THE IMMIGRATION HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Volume XXVI, No. 1

May, 1994

MINUTES OF THE 1994 EDITORIAL BOARD AND BUSINESS MEETING OF THE IMMIGRATION HISTORY SOCIETY
16 APRIL 1994, ATLANTA, GA

Ronald Bayor opened the meeting of the Editorial Board of the Journal of American Ethnic History at 4:34 p.m. Bayor distributed his editor’s report and noted further that the number of active subscribers is 799, with approximately 73 from overseas. However, while the total number of subscriptions has increased since his April 1993 report, the number of individual subscriptions has declined slightly. The special issue on the African-American experience will appear in Fall 1994, and Bayor requested suggestions for other possible special issues for the Journal. He reported that, overall, the Journal is doing well. There is no shortage of article submissions. The backlog of book reviews has been significantly reduced and he expects that the book reviews will be brought up-to-date in the next few issues.

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

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Daniels opened the annual business meeting at 5:01 p.m. because John Bodnar was in Florence, Italy, Roger Daniels, Vice-President, conducted the 1994 meeting. Bodnar will give his presidential address at the 1995 IHN dinner. Since there had been no significant business during the previous year, there was no president’s report. Daniels announced that the IHS Executive Board had approved the reappointments of Alan Kraut and June Alexander as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Both Kraut and Alexander have accepted reappointment for 1994-1997.

Questions were raised concerning the distribution and subscription rates of the Journal in both Canada and Europe. Bayor reported that the subscription rates had been changed for both Canada and Europe; he is working further to solve distribution problems in Europe. Currently the Journal is mailed by a European distributor. It might become necessary to return to a system whereby overseas issues of the Journal are mailed from the United States directly to subscribers.

Alan Kraut gave a detailed financial report for the period March 1, 1993 to February 28, 1994. With $15,842.99 in the General Fund and $2,016.59 in the Carlton C. Qualey Award Fund, the Society has a total closing cash balance of $17,859.58. Kraut reported that, due to the low interest rates, IHS funds that had been held in certificates of deposit had been transferred to the Society’s savings account. In consultation with Roger Daniels, it was decided that, given the uncertainty of interest rates, it was best to keep the Society’s funds fluid.
June Alexander reported that Philip Gleason had been elected Vice-President-President Elect. Jon Gjerde, Melvin Holli, and Kerby Miller were elected to the IHS Executive Board for the term 1994-1997. Donna Gabaccia reported that 250 copies of the Syllabus Exchange (Teaching the History of Immigration and Ethnicity: A Syllabus Exchange), had been sold. She suggested that in the future, the Society might consider preparing a new edition that could be distributed electronically through, for example, H-Ethnic.

Donna Gabaccia also reported on behalf of the Program Committee [Marilyn Halter, Gary Mormino]. The IHS has had a session accepted for the 1995 OAH convention. In addition, sessions specifically identified as IHS sponsored will be included in the program of Social Science History and American Studies Association conventions. It was noted that, in its convention program, the OAH refuses to identify sessions sponsored by its affiliates. Roger Daniels urged members to complain to the OAH leadership about this policy. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the Society should also sponsor sessions at regional conferences as well as at the major conventions.

On behalf of Rudy Vecoli, Roger Daniels announced that Frank Thistlethwaite will receive an honorary degree from the University of Minnesota at the June 1994 commencement; IHS members are invited to attend.

On behalf of Rudy Vecoli, Roger Daniels also read a resolution opposing the construction of a permanent bridge connecting Ellis Island to New Jersey [text follows minutes]. A letter by Governor Mario Cuomo opposing the bridge was also read. After discussion, the resolution was unanimously approved and copies will be sent to appropriate congressional representatives and senators as well as other appropriate persons.

The suggestion was made that the Society should work more actively to encourage ties with foreign scholars. It was agreed that the Society and its members can be particularly helpful in advancing OAH efforts at internationalization. It was proposed that an IHS committee be appointed to investigate this issue. There was discussion but no action was taken.

Mark Stolarik asked persons present to give their assessment of the current IHS newsletter: its form, content, and size. A brief discussion ensued. It was suggested that members have not been submitting materials for the newsletter as a poll of those present indicated. There was also general agreement with Kerby Miller's suggestion that the past policy of including short bibliographical essays in the newsletter should be reintroduced. Roger Daniels will convey the substance of the discussion and suggestions to Joseph Makarewicz.

Alan Kraut noted that, given its solid financial situation, the Society might want to consider sponsoring a conference. Lizabeth Cohen suggested that the IHS might do more to support graduate students. It was proposed that the Society consider providing small research grants. The President will appoint a committee to investigate and recommend action.

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
June Granatir Alexander
IHS Secretary

1994 IHS Election Results

Vice President-President Elect:

Philip Gleason
University of Notre Dame

Executive Board for the three-year term, 1994-1997:

Jon Gjerde
University of California, Berkeley
Melvin G. Holli
University of Illinois, Chicago
Kerby A. Miller
University of Missouri - Columbia
Resolution

(Introduced by Rudolph J. Vecoli and approved at the 1994 general membership meeting of the Immigration History Society)

The Immigration History Society advocates access for all Americans to Ellis Island but strongly opposes the construction of a permanent bridge connecting Ellis Island to New Jersey. Such a bridge would:

- violate the character of the historical site, whose very essence is that it is an island;
- cheapen the experience of visiting Ellis Island by substitution of an inferior means of access for the profoundly meaningful one of arriving by boat, which is an essential component of the Ellis Island experience;
- cause irreparable damage to the island’s physical fabric by introducing obtrusive and incompatible new elements and possibly causing demolition or alteration of significant historic elements;
- intrude into views of and from the island; and because it could:
- introduce vehicular traffic onto Ellis Island, in turn causing pressure to provide services such as loading areas, turnarounds, and parking lots, which would severely degrade the island’s character as a historic site and as a National Park.

Rather than build this ill-conceived, destructive, and costly bridge, Congress and the National Park Service should:

- find a way to provide additional access, if it is needed, that would enhance, not cheapen, the experience of visiting Ellis Island, i.e. by expanding ferry operations, providing new routes, new access points in New Jersey, better transit connections or passenger facilities, or subsidized fares;
- act rapidly to assure the survival of the historic buildings on the south side of the island’s integrity and enhance the visitor’s experience.

A Letter from the President

May 10, 1994

Dear Colleagues:

I will be using this means of communication from time to time. I hope that it will not be a one-way street and that some of you will write me about your concerns for and ideas about our organization. In this letter I will address two matters: our newsletter and our membership.

At our meeting in Atlanta last month there was a discussion about the newsletter. It quickly became apparent that, even among the persons there - some of the more active members - only a small minority had submitted items recently. A newsletter is only as good as its contents and the contents depends largely on you and the items you submit about your published work, your work in progress, and other professional news.

Our membership, while still quite healthy, has been declining slightly. I would like to see it grow. There are two obvious sources of growth: each of us should try to recruit at least one colleague and, those of us who have advanced students should urge them to join. We have very few student members. A committee, headed by Victor Greene, is now studying proposals to make the organization more attractive to students. There should be a report from that committee in the next newsletter.

Sincerely,

Roger Daniels
University of Cincinnati
The 1993 Theodore Saloutos Memorial Book Award

At the annual meeting of the Immigration History Society in Atlanta, Georgia on April 16, 1994, the eleventh Theodore Saloutos Memorial Book Award was awarded to George J. Sánchez for Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945, published by Oxford University Press in 1993. The following citation was read:

CITATION

The Theodore Saloutos Book Award in U.S. Immigration History was established in 1983 to recognize annually an outstanding work on any aspect of the immigration history of the United States, immigration history defined as the history of movement of peoples from other countries to the United States, the history of the repatriation movements of immigrants, and the consequences of those migrations for the United States, for the countries of origin, and for the immigrants themselves.

This year's award committee considered twenty-three submissions and unanimously agreed that one book stood out in terms of its contribution to the field of immigration history. That is, Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945, by George J. Sánchez, Associate Professor of History at the University of California, Los Angeles (and the incoming Director of the American Culture Program at the University of Michigan) and published by Oxford University Press. Adroitly argued, Becoming Mexican American is the most comprehensive and ambitious study of Mexican Los Angeles to date. A rigorous and imaginative researcher, Professor Sánchez has mined government records and manuscript collections previously overlooked by scholars. For instance, he has uncovered a treasure trove of documents available at the Regional National Archives at Laguna Niguel. Furthermore, he uses his sources to tease out issues of agency and power in everyday life. Challenging the notion of assimilation as a linear, generational process, Sánchez explores how immigrants and their children blended elements of U.S. popular culture with Mexican traditions. He gives a sense of the complicated interplay of cultures as Los Angeles barrios were both communities unto themselves as well as integral parts of the city as a whole.
Furthermore, he argues provocatively that mainstream labor organizations had a more acculturating impact among Mexicans in Los Angeles than the panoply of local Americanization programs.

Equally important, George Sánchez is among the first scholars of Mexican American history to explore the lives of Mexican immigrants before their journey north. In many works, Mexican immigrants appear to drop from the heavens into the barrios of the Southwest and Midwest. Incorporating materials from Mexican archives, Sánchez offers insights into people's cultural identities and circumstances, the intangible baggage they brought with them to the United States. In sum, George J. Sánchez weaves together individual and community history so that work, family, Mexican nationalism, American patriotism, Catholicism, Mexican folklore, U.S. popular culture, voluntary organizations, and labor activism come together in a well-defined portrait of Mexican American life which extends beyond the city limits of Los Angeles. Representing immigration history at its best, Becoming Mexican American will significantly influence the writing of Chicano history for decades to come.

On the eleventh occasion of the Theodore Saloutos Memorial Book Award, we take great pleasure in presenting this award to Professor George J. Sánchez.

Atlanta, April 16, 1994

The 1994 Award Committee

Vicki L. Ruiz, Chair,
Claremont Graduate School
Lizbeth Cohen,
New York University
A. William Hoglund,
University of Connecticut
BOOKS AND ARTICLES BY MEMBERS


Chametzky, Jules, "Beyond the Melting Pots, Cultural Pluralism, Ethnicity - or - Deja Vu All over Again," *Melus*, 16, (Winter, 89-90), 3-17.


BOOKS AND ARTICLES BY MEMBERS (continued)


Miller, Mark J. and Robert A. Denemark, International Migration and Theories of World Politics: Assessments and Lessons from the Western European Case, Center for Migration Studies, 1993.


Zeidel, Robert F., "Peopling the Empire: The Great Northern Railroad and the Recruitment of Immigrant Settlers to north Dakota", North Dakota History, 60, (Spring 1993), 14-23.
AIHA Scholarship

The American Italian Historical Association offers a scholarship of $500.00 to a graduate student, in any discipline, whose work focuses on the Italian American experience. The announcement of the scholarship winner is made at the yearly AIHA meeting, in November.

To be considered for the award, please send 6 copies of:

1. A one- to two-page description of graduate work completed or in progress. If the project is a doctoral dissertation, please indicate and describe.


In addition, please arrange for your academic advisor to send a short letter of recommendation. All materials should be mailed to:

Donna Gabaccia
History Department
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Charlotte, NC 28223

Deadline for this year’s applications is September 1, 1994.

ETHNIC FILM PROJECT

The National Center for Film and Video Preservation at the American Film Institute has received Challenge Grant funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities to compile a published book catalog and database documenting feature films made by, for, or about ethnic groups in the United States. The catalog entries will be published in a form similar to the Center’s AFI Catalog of Feature Films, which provides comprehensive information on American films by decade. They will also exist as MARC catalog records in the Center’s National Moving Image Database (NAMID). Barring unforeseen difficulties, the NAMID databases will be available via the Internet in a year or so, and the ethnic films records in two years.

The project’s staff seeks to gather information about films that may be difficult to track down (such as locally produced films), that may no longer exist, or that may have been inadequately cataloged. We would appreciate hearing from archivists, curators, librarians, scholars, and film lovers who may have viewing prints, primary source documents, catalogs, databases, descriptions, or recommendations that might help us to produce the most useful and comprehensive catalog possible.

Scope: Feature-length films (40 minutes or longer) produced in the United States in which a major focus on an American ethnic group or on an issue of ethnicity or ethnic identity is revealed in the story line, setting, or characters. Non-English-language films will be included.

Please contact:

Alan Gervinon
Project Director
Ethnic American Feature Film Project
American Film Institute
2021 N. Western Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Or send e-mail to Marsha Maguire, Project Consultant, at:

marsham@halcyon.halcyon.com

★★★★
RESEARCH PROJECT

The Special Collections and Archives at Indiana University - Purdue University at Indianapolis is conducting a research project to locate, inventory, and preserve the historical records of Turner Societies in the United States. This project has been funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Turner Societies were organized by German immigrants as athletic, social, and cultural organizations which flourished in most cities with a significant German population from the mid-nineteenth century through the first decades of the twentieth century. Today, there are still about 80 societies left. Besides their functions within the German communities, they also played an important role in reform movements, such as abolitionism in the 1850s, and other political issues, such as prohibition, Sabbath-Day laws, and American neutrality during World War I. Turners also participated in the introduction of physical education to public schools.

Although Turner societies had important functions in the German-American communities, research on American Turners has been fairly difficult since information on them is scattered or inaccessible. The purpose of this project is to locate published and unpublished records of Turner Societies, to aid in the preservation of historical material, and to prepare a research guide to Turner historical records.

The American Turners are involved in the 18-month project which is well on its way. Surveys to Turner societies, archives, and historical societies will be sent out shortly.

Anybody who has any Turner records or can help to locate them, or knows someone who should be contacted is encouraged to contact the project staff:
Eric Pumroy, Project Director,
or Katja Rampelmann
Project Libraries
755 W. Michigan Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Telephone: (317) 274-0464
e-mail: epumroy@indycms.iupui.edu.
or krampelm@indycms.iupui.edu.

FREE DATABASE TUTORIAL AND WORKSHOPS

The History Computerization Project now offers free workshops and a printed tutorial on the use of computer database management for historical research, writing, and cataloging. Those unable to attend the workshops can still obtain the 80-page workshop tutorial by mail. The workshops and tutorial give organizations and researchers a chance to see how easy it can be to build an historical database, at no cost or obligation. The project, sponsored by the Regional History Center of the University of Southern California and the Los Angeles City Historical Society, is building a Regional History Information Network through which researchers and repositories can exchange information. The Los Angeles Bibliography Project has created a database of source materials and a directory of historical repositories. Both projects employ the History Database program, running on IBM PC compatible computers. The computer classroom includes 10 IBM PCs connected to a shared database. The course textbook, Database Design: Applications of Library Cataloging Techniques, by David L. Clark, is published by the TAB division of McGraw-Hill. For a current workshop schedule and a free copy of the tutorial contact: History Computerization Project, 24851 Pluma Road, Malibu, California 90265.

Phone: (818) HISTORY, (818) 591-9371.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rabbi Edward E. Klein Memorial Library of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue has prepared three new inventories of its archival holdings. The inventories cover the papers of Rabbis Stephen S. Wise, Sidney Goldstein, and J.K. Cohen, and include biographical information, descriptions of the contents of each collection, and detailed folder lists. Copies are available on request for $5, by check made out to the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, 30 West 68th Street, New York, NY 10023 - Telephone: (212) 877-4050.
FAX: (212) 787-7108.

Best Western Downtowner
321 South Washington
Green Bay, Wisconsin
For further information and conference registration (to be ready June 1) write:
Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International
P.O. Box 16225
St. Paul, MN 55116-0225

Daniel P. Wolk, William Rainey Harper Instructor, University of Chicago, will be Exchange Professor at Kuban State University, Krasnodar, Russia in Fall 1994, where he will teach a course of American ethnicity and immigration.

Sucheng Chan, Asian American Studies Program, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-4090, received the Gustavus Myers Center's Outstanding Book Award for Asian Americans: An Interpretive History (Twayne, 1991).

Ethnic Catskills Exhibit, "Beyond the Borscht Belt: Ethnic Resorts of the Catskills," is scheduled to open at Delaware County Historical Association Museum, Delhi, New York site this July. The exhibit will travel to museums in New York City, Albany, and the Boston area from October 1994 through 1996; the performance series, featuring ethnic musicians and performers, will take place at various Catskill locations during the summer of 1994.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Best wishes to Professor Frederick C. Luebke, Charles J. MacDistinguished Professor of History, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, on his retirement in July, 1994, as professor emeritus.

Editor's Note

I don't know if it is the cold winters, spring breaks, or raise/promotion time, but the spring always brings more responses from the members with items for the Newsletter.

Recall Roger Daniels' remarks in his letter on page 3, that "A newsletter is only as good as its contents and the contents depends largely on you (readers)...." Thank you for responding to the last call for information. I am always interested in your constructive criticism to improve this publication. Let me know if you have suggestions on content and format.

Joe
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:
OCTOBER 31, 1994
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.

OFFICERS OF IHS

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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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