890. He is looking for pertinent source material.

G. A. Dobbert; History, Youngstown University; German immigrant social and geographic mobility and a population study of a part of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Victor R. Greene; History, Cleveland,(Ohio)State University; Polish and Lithuanian immigrant self - consciousness and acculturation of Slavic immigrants, 1850-1920.

Rudolph Vecoli; History, University of Minnesota; forthcoming works on the Italians in Chicago and collection of readings on immigration. Invited to attend conference on Italian immigration in Florence, May, 1969.

Oscar O. Winther; History, Indiana University, Bloomington; English in America and "British in the Oregon Country; A Triptych View," Pacific Northwest Quarterly, LXVIII (October, 1967).

Andrew Rolle; History, Occidental College, Los Angeles, Calif; Italians in America and forthcoming work, "The Immigrant Upraised: Italian Colonists and Adventurers in an Expanding America."

Arnold Schrier; History, University of Cincinnati; translating "America letters" written by Russian visitors to the U. S. in 1870's and 1880's.

Franklin D. Scott; History, Northwestern University; now editor of Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly and just published World Migration in Modern Times (Englewood Cliffs, N. J., Prentice-Hall, 1968), an anthology.

Edward G. Hartman, History, Suffolk University, Boston; recently published Americans from Wales (Boston, 1967) which is reviewed in the American Historical Review (Oct., 1968).

Graduate Students

Michael Ebner, History, 314 Pennington Ave., Passaic, N. J.; "Industry and Society in Passaic, 1860-1912."

Dean Esslinger; History, Towson (Maryland) State College; Urbanization of South Bend (Ind.) Immigrants

Joseph Giovinco; History, University of California, Berkeley; "Democracy in Banking; Bank of Italy and California's Italians," California Historical Society Quarterly, September, 1968.

Thomas Monzall; History, Kansas State University, Manhattan; Poles in Cleveland.

Sister Ellen Kuznicki; History, Kansas State U.; Polish Felician Sisters in Buffalo.

Future Items

Among other reports the spring issue of the Newsletter will include the Oswego, New York., conference in October, and ethnic sessions at the American Historical Association convention in New York, the Organization of American Historians meeting in Philadelphia this spring and the April convention of the Southwestern Social Sciences Association.