



THE IMMIGRATION HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Volume XXIV, No. 2

November, 1992

IMMIGRANT VOICES: CAN THEY BE SAVED?

Immigration Scholars
Sound Alarm In
Documentation Report

Most Americans are descendents of immigrants, right? What could be more central to U.S. history than the immigration experience?

But participants at a conference on documenting the experience of immigrants heard scholar after scholar describe how difficult it is to do. Not only are sources in jeopardy. Many of those that survive are inaccessible.

A 108-page report--*Documenting Diversity: A Report on the Conference on Documenting the Immigrant Experience in the United States of America*--is now available from the Immigration History Research Center of the University of Minnesota, in St. Paul. NHPRC grants helped to finance the conference and the report.

"Every historian has a tale to tell of public documents destroyed or misplaced," declared Kathleen Neils Conzen of the University of Chicago. The immigration scholar "confronts a chaotic jumble of sources and archives . . . invaluable records documenting the Germanization of a local public school district, for example, may lie gathering dust in an unheated schoolhouse museum staffed with

volunteers on summer Sunday afternoons; or the preservation of donated diaries and letters may depend on the good will and conscience of a society's secretary who keeps them in her home and remembers to pass them on to her successor after she leaves office."

"The documentation maze facing the average researcher is a tangled mess," echoed Joel Wurl of the University of Minnesota. "The scattered whereabouts of the material is by no means the only problem" for a scholar. "Each place he visits presents a unique adventure in identifying and obtaining access to the right documentation; impoverished archives and libraries are forced to improvise. The documents or newspapers he is handed are quite likely in disarray or disrepair, and the descriptive aids, if any exist other than a staff person's good memory, probably do not furnish the kind of detail and depth he had hoped for."

Rudolph Vecoli, also of the University of Minnesota, lamented documentary losses over the past half-century: "Generations of immigrants were rapidly passing from the scene and their memories and their documents were being buried with them. This was literally true when entire ethnic neighborhoods were bulldozed in the 'urban renewal' craze of the 1950s; churches, lodge halls, businesses, as well as homes were

demolished, and often their records were buried in the debris."

However, Vecoli added, important realizations have come out of historians' searches: "We were pleasantly surprised to discover that large and rich collections of documents had by some miracle survived. . . the commonplace, to which archivists, librarians, and historians had subscribed as a justification for their inaction, that immigrants were largely illiterate and inarticulate and therefore left no records to speak of, proved to be untrue."

Consequently, Vecoli observed, "oral histories, letters, memoirs, diaries, records of mutual aid societies, churches, labor groups, which gave access to [immigrants'] minds, hearts, and very souls, became the preferred sources for a new immigration history."

*Reprinted from "Annotation",
The Newsletter of the National
Historical Publications and
Records Commission, Vol. 20:2,
September, 1992.*

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO IHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

In 1993 the IHS will fill three positions on the Executive Board for the three-year term, 1993-1996. Please send suggestions for persons to be nominated to: Professor Susan Glenn, Chair, Nominations Committee, 586 Santa Clara Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707. Phone: (505) 527-8266.

The deadline for nominations is January 15, 1993.

LETTER FROM CHINA

The following is a letter from Professor Rueben Zemin Ding of Northeast Normal University in the PRC describing his study of American immigrant history and how the IHS has helped him and his students. The letter was written to Professor Kathleen Conzen of the University of Chicago. Our thanks to Professor Conzen for sharing the letter and we hope that our members will develop a new appreciation for the work they have been doing.

I am pleased to write to you to introduce our American History Research Section in the Institute of American Studies of Northeast Normal University here, introducing our researches in progress and finally expressing our sincere hope that we establish a friendly academic relation in our common researching field of the American immigration-ethnic history.

Our section has been undertaking teaching and researching on American history since its establishment in 1979. There are six staff members in this section: one professor, two associate professors, two lecturers (one of them went to the U.S. for further studies in American history in 1988) and a material collector.

We have trained twenty one postgraduates majoring in American history since 1982, three of them proceeded to the Ph.D. degree in 1990 and 1991 respectively, the rest proceeded to the master's degree in 1984, 1985, 1988 and 1991 respectively. Now we have two Ph.D. candidates and four postgraduates majoring in American history under the directions of the tutors.

We have written a book on American history in Chinese, whose title is "The Civil War and America In Gilded Age", a volume of the "American History Series" (Six volumes in all) which has been written by the distinguished scholars of five universities under the sponsorship of American History Research Association of China.

We have written more than sixty articles on American history since 1979, published in various academic journals and periodicals in China. The main researches we have made are on American Historiography, Reconstruction, American History in the late-19th century, American Urbanization and American Westward Movement.

And now all of us are focusing on American immigration history, including the researches on ethnic groups by whom the American nation has been made up. The following are the main aspects of our interest: 1, The history of the U.S. official policy toward immigration and the minority groups including the native Americans; 2, The formation of the American nation and the concerned theories; 3, The history of the assimilation of the ethnic groups in the U.S. and the concerned theories; 4, The settlements of the ethnic groups in the cities (Ghettos).

We, with great respect, have noted that the purposes of Immigration History Society and **Journal of American Ethnic History** in the U.S. are to promote the study of the history of immigration to the United States from all parts of the world; to promote the study of ethnic groups in the United States, including regional groups in the United States, native Americans, and forced immigrants; to promote understanding of the processes of acculturation and of conflict; and generally to serve the field of immigration ethnic history with special reference to professional scholarship.

We appreciate the valuable contributions of the society and the journal ... as well as their beneficial influences in P.R.C. ... we hope that we can establish an academic relation with your respectable society and journal in order to promote the study of American immigration ethnic history in our country.

Rueben Zemin Ding, Director, Institute of American Studies, Northeast Normal University, Changchun, Jilin Province, 130024. P.R.C.

The Immigration History Society Announced the 1992 Theodore Saloutos Memorial Book Award

The Immigration History Society invites nominations for the Theodore Saloutos Memorial Book Award. The annual award has been increased to \$750.00.

The Theodore Saloutos Book Award is given annually by the Immigration History Society to an outstanding book on any aspect of the immigration history of the United States. To be eligible for the prize, a book must be copyrighted "1992." A book may be nominated by its author, the publisher, a member of the prize committee, or a member of the Society. Inquiries and nominations should be submitted to the chair of the Saloutos Prize Committee, Professor Lizabeth Cohen, Department of History, New York University, 19 University Place, 5th floor, New York, NY 10003.

Copies of the book must be received by the three members of the committee by December 31, 1992. Send books to Professor Cohen at the above address as well as to Professor Vicki L. Ruiz, Department of History, Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, CA 91711, and Professor Willi Paul Adams, John F. Kennedy Institute, Lansstrasse 5-9, 1000 Berlin 33, Germany.

GRANTS / FELLOWSHIPS

The John Carter Brown Library will award approximately fifteen short- and long-term Research Fellowships for the year June 1, 1993-May 31, 1994. **Short-term fellowships** carry a stipend of \$1,000 per month for up to four months and **Long-term fellowships** carry a stipend of \$2,500 per month for six months. For further information, write to: Director, John Carter Brown Library, Box 1894, Providence, RI 02912.

PUBLICATIONS

A Passion for Polka: Old Time Ethnic Music in America, 1860-1960, by Victor R. Greene, Univ. of California Press, 1992.

First Generation: In the Words of Twentieth Century American Immigrants, a new and revised edition, by June Namias, University of Illinois Press, 1992.

The Narrative of the Life of Mrs. Mary Jemison, by James E. Seaver [1824], introduction to the new edition, by June Namias, University of Oklahoma Press, 1992.

A Century of European Migrations, 1830-1930, edited by Rudolph J. Vecoli and Suzanne M. Sinke, University of Minnesota, 1992.

Pennsylvania History Studies series, (Pennsylvania Historical Association): **Scotch-Irish Presence in Pennsylvania**, by James H. Smylie, No. 18; **Italian Presence in Pennsylvania**, by Richard D. Grifo and Anthony F. Noto, No. 19; **Black Presence in Pennsylvania: "Making It Home"**, by Emma Lapansky, No. 21; **The Irish in Pennsylvania: A People Share a Commonwealth**, by Dennis Clark, No. 22.

Ethnicity and Machine Politics, by Jerome Krase and Charles LaCerra, University Press of America, 1991.

Immigration and Entrepreneurship: Culture, Capital, and Ethnic Networks, by Ivan Light and Parminder Bahchu, editors, Transaction Publishers, 1992.

Ten Years of Ethnic Forum and Cumulative Index 1980-1989, by Lubomyr R. Wynar, Kent State University, 1991.

Chinese American Intermarriage, by Betty Lee Sung, Center for Migration Studies, 1990.

AWARDS/PROMOTIONS

Carlos E. Cortes, of the University of California, Riverside, was named the 1992 California Council for the Humanities Public Humanities Lecturer and was the recipient of the 1992 University of California, Riverside, Public Service Award.

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John J. Bukowczyk, Department of History, Wayne State University, promoted to the rank of Professor of History.

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David Brundage, Community Studies Board, University of California, Santa Cruz, promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Community Studies, July, 1992.

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Jonathan D. Sarna, Brandeis University, elected Chair of the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, and appointed Chair of the Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society.

★ ★ ★

M. Mark Stolarik, was officially installed as holder of the Chair in Slovak History and Culture at the University of Ottawa, Canada, on October 3, 1992.

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CALL FOR HELP

Mark Stolarik is creating a library in Archives pertaining to Slovak History at the University of Ottawa. He would be grateful for any donations of library or archival material pertaining to the subject.

**ARTICLES/ESSAYS/BOOKS
BY MEMBERS**

Barry R. Chiswick, "Jewish Immigrant Skill and Occupational Attainment at the turn of the Century," *Explorations in Economic History*, January, 1991, pp. 64-86.

-----, "Jewish Immigrant Wages in America in 1909: An Analysis of the Dillingham Commission Data," *Explorations in Economic History*, July, 1992, pp. 274-289.

David Brundage, "After the Land League: The Persistence of Irish-American Labor Radicalism in Denver, 1897-1905," *Journal of American Ethnic History*, 11 (Spring 1992), pp. 3-26.

-----, "Respectable Radicals: Denver's Irish Land League in the Early 1880s," *Journal of the West*, 31 (April 1992), pp. 52-58.

Randall Miller, "Ethnic Groups" in James Churchill, ed., *Americana Annual 1992*, (Grolier, Inc., 1992)

John J. Bukowczyk and Nora Faires, "Immigration History in the United States, 1965-1990: A Selective Critical Appraisal," *Canadian Ethnic Studies/Etudes Ethniques au Canada*, 33, No. 2 (1991), pp. 1-23.

Carlos E. Cortes, "Harmony and Conflict of Intercultural Images: The Treatment of Mexico in U.S. Feature Films and K-12 Textbooks," (with Gerald Michael Greenfield), in *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos*, VII, 2 (Summer, 1991), pp. 283-301.

-----, "Who Is Maria? What Is Juan? Dilemmas of Analyzing the Chicago Image in U.S. Feature Films," in Chon Noriega (ed.), *Chicanos and Film: Essays on Chicano Representation and Resistance* (New York: Garland, 1992), pp. 83-104.

Jonathan D. Sarna, ed., *The Jews of the United States: Collected Studies* (in Hebrew, co-ed. with Lloyd Gartner), Jerusalem: Merkaz Shazar, 1992.

-----, ed. with Henry D. Shapiro), *Ethnic Diversity and Civic Identity: Patterns of Conflict and Cohesion in Cincinnati Since 1820*, University of Illinois Press, 1992.

John J. Kulczycki, "Polish Migrants in the Ruhr Region and the Great Coal Miners Strike of 1889," *Ideologie, poglady, mity w dziejach Polski i Europy XIX i XX wieku: Studia historyczne*, ed. by Jerzy Topolski, Witold Molik, and Krzysztof Makowski (Poznan: Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza, 1991), pp. 165-177.

M. Mark Stolarik, "Slovaks in Canada and the United States, 1870-1990: Similarities and Differences", *Slovak History and Culture Occasional Papers #1*, 1992, University of Ottawa.

Mark Kulikowski, "A Bibliography of Polish Americans, 1986-1990," *Polish American Studies*, 48 (1991), No. 2, pp. 39-79.

Roger Daniels, "Executive Order #9066 (Feb. 19, 1942)", *California History*, Winter, 1991/92.

-----, "Chinese and Japanese as Urban Americans," *The History Teacher*, 25, August., 1992, pp. 428-441.

David C. Mauk, "Going on Land: Maritime Influences on the Development of the Norwegian Colony in Brooklyn to 1940," *Essays on Norwegian-American Literature and History*, II, NAHA-Norway (The Norwegian Affiliate of the Norwegian-American Historical Association), Oslo, 1990, pp. 145-161.

John J. Appel with Selma Appel, "Sino-Phobic Advertising Slogans and THE Chinese Must Go!", *The Ephemere Journal*, 4, 1991, pp. 35-40.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CALL FOR PAPERS

The **Journal of American Ethnic History** will be publishing a special issue on the African-American experience. Those interested in submitting articles should do so by the end of May 1993. Send to Ronald H. Bayor, editor, School of History, Technology and Society, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, Georgia 30332.



The Chicago Historical Society is currently looking for artifacts and oral history stories for our upcoming exhibition, "Becoming American Women: Clothing and the Jewish Immigrant Experience, 1880-1920". We are interested in any artifacts (clothing, photos, manuscript material, etc.) that can be lent or donated, as well as personal stories about the trip from the Eastern European shtetl to America and Jewish women's early experiences in their adopted country. We are hoping to find both artifacts and stories through institutions as well as individuals, so any direction you can give us would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Joanne Grossman at The Chicago Historical Society, 1601 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60614. (312) 642-5035, Ext. 270.



National Association for Ethnic Studies, Inc.: "Race, Class, and Gender" 1993 Conference to be held at the University of Utah. Papers, media productions, or panels on the theme from all perspectives are welcome. Contact Prof. Alberto Pulido; Conferences and Institutes; U. of Utah; 2174 Annex Bldg.; Salt Lake City, UT 84112; (801) 581-5809 for abstract form and information.



The Danish American Heritage Society (DAHS) announced the second contest for the best historical article submitted to **The Bridge, Journal of Danish American Heritage Society**, on the

topic of Danish American history. The article judged best by the Board of Directors of the DAHS will earn a prize of \$300. The winning article will appear in the Spring, 1994 issue of **The Bridge**. All articles must be typed, double-spaced, with footnotes at the end of the article. Articles should be 3500-6000 words in length. Deadline for submission is December 1, 1993. Only articles submitted specifically in response to the contest will be considered for the award.



The 1993 annual meeting of the Social Science History Association will be held on November 4-7 in Baltimore, MD. Please submit proposals for panels and papers by February 15, 1993. Contact Program Co-Chairs: **Eileen L. McDonagh**, Department of Political Science, Meserve Hall 303, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115. Phone (617) 495-8140; or **Philip J. Ethington**, Department of History, Boston University, 226 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215. Phone: (617) 353-2551.



The program committee of the North American Labor History Conference invites proposals for panels or single papers on the theme of "Labor, Citizenship, and the State," for the 1993 meeting to be held October 14-16, at Wayne State University. Proposals should include a 1-2 page precis of each paper, a cover letter for panel submissions, and curriculum vita for all participants. **Proposals are due March 1, 1993.** For more information, or to submit a proposal, write to:

Elizabeth Faue
Department of History
3094 Faculty Administration Building
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI 48202
(313) 577-6986



**ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR THE IMMIGRATION
HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

MAIL TO:

**JOSEPH T. MAKAREWICZ
PENNSYLVANIA ETHNIC HERITAGE STUDIES CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
405 BELLEFIELD HALL
PITTSBURGH, PA 15260**

(Please list information since publication of last Newsletter - Use back of form if necessary.)

PRINT OR TYPE

NAME & AFFILIATION:

PROMOTIONS, AWARDS, JOB CHANGES, ETC:

PUBLICATIONS:

(Please do not list book reviews or non-professional publications) LIST FULL CITATION

PAPERS PRESENTED:

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST TO IHS MEMBERS:

**RETURN BY:
APRIL 15, 1992**

IMMIGRATION HISTORY SOCIETY

PURPOSE:

The Immigration History Society was founded in 1965 to promote the study of the history of immigration to the United States and Canada from all parts of the world, including studies of the background of emigration in the countries of origin; to promote the study of ethnic groups in the United States, including regional groups. Native Americans, and forced immigrants; to promote understanding of the processes of acculturation and of conflict; to furnish through the "*Immigration History Newsletter*" information as to research, organizations, meetings, and publications in the field of immigrant history; to help organize sessions on immigration and ethnicity at meetings of learned societies; and generally to serve the field of immigration-ethnic history with special reference to professional scholarship.

DUES:

Membership in the Immigration History Society includes subscriptions to the *Journal of American Ethnic History* and "*The Immigration History Newsletter*". Dues are: individuals: 1 year, \$30; 2 years, \$55; 3 years, \$75. Institutions: 1 year, \$60; 2 years, \$108; 3 years, \$145. Students: 1 year, \$15; Patrons: 1 year, \$100 (individuals or institutions who wish to provide more substantial financial support to the Society will have their names listed on the inside cover of the *Journal*). For domestic first-class mail add \$20 per year for surface mail or \$35 per year for airmail. Dues should be sent to: *Journal of American Ethnic History*, Department 8010, Transaction Periodicals Consortium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903.

Joseph T. Makarewicz
Pennsylvania Ethnic Heritage Studies Center
University of Pittsburgh
405 Bellefield Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

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EDITOR, *JOURNAL OF AMERICAN ETHNIC HISTORY*: Ronald H. Bayor, *Georgia Institute of Technology, Department of History, Technology, and Society, Atlanta, GA 30332*

Inquiries about the Society should be sent to the appropriate officer. Information about subscriptions and back issues should be sent to the Editor of the *Newsletter*. Change of address should be sent to: Lisa Killian, Transaction Periodicals Consortium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NY 08903 - Phone: (908) 932-2280. **Do Not** send address changes to Newsletter editor or officers as this will cause unnecessary paperwork and confusion. For back issues of the *Newsletter*, please send a check for \$2.00 made out to University of Pittsburgh, and send to Editor.

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