



# THE IMMIGRATION HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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## *Teaching about Immigration in a Country of Emigration*

*By Sally M. Miller*

During the spring of 1996, I had the fascinating experience of teaching the history of Finnish immigration to students in Finland. As a Fulbright lecturer, I served in the Department of Cultural History at the University of Turku, one of the most prestigious universities in the country. The university is located in a city that once was the seat of Finland's government, in the southwestern corner of the country.

Finnish students are highly trained in the English language, having frequently had ten years of English instruction by the time they enter the university. My students' reading knowledge of English was excellent, as was their ability to understand lectures. They often spoke Swedish as well, and some spoke German; but rarely did they speak Russian, because of a traditional resistance to learning that language. Their spoken English was sometimes awkward, and it was not unusual for them to be embarrassed at having to grope for the right word. But for an American struggling to absorb only a few words of Finnish, one of the most difficult languages in the western world, their competence in English seemed very impressive.

Since my course in immigration history, as well as my other course in American intellectual history, was just one of a few history courses taught in English, it also attracted a number of foreign students from England, the Netherlands and Italy. They were in the midst of a year of study abroad under the "Erasmus" program, which allows students of European Union countries to move about easily among universities within the Union. Also in my class was a third-generation Finnish-American from Michigan, enrolled through a joint program between the University of Michigan and the University of Turku.

A number of challenges faced me in offering a course in U. S. immigration with a Finnish emphasis, a course which had never previously been offered in Finland. I structured it so that the first third of the course introduced the students to U.S. immigration history from the colonial era to the aftermath of the Civil War. A second unit, the heart of the course, examined the Finnish experience in the United States. It covered the period from the 1860s, when Finns first arrived, to the 1920s, when Finnish immigration declined. The last unit of the course surveyed American immigration history from the 1920s to the present. The first challenge stemmed from the limited class time available. As those familiar with European academic life

know, universities there commonly schedule only one lecture per week for a course. Lectures are ninety minutes in duration, which meant that at best one could only cover half of what might normally be covered in an American college classroom. Thus I had to pare down my original syllabus as too ambitious. The next challenge related to the fact that in the Finnish system students are not typically assigned readings in a lecture course. If readings are assigned, as they are only in a minority of the courses, and as I did in my other course, then an additional unit of credit is earned. By the end of the term I had concluded that even the most diligent students in the lectures would attain only a superficial familiarity with the subject. For those who did want to delve more deeply into the material, I offered a weekly seminar, and a few students did choose to enroll in it.

The twenty-five students who elected the lecture course came with great interest in the material, but with little exposure to U.S. history. Virtually all of them told me that they had relatives in the United States or Canada, typically in such places as Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Ontario. Not a few had been in North America to visit their relatives.

There was no paucity of reading material on which to draw for the lectures or to assign to students in the seminar. Many of the materials have been generated by the Institute of General History at the University of Turku, which has been the main institution in the country specializing in the history of Finnish immigration, and has in its ranks two noted historians, Reino Kero and Auvo Kostiainen. In addition to its own publications, the Institute has accumulated emigration records from passport lists in the Central Bureau of Statistics, conducted inventories of passenger lists, surveyed parish records (some of which are extremely detailed on emigrants), microfilmed archives of Finnish-American societies, and collected files of Finnish-American newspapers. It also conducted over two hundred interviews with immigrants in the 1960s and collected hundreds of questionnaires completed by Finnish-Americans, as well as by Finns who eventually returned to their country of origin. The other major Finnish repository for immigration material, also in Turku, is the Institute of Migration, directed by Dr. Olavi Koivunkangas. It should be noted that nearly all of these sources are in Finnish and therefore usable only by scholars who know the Finnish language. U.S. repositories of Finnish materials include the Finnish-American Historical Library at Suomi College in Hancock, Michigan, and

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*News from Libraries, Museums and Historic Sites...*

***New Jersey May Hold Sway over Part of Ellis Island;  
Four Jewish Historical Institutions to Share Quarters***

A special master appointed by the United States Supreme Court has returned a recommendation in the long-standing controversy between New York and New Jersey over which of the two states exercises sovereignty over Ellis Island. The special master, Paul Verkeuil, recommended to the court on April 1 that the sovereignty be divided between the two states. About five acres, including the ferry landing and the main building of the former immigration station, which now houses the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Museum, would be part of New York. The remaining 22.5 acres, mostly created by landfill since 1890 and containing former hospitals and other buildings, would be in New Jersey. The recommendation rests in part on an 1834 agreement between the two states which gave New York the islands in that part of New York Harbor, but gave New Jersey rights over the surrounding waters. These rights remained, said the special master, over the landfill areas.

Title to all of the property in question is in the hands of the federal government, and all the property is administered by the National Park Service. It was not foreseen that any NPS policies concerning the park and immigration museum would be affected. The states might be able to collect taxes from any revenue-producing activities that might be established on their respective parts of the island.

New Jersey officials clearly considered their state the victor in the matter. The recommendation revived talk there about building a footbridge to the island from the New Jersey shore. New York spokesmen expressed criticism of the outcome, warning that the decision opened the door to ambitious development interests from New Jersey, thereby threatening preservationist goals on the island. New Jersey's Governor Christine Whitman responded that her state was just as much devoted to historic preservation as was New York.

Final decision on the recommendation

rests with the Supreme Court, which will hear arguments and decide the matter in the court term which begins October 1997. Legal experts say that the court accepts the recommendations of special masters in the great majority of cases.

Four institutions of Jewish and Jewish-American history which have long pursued their separate ways will be combining efforts to bring their various resources together in a new Center for Jewish History, to be located at 17 West 16th St. near Union Square in New York City. The Center will open in 1998, when the moving of archives and artifacts from their previous locations is completed.

The four institutions now cooperating are the Yivo Institute, which chronicles East European Jewry; the Leo Baeck Institute, which houses collections on German Jews; the Yeshiva University Museum, which has a wide-ranging collection of Jewish artifacts; and the American Jewish Historical Society, which houses extensive resources on Jews in America. The first three institutions will be moving from other locations in New York City; the American Jewish Historical Society will move from Waltham, Massachusetts, where it has had its headquarters near Brandeis University.

The idea of the combined center arose when the Yivo Institute decided that they had outgrown their headquarters at Fifth Avenue and 86th St. The Yivo Institute then purchased a four-building complex near Washington Square, and discussions began with the other institutions, some of whom shared the problem of an inconvenient location and a lack of storage space. Eventually all agreed on the advantages of sharing a common center.

The new property for the center was bought for \$4.4 million, but the costs of renovating it as a museum and archive will reach \$40 million. A twelve-story building will be devoted primarily to

archival storage. The public spaces will include exhibit areas and a 250-seat auditorium.

A large collection of Latvian-American archival materials has been transferred from the Latvian Studies Center at Kalamazoo, Michigan to the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota. About fifty collections totalling 200 linear feet are included. Among other new archival acquisitions at the IHRC are: papers of Ivar S. Niemi, Finnish-American chiropractor; papers of Vincent Romano, educator and official of the Sons of Italy; papers of Eugene Skotzko, Ukrainian-American economist and statistician; and papers of Elizabeth Tomashevsky, Ukrainian-American refugee worker.

A current exhibit at the Minnesota History Center at St. Paul is "Unpacking the Prairie: Jewish Women in the Upper Midwest." It was co-sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society and the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest.

The American Catholic Historical Association has announced the inauguration of the John Tracy Ellis Dissertation Award, which will assist a graduate student working on some aspect of the history of the Catholic Church. The first award of \$1200 will be made in January 1998. Applicants must be citizens of the United States or Canada and be enrolled in a doctoral program at a recognized higher education institution. Applicants must submit the following: a statement from the chairperson or graduate director of the person's department certifying that the applicant has completed all degree requirements except the dissertation and has had a topic approved dealing with some aspect of the history of the Catholic Church; three copies of a statement (not

more than 1000 words) by the applicant describing the project and how the award would be used to further it; and two sealed letters of recommendation from scholars familiar with the applicant's work, one of whom must be the dissertation director. Deadline for application and submission of materials: Sept. 30, 1997. Inquiries and applications to the Secretary, American Catholic Historical Association, Catholic University of America, Washington DC 20064.

The new Association of North American Migration Institutions (ANAMI) is now taking shape, following an organizational meeting in December 1996 at the Balch Institute in Philadelphia. The association's purposes were stated in the constitution which it adopted: (1) to improve communications and collaboration among those institutions and individuals who are responsible for the custody and interpretation of the record of the immigrant experience in North America; (2) to stimulate efforts to locate, preserve, and make accessible the records of the immigrant experience in North America; (3) to develop linkages and collaborative projects with migration scholars, institutions and associations worldwide; and (4) to promote and facilitate understanding of the migration experience.

Membership in the association would be available to "any educational or cultural institution with a significant program of research, documentation or education on migration to North America, but those promoting partisan political, religious or ideological activities are excluded. Although many historical societies and museums might thus be potential members, it was decided to begin with a smaller group of institutions with a broad general interest in the subject; further expansion could occur later on. The initial members being invited are the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Museum, the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, the Multicultural History Society of Ontario, the Center for Migration Studies (Staten Island, N.Y.), the Museum of American Frontier Culture in Staunton, Virginia, the Immigration History Research Center at the Univer-

sity of Minnesota, and the International Center for Migration, Ethnicity and Citizenship at the New School for Social Research. Also invited as an institutional member is the Immigration History Society, which could represent the interests of individual scholars and researchers (the invitation was discussed at the annual meeting of the IHS; see minutes, p. 10). The Centre for Emigration Studies at the Ulster-American Folk Park in Northern Ireland, which has played a leading role in the establishment of ANAMI, will be included in the association to provide a link to its European counterpart, the Association of European Migration Institutions.

Diana Pardue of the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Museum was elected to be the initial chair of ANAMI.

The University of Oslo library has made available on the World Wide Web the Thor M. Andersen "Norway in America" bibliography. This lists a wealth of documents printed between 1825 and 1930 about Norwegian immigrants to the United States and Canada. The 55,000 entries in the bibliography were collected as a card catalog by Norwegian librarian Thor M. Andersen (1897-1979). The bibliography may be viewed free on the World Wide Web at: [http://www.nbo.uio.no/baser/tma\\_eng.html](http://www.nbo.uio.no/baser/tma_eng.html)

The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia, is able to provide housing for scholars interested in doing research in the Institute's collections. The housing is available from September 1997 through May 1998 on a first-come, first-serve basis to non-Philadelphia residents who have a demonstrated need to use the collections. For additional information call the Balch Institute Library at (215) 925-8090, or by e-mail: [balchlib@balchinstitute.org](mailto:balchlib@balchinstitute.org)

For information about the collections, consult the Institute's web site: [www.libertynet.org/~balch](http://www.libertynet.org/~balch)

The New York Irish History Roundtable has published *The Gaelic Gotham Report: Assessing a Controversial Exhibition at the Museum of the City of New*

*York*. The report reviews the exhibition about Irish-American life in New York City which was presented during 1996 at the Museum of the City of New York. The exhibition provoked strong reactions from Irish-American and ethnic scholars when the original curator was dismissed during the preparation of the exhibit (*Immigration History Newsletter*, May 1996, p. 2). The report examines the completed exhibition in great detail and generally finds it wanting. The exhibition closed in October 1996. Copies of the report (price \$15 plus \$3 shipping and handling) are available from New York Irish History Roundtable, P.O. Box 2087 Church Street Station, New York NY 10008.

The Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota is undertaking a major new archival project with the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The project is called "America's Response to Immigration, 1918-1993: An Archival Arrangement and Description Project." The IHRC plans to arrange, describe and facilitate access to a variety of holdings already in its hands. These include records of the Immigration and Refugee Services of America and the U.S. Committee for Refugees.

The editors of the journal *Latin American Issues* are soliciting contributions of articles from all disciplines of the humanities and social sciences for a special issue entitled "(De)Constructing the Mexican-American Border." Two copies of the manuscript (in English) should be sent by October 1, 1997. Contact: Fernando Valerio or Jaume Marti-Olivella, Modern Languages Dept., Box 63 Allegheny College, Meadville PA 16335.

The journal *Educational Policy* is planning a special issue on the education of post-1965 immigrants and their children in the United States. Interested parties should submit an abstract soon. Final papers should be submitted by September 30, 1997. Contact: Maxine Seller or Lois Weis, 468 Baldy Hall, Univ. at Buffalo, Buffalo NY 14260.

## Conferences and Meetings...

American University and its Office of Summer Sessions, along with the Museum of the City of New York, are organizing a summer institute for undergraduate and graduate students in New York City, July 19-25, 1997. The Institute has the title "The Ethnic Experience in the City." Co-directors are Alan Kraut and Edward C. Smith of American University. Undergraduate and graduate credit is available. Information: Office of Summer Sessions; American Univ., 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20016-8170.

The Association of European Migration Institutions will hold its annual conference at the Ulster American Folk Park in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, Sept. 25-27, 1997. Theme of the conference is "To Parts beyond the Seas: Individual Experiences of the European Diaspora." Information: John A. Walsh, Ulster American Folk Park, Castletown, Omagh, County Tyrone BT78 5QY, Northern Ireland. E-mail: [jwalsh@uafp.iol.ie](mailto:jwalsh@uafp.iol.ie)

The 24th annual conference of the Communal Studies Association will take place at Tacoma, Washington, Oct. 9-12, 1997. Theme: "Communal Frontiers." Proposals closed April 15, 1997. Information: Charles LeWarne, 20829 Hillcrest Place, Edmonds WA 98026.

The American Studies Association of Texas will hold a conference at the downtown campus of the University of Texas at San Antonio, November 20-22, 1997. Theme: "Mestizo Mainstream: Ethnicity and the New Century." Papers dealing with the theme in locations other than Texas are invited. Deadline July 15, 1997. Proposals and information: Gena Dagal Caponi, American Studies, Univ. of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio TX 78249. Tel: (210) 458-5729. E-mail: [gcaponi@lonestar.utsa.edu](mailto:gcaponi@lonestar.utsa.edu)

The American Italian Historical Association will hold its annual conference in Cleveland, Ohio, November 13-15, 1997.

The theme of this year's conference is "Shades of Black and White, Italy-Africa-U.S.; Conflict and Collaboration between Two Communities." Papers are sought which focus on the general theme, and particularly on relationships between African-Americans and Italian Americans, as well as between the peoples of Africa and Italy. Proposals for papers and panels should be sent (along with a 200 word vita) by June 1 to Joseph Ventura, 11418 Edgepark Drive, Garfield Heights, Ohio; telephone (216) 587-4973. For registration, contact Salvatore LaGumina, Nassau Community College, One Education Drive, Garden City, NY 11530-6793.

The International Institute of Social History is planning the second European Social Science History Conference for March 5-7, 1998 in Amsterdam. Sessions on ethnicity are being organized by Leo Lucassen (Leiden University) and Dirk Hoerder (University of Bremen). Sessions on migration are being organized by Jan Lucassen (International Institute of Social History) and Nancy L. Green (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris). Paper proposals ended April 30. To receive further information on the conference and program, contact: European Social Science History Conference 1998, c/o IISH, Cruquiusweg 31, 1019 AT Amsterdam, Netherlands. E-mail: [ESSHC@iisg.NL](mailto:ESSHC@iisg.NL)

Information may also be found on the Internet at <http://www.iisg.nl/ESSHC>

New York University will host the fifth Conference on the Chinese American Experience on Oct. 10-12, 1997. Theme: "Where is Home? Chinese in the Americas." Further information is on the Internet: <http://www.nyu.edu/pages/apa.studies>

The Great Lakes American Studies Association will hold its annual conference March 6-7, 1998 at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. The theme is "Landscape/Memory/Identity." Proposals for papers, sessions, media presentations invited; deadline Oct. 15, 1997. Contact: Marjorie L. McLellan, American Studies, Miami Univ., Oxford Ohio 45056. Tel.: (513) 727-3256.

E-mail: [mcllellm@muohio.edu](mailto:mcllellm@muohio.edu)

The Forum on European Expansion and Global Interaction will hold its second biennial meeting April 3-4, 1998 at the Henry Huntington Library in San Marino, California. The Forum is concerned with the expansion of Europe and the world-wide response to expansion from the 14th century to the mid-19th century. Proposals for papers or sessions should be submitted by Oct. 15, 1997. Include a 250-word abstract and a *curriculum vitae* for each presenter. Inquiries and proposals should be addressed after July 1 to David Hancock, Charles Warren Center, Robinson Hall, Harvard Univ., Cambridge MA 02138. E-mail: [hancockd@umich.edu](mailto:hancockd@umich.edu) For information about membership in the Forum, contact Thomas Cohen, Oliviera Lima Library, Catholic Univ. of America, Washington DC 20064.

The annual meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians, to be held at Los Angeles April 15-19, 1998, will include a session on "Architecture as Sign in Ethnic-American Communities." Paper proposals are welcome on subjects such as how buildings reflect community identity, distinctive architectural styles of ethnic communities, and how ethnic communities adapt and use space. Proposals (250-word abstracts) should be submitted by Sept. 3, 1997. Information: Lynne Horiuchi, 370 Wurster Hall, Univ. of California, Berkeley CA 94720. E-mail: [tleavesoak@aol.com](mailto:tleavesoak@aol.com)

The National Council on Public History will hold its annual meeting in Austin, Texas April 15-19, 1998. Theme: "International, multicultural, interdisciplinary: public history policy and practice." Proposals for papers and for sessions are due September 12, 1997. For information contact the program co-chairs: Carl Phagan and Kris Mitchell, Batelle Pantex, P.O. Box 30020, Building 12-2B, Amarillo Texas 79120-0020. E-mail: [kcmitch@pantex.com](mailto:kcmitch@pantex.com)

The Institute of Migration in Turku, Finland, and the University of Stock-

holm plan a conference for June 9-11, 1998. Topic: "Scandinavian and European Migration to Australia and New Zealand." Proposals by Oct. 1, 1997 to Olavi Koivukangas, Institute of Migration, Piispankatu 3, 20500 Turku, Finland. E-mail: olavi.koivukangas@utu.fi

The Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association will meet in San Diego during the first week of August, 1998. Proposals should be received by July 1997 for early consideration; final deadline for proposals is Oct. 31, 1997. Inquiries and proposals to: Leonard Dinnerstein, Judaic Studies, Franklin Bldg. #308, Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz. 85721-0080.

The second annual Conference on Crossroads in Cultural Studies will take place June 28-July 1, 1998 in Tampere, Finland. Sessions will include topics such as identity, ethnicity, nationalism, globalization, and culture and economy. Proposals for sessions (with 150-word description) accepted until Sept. 30, 1997. Contact: Pertti Alasuutari, P.O. Box 32, 33201 Tampere, Finland. E-mail: iscsmail@uta.fi. Information on Internet: <http://www.uta.fi/crossroads>

The North American Labor History Conference will hold its 20th annual meeting at Wayne State University in Detroit, Oct. 15-17, 1998. Theme: "Labor, Past and Present." Comparative and interdisciplinary sessions are welcome, as are topical sessions that intersect with race, ethnicity and gender. Proposals due by March 1, 1998 to Elizabeth Faue, coordinator, Department of History, 3094 Faculty/Administration Building, Wayne State Univ., Detroit MI 48202.

The Oral History Association plans its 1998 meeting for Oct. 15-18 in Buffalo, New York. Theme: "Crossing the Boundary, Crossing the Line: Oral History on the Border." Proposals due Dec. 15, 1997. Information: Debra Bernhardt, Robt. F. Wagner Labor Archives, 70 Washington Square South, New York City, NY 10012. E-mail: [bernhardt@elmer.bobst.nyu.edu](mailto:bernhardt@elmer.bobst.nyu.edu)

### A Message from the IHS President...

A great deal has changed in the three decades the Immigration History Society has been in existence. Recognition of that fact underlay the consensus reached at our April meeting in San Francisco that as the new century approaches we need to take stock of our situation. In keeping with suggestions made then, I have put together an ad hoc committee to review what has been happening, consider the implications of change for our activities as a scholarly organization, and suggest appropriate modes of response if such seem to have been called for.

For the sake of effective action, this "task force" must be relatively small. Besides myself as chairman, six persons have agreed to serve: June Alexander, Jim Bergquist, Donna Gabaccia, David Gerber, Alan Kraut, and David Reimers. I hope we will have some preliminary results to present in the fall issues of the *Newsletter*. Of course, we need ideas and suggestions from everyone in the Society. By all means let us know what you think of the project by getting in touch with me or any member of the committee.

Perhaps it will be worthwhile to review here some highlights of change. A quick listing is all that is needed, since the following points will be familiar to all of you. Nor do I claim the listing is complete. It may, however, serve as an initial stimulus to reflection on our collective situation.

First, there is the return of immigration as a living actuality. By contrast, immigration was a strictly "historical" subject when the IHS came into being. And no one really anticipated that the Immigration Act of 1965 would open the way to massive immigration comparable in volume and duration to the "old immigration" of antebellum years and the "new immigration" of the turn of the century. It goes without saying that this third great wave of immigration is different in important ways from those that preceded it. But it resembles them in having made immigration once again a central issue in public policy and a topic of keenest interest to social scientists and cultural commentators.

Second, scholarly attention to immigration history has increased exponentially. So far as I know, no one ever made a count of the growth of college courses in the subject since the mid-1960s, but textbooks provide a rough index of change. Aside from a paperback re-issue of Carl Wittke's old-fashioned *We Who Built America* and Oscar Handlin's rather specialized *The Uprooted*, the only general treatment available for classroom use in those days was M.A. Jones's *American Immigration*. Now we have upwards of a dozen textbooks or general studies by historians—in addition to a veritable mountain of historical monographs, new scholarly journals (including, of course, our own *JAEH*), reprint series, encyclopedic works (national and more localized), and new archival and museum centers devoted to immigration.

Third, along with the increased attention it has received, the boundaries of our subject have expanded—and have become somewhat blurred in the process. What used to be thought of as separate, or even unrelated, subject areas—most notably African-American and Native American history—are now often treated in books and courses dealing with immigration and ethnicity. Indeed, the relationship between "immigration" and "ethnicity" is blurry, as James Grossman and Donna Gabaccia noted several years ago in the foreword to their collection of course syllabi. At San Francisco, some saw this ambiguity as a problem, suggesting that our identification as "immigration historians" was unduly self-limited and that we might better call ourselves a society for the study of ethnic history.

This calls to mind a fourth kind of change, which is too complex to do more than mention, but which, for readers of the *Newsletter*, it will suffice merely to mention. I am referring, of course, to changes in the realm of ideas and attitudes. Such changes as the very emergence of "ethnicity" as a concept referring to a positive social reality; its uncertain relationship to "race"; the new meaning of the term "minorities"; the

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## THEODORE SALOUTOS BOOK AWARD, 1996

*The annual Theodore Saloutos Award for the outstanding book of the year in American immigration history was made to Ewa Morawska, University of Pennsylvania, for her book *Insecure Prosperity: Small-Town Jews in Industrial America, 1890-1940*. The following citation was read at the annual dinner of the Immigration History Society in San Francisco, April 19, 1997.*

It is with pleasure that the Theodore Saloutos Prize Committee presents this award for 1996 to Ewa Morawska for her book *Insecure Prosperity: Small-Town Jews in Industrial America, 1890-1940* (Princeton University Press, 1996). In *Insecure Prosperity* Ewa Morawska artfully weaves together her considerable skills as a sociologist and historian and her newly acquired, but deeply contextualized, knowledge of Jewish history and tradition, to produce one of the best studies of an American ethnic community to date. Her historical insights, based on prodigious research, sustained by sociological theory, but without the burden of jargon, complemented by her knowledge of Yiddish and Polish, have enabled Morawska to produce a book that will be of immeasurable value to historians, sociologists, and scholars of Jewish culture. Here we have a study of a very small place, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and its tiny Jewish community, that tackles some very big questions.

First, Morawska identifies the Jews of Johnstown, emigrants from a handful of eastern European small towns, as bearers of a world view shaped by their economic experiences as petty merchants serving a predominantly non-Jewish clientele. These small town Jews looked at life and their place in it from a densely layered perspective, one shaped by traditional Jewish practice and its multiple demands as well as by a kind of nervous suspicion about others, about the future, and about change. A fundamental insecurity governed their lives, both as lived reality and as a basic outlook.

What Morawska accomplishes in this

very fine piece of scholarship is to trace the lives of these women and men who make an unusual choice for Jewish immigrants in the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth. They opt for migration and settlement in a small town on the fringes of American Jewish life. In Johnstown, Morawska's immigrants pick up the economic relationship they had experienced in eastern Europe, once again setting up shop and selling to non-Jews, primarily their previous neighbors (figuratively) from Europe, who had come to work in the mines and steel mills of western Pennsylvania.

Throughout this book Ewa Morawska examines the evolving experiences of these Jews of Johnstown through a number of multiple comparative lenses, and in each case the comparative perspective offers some powerful evidence about the impact of a number of key questions. She examines them in comparison to the social and cultural patterns of the Jews who remained and did not emigrate. Thus she tests general assumptions about the impact of migration. More central to the arguments in this book, she juxtaposes the historical patterns of the Jews of Johnstown with that of their non-Jewish neighbors and customers. In this enterprise Morawska is able to draw from her superb earlier book, *For Bread with Butter*. Because she has studied the eastern European gentiles of Johnstown in the same depth that she has studied the Jews, Morawska has been able to see both experiences with clarity and insight. She can, unlike any scholar before her, peel away the impact of different economic profiles, religious traditions, and historical experiences in accounting for patterns of American adjustment.

But Morawska's orientation towards comparison did not stop here. Throughout this book she compares those Jews from Central Europe, who had come earlier, with the subjects of this book, the Jews from eastern Europe. Even more significantly, she has positioned the Jews of Johnstown alongside those who made the more typical Jewish journey to New York and the other large cities. She pondered the impact of community size

and community complexity on the preservation of traditional practices and Old World attitudes among those who settled in Johnstown. The fact that they lived in a small community, removed from the sources of innovation, kept them more connected to the older ways of acting and being Jewish. Because they lived in a small place, Johnstown Jews did not have access to, or indeed any inclination towards, the institutional patterns that characterized big-city Jewish life. They had so few of their own among whom they lived and upon whom they depended that they could not engage in an infinite multiplicity of institutions. In Johnstown, all Jews had to belong and cooperate. Small size enforced conservatism, and conservatism enforced community solidarity.

### Other New Publications Noted...

Ackerson, Karen. *Changing Women: A History of Racial Ethnic Women in Modern America*. New York: Oxford, 1996.

Antler, Joyce. *The Journey Home: Jewish Women and the American Century*. New York: Free Press, 1997.

Ayala, César. "The Decline of the Plantation Economy and the Puerto Rican Migration of the 1950s." *Latino Studies Journal* 7 (1996): 62-90.

Balboni, Alan. *Beyond the Mafia: Italian Americans and the Development of Las Vegas*. Reno: U. of Nevada, 1996.

Barclay, David E. and Elisabeth Glaser-Schmidt, eds. *Transatlantic Images and Perceptions: Germany and America since 1776*. Washington: German Historical Institute, and Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1997.

Bell, Caryn Cossé. *Revolution, Romanticism and the Afro-Creole Protest Tradition in Louisiana, 1718-1868*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State U., 1997.

Berrol, Selma. *The Empire City: New York and Its People, 1624-1996*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1997.

Burstein, Janet H. *Writing Mothers, Writing Daughters: Tracing the Maternal in Stories by American Jewish Women*. Champaign: Univ. of Illinois, 1996.



Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo. *Italian-American Family History*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1997.

Carr, Kay J. *Belleville, Ottawa and Galesburg: Community and Democracy on the Illinois Frontier*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois U., 1996.

Chang, Gordon H., ed. *Morning Glory, Evening Shadow: Yamato Ichihashi and his Internment Writings, 1942-1945*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford U., 1997.

Chapin, Helen G. *Shaping History: the Role of Newspapers in Hawai'i*. Honolulu: U. of Hawai'i, 1996.

Copeley, William. "Scotch-Irish Settlers in New Hampshire, 1719-1776." *Historical New Hampshire* 50 (1995): 213-228.

Cramer, Clayton E. *Black Demographic Data, 1790-1860: A Sourcebook*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1997.

D'Agostino, Peter R. "The Scalabrini Fathers, the Italian Emigrant Church, and Ethnic Nationalism in America." *Religion and American Culture* 7 (1997): 129-151.

Dershowitz, Alan M. *The Vanishing American Jew: In Search of Jewish Identity for the Next Century*. Boston: Little Brown, 1997.

DeWitt, Howard A. *The Fragmented Dream: Multicultural California*. Dubuque: Kendall Hunt, 1997.

Drachler, Norman, ed. and comp. *Bibliography of Jewish Education in the United States*. Detroit: Wayne State, 1997.

Dublin, Thomas, ed. *Becoming American, Becoming Ethnic: College Students Explore their Roots*. Philadelphia: Temple Univ., 1996.

Durez, Michael. *Transatlantic Radicals and the New American Republic*. Lawrence: U. of Kansas, 1997.

Ehrlich, Walter. *Zion in the Valley*, vol. 1: *The Jewish Community of St. Louis, 1807-1907*. Columbia: U. of Mo., 1997.

Elliott, Wendy. "The Jews of Boyles Heights, 1900-1950: The Melting Pot of Los Angeles." *Southern California Quarterly* 78 (1996): 1-10.

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(continued on p. 9)

### *Teaching Immigration in Finland* (continued from page 1)

the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota. These sources in Finland and in North America have been drawn on over the past two decades by scholars who have produced a growing number of dissertations, articles and monographs on Finnish immigration.

Also noteworthy is a series of conferences that have been held every few years between 1974 and 1996 on the Finnish-American experience. Stimulated by young Finnish-Americans such as Michael Karni, the meetings, held at places such as Duluth, Toronto, Turku, and Detroit, have resulted in articles, monographs, and volumes of proceedings on the Finnish experience overseas.

Each individual lecture in the Finnish academic system is expected to be an entity in itself. The heart of each of my lectures was a Finnish-American case study illustrating the topic of the day, whether the history of an institution, a particular occupational experience, or an area of settlement. The unit on Finns in the United States began with an overview of Finnish immigration and a survey of the one-third of a million Finns who emigrated, including a review of economic conditions in the nineteenth-century Russian controlled Grand Duchy of Finland, where the modernization process caused people to seek opportunities elsewhere. Then I sketched the institution of the mutual aid society, with a case study of Finnish temperance societies in the Upper Midwest. These societies often marked the beginning of Finnish organizational life for those single men who had initially clustered together with Scandinavian immigrants. Next was a discussion of the role of religious organizations in immigrant communities, with a focus on the evolution of Finnish churches in various American localities. Then the phenomenon of the immigrant press and its important role in the lives of an immigrant people was analyzed. Finnish newspapers such as *Raivaaja* (the Pioneer), in Massachusetts, were used as examples. Two consecutive lectures examined the economic and political lives of Finnish

immigrants. These two related topics were those with which the students had most familiarity. Finns are well aware of the basic division within the Finnish-American immigrant communities, between the "church Finns" and the anticlerical "Red Hall Finns." These lectures began with an examination of the work experience of the first Finnish immigrants who became miners in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, many of them brought there by labor recruiters from their previous work in mines in Norway. I explored the onerous working conditions of these miners and of other rural Finns who gravitated to such jobs in Montana and other western states. The gradual radicalization of many Finns was based on two factors: the exploitation they experienced, and the ideological influence of later Finns who immigrated to the United States after 1900 as a politically-conscious urban proletariat. The next lecture considered the unique history of Finnish-American political radicalism during the Progressive era, when the Finns were a significant presence in radical movements such as the Socialist Party of America, the Industrial Workers of the World (the "Wobblies"), and the Communist Party of America. There followed an examination of case studies of Finnish communities and their various institutions in such western cities as Berkeley, California, Astoria, Washington, and Red Lodge, Montana. Another lecture discussed the phenomenon of remigration, focusing on the twenty percent of the Finnish immigrant population who returned to Finland or to Soviet Karelia. Finally, the Finnish experience in other countries was considered through case studies of Finns in Canada and in Australia.

Topics discussed in the seminar meetings included "America letters" written by Finns; the Finnish theater in the United States; Finns in miscellaneous cities such as Duluth, Minnesota; Finnish work experiences as copper miners in the upper Midwest and as cranberry workers in rural Massachusetts; Finnish American women and their politicization; generational differences within the community; and the quintessential Finnish contribution to American life, the twentieth-century

cooperative movement.

In the course of examination of these topics in lecture and seminars, students became familiar with basic American immigration topics such as nativism, assimilation, cultural pluralism, legislative restriction and associational life. They also became acquainted with the writings of the major historians of Finnish America, scholars such as John Kolehmainen, clearly the key figure in that historiography, and also today's younger scholars both in the United States and Finland. Readings especially useful for teaching purposes were found in the two-volume set of conference papers, *Finnish Diaspora* ed. Michael G. Karni (Toronto, 1981), as well as some of the work generated by various later conferences. Also quite helpful were some of the monographs produced at the University of Turku, such as Reino Kero's *Migration from Finland to North America* (Turku, 1974), Auvo Kostianen's *The Forging of Finnish-American Communism, 1917-1924* (Turku, 1978), and Keijo Virtanen's *Settlement or Return: Finnish Emigration (1860-1930)* (Helsinki, 1980).

Teaching a history of a people in their country of origins was an experience that was both exhilarating and humbling. Sometimes it seemed to me that it took quite a bit of chutzpa. Nevertheless, I enthusiastically recommend such an undertaking to others for a most rewarding teaching adventure.

*Sally M. Miller is Professor of History at the University of the Pacific. She was a Fulbright lecturer in Finland in spring 1996.*

### *President's Message...* (continued from p. 5)

modulation of cultural pluralism into multiculturalism; the impact of the "linguistic turn"; and the tension between unprecedented social approval of "diversity" and the recent reawakening of nativist sentiments.

Finally, there is something that is intrinsic to history as such, but especially to immigration history—a generational shift.



Young scholars entering the field today were socialized in a world very different from that in which the founders of the IHS matured, or even the world of the generation that came of age in the seventies and early eighties. That too makes a great difference in how we do immigration/ethnic history.

How does all of this play out? What does it mean for the future of our society? The task force will need all the help it can get in trying to answer those questions. By all means, send along your comments and suggestions.

Philip Gleason  
President, IHS

### Publications noted...

(continued from p. 7)

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### IHS Notes...

#### COMMITTEES APPOINTED

The president of the Immigration History Society, Philip Gleason, has made appointments to fill the membership of the following committees of the Immigration History Society:

*Nominations committee:* Donna Gabaccia (Univ. of North Carolina-Charlotte), chair; David Emmons (Univ. of Montana) and Lynn Dumenil (Occidental College), newly appointed; Tyler Anbinder (George Washington Univ.) and Dirk Hoerder (Univ. of Bremen), continuing members.

*Program committee:* Betty Bergland (University of Wisconsin-River Falls, River Falls WI 54022), chair; Alan Kraut (American Univ.), newly appointed; Joy Lintelman (Concordia College, Minn.), continuing member.

*Salutos Book Prize committee:* Cheryl Greenberg (Trinity College, Hartford), chair; Reed Ueda (Tufts Univ.), newly appointed; Hasia Diner (New York Univ.), continuing member.

*Pozzetta Dissertation Award committee:* Barbara Posadas (Northern Ill. Univ.), chair; Josh DeWind (Social Science Research Council), newly appointed; Thomas Dublin (SUNY-Binghamton), continuing member.

*Carlton Qualey article award committee:* Ronald Bayor (Georgia Inst. of Tech.), chair; John Bukowczyk (Wayne State Univ.); Sydney Weinberg (Ramapo College).

*Task force "ad hoc" committee* (see president's message on p. 5): Philip Gleason (IHS president; Univ. of Notre Dame), chair; June Alexander (IHS secretary; Univ. of Cincinnati); James Bergquist (*Newsletter* editor; Villanova Univ.); Donna Gabaccia (Univ. of N.C.-Charlotte); David Gerber (SUNY-Buffalo); Alan Kraut (IHS vice-pres.; American Univ.); David Reimers (New York Univ.).

## MINUTES, EDITORIAL BOARD AND BUSINESS MEETING, IMMIGRATION HISTORY SOCIETY, APRIL 19, 1997

Ron Bayor was unable to attend the editorial board meeting and requested that Elliott Barkan, Book Review Editor of the *Journal of American Ethnic History*, distribute the editor's annual report and conduct the Editorial Board meeting. Bayor reported that the *JAEH* has 760 subscribers (323 individual; 437 institutional). Articles currently accepted will cover issues through the winter 1998. Barkan reported that the problem of persons agreeing to review works, then subsequently failing to submit reviews, still persists. The editorial board meeting adjourned at 5:10.

Roger Daniels opened the annual business meeting at 5:11 P.M., and gave his presidential report. He thanked all persons who have served and are currently members of IHS committees. Daniels noted that the IHS has progressed; the establishment of the George E. Pozzetta award for dissertation research represents one of the society's major accomplishments over the past few years. He reported that, in order to achieve a regularly established presence at the American Historical Association convention, an *ad hoc* committee chaired by the IHS vice-president would be established. This committee will be charged with organizing panels to appear on the AHA annual convention programs. It is expected that ultimately this new body will become a standing committee and be incorporated into the IHS bylaws. Daniels indicated that although the number of subscribers to the *JAEH* had remained stable over the past decade, the number of "individual" subscribers (IHS members) has actually declined. He called on all current members actively to recruit new "individual" members.

June Alexander announced that Alan Kraut had been elected as Vice-President-Elect; Hasia Diner, Marilyn Halter, and George Sanchez had been elected to the Executive Board for the term 1997-2000. Approximately 35% of the ballots were returned. Alan Kraut, IHS treasurer, reported that with \$16,308.10 in the General Fund and \$2,055.78 in the Qualey Fund, the society has a closing balance of \$18,363.88. James Bergquist noted in his newsletter editor's report that he is seeking suggestions for articles with useful information for teachers or researchers and welcomes suggestions from the members. He also welcomes announcements about conferences, exhibitions and research projects, as well as suggestions to improve the newsletter. Betty Bergland, Program Committee chair, announced that the society's panel "Immigration History: Assessing the Field" has been accepted for the 1998 American Historical Association convention. A proposal for a panel titled "Immigration History and the 'New' Social History" has been submitted for the 1998 meeting of the Organization of American Historians; the committee has not yet learned whether that panel has been accepted. She noted that the IHS needs to improve procedures for soliciting panel submissions from the general membership. June Alexander reported on the Emigration Networking conference (Northern Ireland, June 1996), and summarized subsequent activities that led to the creation of the Association of North American Migration Institutions (ANAMI). The IHS is being invited to affiliate with ANAMI. Although ANAMI comprises primarily research/archival institutions, she explained that the IHS is being invited to join in order to encourage collaboration between scholars and archivists. In addition, IHS participation would mean that projects developed by ANAMI will include input by a broad base of scholars. Since there are no dues, ANAMI affiliation will require not financial commitments by the IHS. After lengthy discussion, the general sense of the meeting was that the IHS should affiliate and, after the Executive Board receives the formal invitation to join, it should take appropriate action. Under new business, Victor Greene noted that the IHS membership figures over the past several years could be described as stagnant. He urged that the IHS consider appointing a membership director. Discussion ensued. It focused on: (1) ways the IHS might reach out to new members; (2) perhaps reassessing the society's image; (3) examining the society's relationship with other organizations. A sense-of-the-meeting resolution that the Executive Board should explore ways to reach out to other groups was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:24 P.M. --June Granitir Alexander, secretary. (edited by Newsletter ed.)

## PERSONALS

Fred Gardaphe (Columbia College, Chicago), has been elected the new president of the American Italian Historical Association.

Lisbeth Haas (University of California at Santa Cruz) received the Elliott Rudwick Prize for her book *Conquests and Historical Identities in California, 1769-1936* (Berkeley: Univ. of California, 1995). The Rudwick Prize is awarded by the Organization of American Historians for a book on the experience of ethnic and racial minority groups in the United States.

At the January 1997 convention of the American Historical Association in New York City, Gretchen Lemke-Santangelo (St. Mary's College, California) was awarded the Wesley-Logan Prize in African Diaspora History for her book *Abiding Courage: African American Migrant Women and the East Bay Community* (Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina, 1996).

Lynn Dumenil (Occidental College) has been named by the Organization of American Historians as a Historian in Residence at Japanese universities for the summer of 1997.

The following scholars have received grants from the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia, for research visits during the summer of 1997: Katja Rempelmann (Rüth University, Germany): "A cultural-historical survey of the German-American Freethinker-Almanac, 1878-1901"; Thomas Dublin (SUNY-Binghamton) and Zenon Wasyliw (Ithaca College), "Interconnections of Ethnicity and Class in Russian- and Ukrainian Ethnic Fraternal Organizations in the Pennsylvania Anthracite Region, 1920-1960"; Philip Jenkins (Pennsylvania State Univ.), "Pennsylvania during the Cold War: Politics and Society, 1945-60"; Gerald Meyer (Hostos Community College, CUNY): "Leonard Covello: The Theory and Practice of Community-Centered Education."

**IHS News Notes...****THEODORE SALOUTOS BOOK AWARD**

Closing date for submissions for the annual Theodore Saloutos Book Award is December 31, 1997. To be eligible, a book must be copyrighted 1997. A book may be nominated by the author, the publisher, a member of the prize committee, or a member of the Immigration History Society. Inquiries and nominations should be submitted to the chair of the Saloutos Prize Committee, Prof. Cheryl Greenberg, Department of History, Trinity College, Hartford CT 06106.

Copies of the book must be received by all three members of the committee by December 31, 1997. Send books to Prof. Greenberg at the address above; and also to: Prof. Hasia Diner, Skirball Dept. of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York University, 7 E. 12th St., New York City NY 10003; and Prof. Reed Ueda, Dept. of History, Tufts University, Medford MA 02155.

**ELECTION OF IHS OFFICERS**

In the annual election of the Immigration History Society, Alan Kraut (American University) was elected Vice-President and President-Elect for the term 1997-2000. He will succeed to the presidency of the organization in the year 2000.

Philip Gleason (University of Notre Dame) succeeded to the presidency upon the expiration of the term of Roger Daniels (University of Cincinnati).

Three persons were elected to the executive board of the Society for the term 1997-2000. They are: Hasia Diner (New York University); Marilyn Halter (Boston University); and George Sanchez (University of Michigan).

**GEORGE POZZETTA DISSERTATION AWARD**

At the annual dinner of the IHS on April 19 in San Francisco, the second annual George Pozzetta Dissertation Research Award was given to Nancy C. Carnevale, a doctoral candidate at Rutgers University. The topic of Ms. Carnevale's dissertation project is "Living in Translation: Language and Italian Immigrants in the U.S., 1900-1968."

The Immigration History Society announces competition for the 1998 George E. Pozzetta Award. It invites applications from any Ph.D. candidate who will have completed qualifying examinations by Dec. 1, 1997, and whose thesis focuses on American immigration, emigration, or ethnic history. The award provides \$750 for expenses to be incurred in researching the dissertation. Applicants must submit a 3-5 page descriptive proposal in English, discussing the significance of the work, the methodology, sources, and collections to be consulted. Also included must be a proposed budget, a brief *curriculum vitae*, and a supporting letter from the major advisor. Submission deadline is Dec. 15, 1997, with the winner to be notified by March 1, 1998. Send all materials in triplicate hardcopy (no FAXes accepted) to Professor Barbara Posadas, Department of History, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115-2893. Inquiries: 815-753-0131.

**CARLTON QUALEY AWARD**

At the annual dinner of the IHS in San Francisco on April 19, the biennial Carlton Qualey Award for the best article published in the *Journal of American Ethnic History* was awarded to Cheryl Greenberg (Trinity College, Hartford). Her article "Black and Jewish Responses to Japanese Internment" appeared in the *Journal* in the Winter 1995 issue.

**Activities Report for the Immigration History Newsletter**

Mail your information for the next Newsletter to:

James M. Bergquist, Department of History, Villanova University, Villanova PA 19085-1699  
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Your name and affiliation:

New Publications? Awards? Conferences Planned? Research Projects? Give us full details in the space below. Attach additional sheet for more information. Return by October 1, 1997.

## 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.

## MEMBERSHIP

...in the Immigration History society includes subscriptions to the quarterly *Journal of American Ethnic History* and the semiannual *Immigration History Newsletter*. Dues for individuals: one year, \$30; 2 years, \$55; 3 years, \$75. Dues for institutions: one year, \$72; 2 years, \$138; 3 years, \$184. 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 \$32 per year. For all subscriptions outside U.S.A., add \$32 per year for surface mail, or \$48 per year for airmail. Membership dues should be sent to *Journal of American Ethnic History*, Dept. 8010, Transaction Periodicals Consortium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ 08903.

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Inquiries about the Society should be directed to the appropriate officer. This newsletter was edited with additional assistance and support from the staff of the Library, Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. Newsletter submissions and questions about editorial matters should be sent to the newsletter editor at the address above. Requests for back issues should be sent to the editor; to purchase back issues, send \$2.00 per copy (by check made out to Villanova University).

Subscriptions to the *Immigration History Newsletter* are part of membership in the Society. Members' changes of address should be sent to *Immigration History Newsletter*, Dept. 8010, Transaction Periodicals Consortium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ 08903.

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