Studying Immigrants of African Descent in the Twentieth Century

By Marilyn Halter

Until very recently, most scholars have viewed the study of American immigration history and that of African-American history as entirely separate fields. Not only has this been a misleading and arbitrary approach, for those of us interested in the subject of voluntary migrants of African descent to the United States it has not been at all clear where to find relevant sources both for our research efforts and for use in our immigration studies course offerings. Furthermore, since many immigration historians still tend to neglect looking at the recent past, the period in which the numbers of black immigrants to the United States has grown most dramatically, it has been left up to the sociologists and anthropologists to examine this flow, making it necessary to search across disciplines to gain good results. The following bibliographical essay is a beginning attempt to rectify these problems, and offers historiographical background on the topic of free black migrants to the United States, incorporating a range of interdisciplinary reference materials for readers.

Immigration historians have traditionally concentrated on European flows, with scholarship notably augmented in recent years by a rapidly developing literature on Asian and Latino America. Meanwhile, the study of African-American history has focused on the population created by the forced migrations of hundreds of thousands of Africans in the slave trade which lasted into the first decade of the nineteenth century. What invariably gets overlooked in both literatures is the stream of voluntary migrants of persons of African descent to the United States from the late eighteenth century down to the present, a stream that has swollen significantly in the last third of the twentieth century.

Scholarship that treats the black immigrant experience in America has been exceedingly sparse. The first and only book-length overview to date on the subject is Ira Reid’s 1939 monograph The Negro Immigrant: His Background, Characteristics and Social Adjustment, 1899-1937. The vast majority of black immigrants to the United States at that time who established the most long-standing communities were Haitians, Cape Verdiens, and British West Indians. In the post-1960s era, increasing numbers of newcomers from other countries in Africa and the Caribbean began to arrive, as well as people of African descent emigrating from nations where the dominant population is not black, e.g., Afro-Cubans. Furthermore, varying proportions of other-Spanish-speaking multiracial societies in Latin America who migrate may be classified as black in the United States, further swelling the percentages of those of African descent.

Because American blacks are often seen solely in racial terms, their distinctive cultural identities go unrecognized. The range of cultural and linguistic backgrounds that the migrants brought with them have become increasingly more diverse. How they identified themselves was often constrained by how they were viewed by both whites and native-born blacks. Would they be recognized as members of an immigrant group or just simply as black? Over thirty years after the publication of The Negro Immigrant, Roy Bryce-LaPorte addressed these issues in his pivotal article, “Black Immigrants: The Experience of Invisibility and Inequality,” Journal of Black Studies 2 (1972): 29-56, in which he put forth the notion of double invisibility as applied to immigrants of African descent. He argued that as blacks and as black foreigners they suffered more inequality and greater levels of pressure concerning questions of identity than either native-born blacks or European immigrants.

Within the history of black migration to the United States, Haitians are particularly noteworthy. They were the earliest voluntary settlers, starting in the second half of the eighteenth century, and more than two centuries later they comprised the first major group of black refugees to arrive here. Although their official status as political refugees has been contested, the desperation of their flight out of Haiti in the last decades of the twentieth century was often significantly motivated by direct experience with political persecution at home or fear of such reprisals, as well as by the desire to escape the dire economic conditions of the most impoverished country in the Western hemisphere.

Two recent works that trace the migration of Haitians to the United States update and fill out the history of the Haitian experience since Michel Laguerre published his now classic 1984 treatment, American Odyssey: Haitians in New York City (Ithaca, N. Y.). Alex Stepick in Pride Against Prejudice: Haitians in the United States (Boston, 1998) did field work in South Florida to produce an ethnographic portrait of the burgeoning Haitian community of Dade County. This volume is part of Allyn and Bacon’s appealing series of case studies on “The New Immigrants.” Sociologist Flore Zéphir brings the venue back to New York City in her recent book, Haitian Immigrants in Black America: A Sociological and Linguistic Portrait (Westport, Connecticut, 1996). In addition to describing the cultural and socio-economic features of Haitian-American life, both authors (Continued on p.8)
News from Libraries, Museums and Historic Sites...

New Jersey Wins in Ellis Island Sovereignty Case; Massive Database on African Slave Trade Completed

In a 6-3 decision on May 26, the U.S. Supreme Court rendered a decision in the case of New Jersey v. New York, which awarded the state of New Jersey sovereignty over the bulk of present-day Ellis Island, the historic immigration station in New York Harbor from 1892 to 1954. The decision rejected a previous recommendation of last year by a special master, Paul Verkuil, who had awarded New Jersey 22.5 acres, but left about 5 acres, including the main immigration building and the ferry landing, in the hands of New York.

The Court said that all lands added to the original island by landfill since 1834 were part of New Jersey, since a compact between the two states in that year had specified that the original island was in New York, but that "submerged lands" around it were retained by New Jersey. This definition was strictly adhered to by the Court, which reduced the award to New York in the Verkuil recommendation by about two acres, leaving only 3.3 acres in the hands of New York. This included most (but not all) of the main building, now used as a museum by the National Park Service.

Title to all the lands in question is in the hands of the Federal Government. The ruling will have little effect on the administration of the national monument, except perhaps for the collection of state sales taxes by concessionaires on the island.

The W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research at Harvard University has completed a project to compile a database, "The Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1527-1867." The project was supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. A compact disc containing the database will be published in September 1998 by Cambridge University Press. Editors are David Eltis, Stephen Behrendt, David Richardson and Herbert S. Klein.

Georgetown University has established a new Institute for the Study of International Migration. The institute is part of the university's School of Foreign Service and is also affiliated with the university's Law Center. "The Institute focuses on all aspects of international migration, including the causes of and potential responses to population movements, immigration and refugee law and policy, comparative migration studies, the integration of immigrants into their host societies, and the effects of international migration on social, economic, demographic foreign policy and national security concerns." Information: Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown Univ., Box 579400, Washington, DC 20057-9400. E-mail: martin.s.gunet.georgetown.edu

The Southern Jewish Historical Society plans a new annual scholarly journal, Southern Jewish History. Inquiries about submission of articles or about subscribing to the journal should be addressed to Mark Bauman, Social Science Div., Atlanta Metropolitan College, 1630 Metropolitan Parkway, Atlanta GA 30310.

The Rathbone Gallery at Sage Junior College in Albany, New York presented an exhibition Feb. 23-March 22, 1998 on "Jewish Farmers in Northeastern New York." The exhibit was curated by gallery director Jim Richard Wilson, visiting scholar Christopher Ringwald, and Harvey Strum of the college faculty. The exhibit was supported by a grant from the New York Council for the Humanities.

The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia, has recently acquired the records of the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) of Washington, D.C. Founded in 1979 as the Indochina Refugee Action Center, SEARAC became the leading advocacy organization for over a million refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos who resettled in the United States since 1975. It also serves as an umbrella organization for many Southeast Asian community and mutual assistance associations. The SEARAC files include reports, newsletters and other publications issued by resettlement agencies and by southeast Asian organizations throughout the United States. Information: Eric L. Pumroy, Balch Institute, 18 S. Seventh St., Philadelphia PA 19106. Tel.: (215) 925-8900. E-mail: epumroy@balchinstitution.org.

The journal Italian Americana has announced the establishment of the annual Massaro Prize, a $500 award funded by gifts of Judge Dominic R. Massaro of New York City. The prize is for the best critical essay appearing in the journal on a historical theme. Manuscripts submitted should not exceed thirty double-spaced pages, including notes. Contact: Italian Americana, Univ. of Rhode Island/Providence, 80 Washington St., Providence, RI 02903.

The Milwaukee Public Museum has opened an exhibit on three noted German-American educators in the history of Milwaukee. The three persons noted in the exhibit are Mathilde Ameeke, founder of a girls' school in the 1860s; Peter Engelmann, first director of the German-English Academy; and Oscar Wervath, founder of the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

News of the IHS...

Annual Meeting Brings New Initiatives to the Immigration History Society

At its annual meeting in Indianapolis on April 4, the Immigration History Society set a new course for its future activities. The meeting received the report of the task force convened by the president a year ago, and approved several of its recommendations. The meeting confirmed the change of names approved by the membership at its poll earlier this year. The new name, the "Immigration and Ethnic History Society," will become official after the necessary legal formalities are completed in Minnesota, where the Society has its charter. The meeting also voted to reorganize the Program Committee, in order to effectively sponsor more sessions at major conferences. There was also approval of efforts for the Society to sponsor some conferences on its own. A membership committee appointed by the president will pursue efforts to build membership in fields and disciplines heretofore insufficiently represented. Details of these and other initiatives are found in the minutes of the meeting and in the president's message, below.

MINUTES OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD AND BUSINESS MEETING OF THE IMMIGRATION HISTORY SOCIETY INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, APRIL 4, 1997

Ron Bayor opened the meeting of the Editorial Board at 4:38 P.M. He reported that the number of subscriptions has increased slightly to 813 (342 individual, 471 institutional); 102 are from overseas and only 13 are students. The Journal is financially sound, but the IHS needs to increase the number of individual members, especially student membership. Initiating a discussion of the Journal's current and future state, Bayor reported that beginning with the fall 1948 issue the Journal will include a new section: "Teaching and Outreach." Discussion ensued. Suggested future changes included possibly incorporating more illustrations into individual articles and perhaps redesigning the cover. It was noted that the Journal has no established policy regarding the scheduling of special issues or their focus. It was suggested that Bayor might investigate establishing a "special issues" policy as a way to broaden the Journal's appeal. The meeting passed a motion expressing satisfaction with the Journal and commending Ron Bayor for his excellent job as editor.

Philip Gleason opened the business meeting at 4:57 P.M. He outlined the IHS task force's activities during the past year as well as the aims and purposes that guided it ["Statement of Goals" mailed to all members, 26 Feb. 1998]. He explained that the agenda for the meeting comprised matters the task force had investigated as well as its recommendations.

June Alexander reported that Nancy L. Green, Irma Watkins-Owens, and K. Scott Wong had been elected to the Executive Board for the term 1998-2001. The results of the preference ballot on the IHS name change were: Immigration and Ethnic History Society, 44; Society for the Study of Immigration and Ethnicity, 39; no change, 28. A total of 113 ballots (approx. 32%) were returned; 111 persons indicated a preference.

Nora Faires, IHS treasurer, reported that currently the IHS has $13,242.57 in its operating budget. The amount is lower than in past years because the IHS had not yet received the annual (1997-98) membership dues from Transaction.

A Message from the IHS President...

Historians don't like to call something a "major turning point" until they can see some concrete results. That's how I feel about our Indianapolis meeting. It's too early to say it actually was a major turning point. But if we aren't able to call it that in a few years, it will be because we failed to live up to its promise.

Recall the circumstances. At our 1997 meeting in San Francisco, we learned that the Society had lost about a fifth of its individual members over the previous ten years. That obviously could not be permitted to continue, and a special task force was set up to suggest remedies. After much electronic conferencing, a questionnaire sent to all the members and a preliminary meeting at the AHA in Seattle, the task force set forth its recommendations for action at the Indianapolis meeting. The minutes of the meeting—which are reproduced elsewhere in the Newsletter—and which I urge you to read with care—report the substantive actions taken in response to those recommendations. Without attempting to cover all the points, I would like to make a few comments about them, and about the underlying condition they are designed to meet.

To take the last item first, the underlying condition is a variation of something quite familiar to historians of immigration—a crisis of generational transition. These crises, as we know, characteristically involve a difference in outlook between elder and younger generations. Three or four younger academic generations have come of age since the Immigration History Society was founded in the mid-1960s. During the same span, the subject that constitutes our professional raison d'etre has changed almost beyond recognition. Immigration, then, of purely "historical" interest, is now a massive (and contentious) social reality; ethnicity, then in its chrysalis stage, analytically speaking, has since become an indispensable category of analysis.

These changes have transformed our scholarly field and vastly increased the number of workers in it. Being a member of the founding generation, I am unwilling to concede that it has done nothing to keep pace with change. Nor has the IHS failed utterly in attracting lively new scholars. But the drastic decline in membership tells us unmistakably that many new workers in the (continued on p. 5)
Conferences and Meetings...

American University plans a summer program for undergraduate and graduate students and other interested parties: "The Ethnic Experience in the City." The program will take place June 21-28, 1998. After three days of classes at the Washington campus, students travel to New York City for a variety of ethnic explorations. The course may be taken for undergraduate or graduate credit. Information: Office of Summer Sessions, American-Univ., McKinley 350, 4400 Mass. Ave., NW, Washington DC 20016-8170. Telephone (888) 765-2571.

Western Carolina University and its Mountain Heritage Center are sponsoring the Twelfth Ulster-American Heritage Symposium July 30-Aug. 1, 1998 at Cullowhee, North Carolina. Theme will be "the historical migration links among England, Scotland, Ireland and North America, especially the process of emigration and settlement." Information: Tyler Blethen, Mountain Heritage Center, Western Carolina Univ., Cullowhee, NC 28723. E-mail: blethen@wcu.edu


Papers are solicited on all aspects of the history and cultures of the Dakotas and Northern Plains for the West River History Conference, to be held Sept. 17-19, 1998 at an undisclosed location, probably somewhere in South Dakota. To find out more, contact Herb Blakely, telephone (605) 923-1188.

The Salzburg Seminar in Austria and its American Studies Center plan a workshop October 3-9, 1998 on the subject "From Melting Pot to Mosaic: The Changing Role of Immigration in American Life." For information and application forms, contact the Salzburg Seminar Admissions Office, Box 129, A-5010 Salzburg, Austria. E-mail: admissions@salsem.ac.at

The Communal Studies Association will hold its 25th annual conference Oct. 8-10, 1998 at Zoar, Ohio. Information: Kathleen Fernandez, Zoar Village State Memorial, P.O. Box 494, Zoar, OH 44697. Tel.: (800) 262-6195.

The Max Kade Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will hold a conference Oct. 16-17, 1998 in Madison. Topic of the conference: "Defining Tensions: A Fresh Look at Germans in Wisconsin." Deadline for proposals was June 1, 1998. Information: Max Kade Institute, 901 University Bay Drive, Madison WI 53705. E-mail: mndavitt@facstaff.wisc.edu

The Midwest Jewish Studies Association will hold its annual conference in Chicago Oct. 18-19, 1998. Information: David S. Williams, Dept. of Religion, Univ. of Georgia, Peabody Hall, Athens GA 30602-1625. E-mail: jenanddavid@peachnet.campus.mci.net


Ohio State University plans an interdisciplinary conference Nov. 13-15, 1998 in Columbus, Ohio: "When Languages Collide: Sociocultural and Geopolitical Implications of Language Conflict and Coexistence." Featured speakers include Joshua Fishman (Stanford Univ.) and Victor Friedman (Univ. of Chicago). Deadline for proposals was May 15, 1998. For information: Office of International Studies, Ohio State Univ., 300 Oxford Hall, 1712 Neil Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43210-1219. E-mail: wolf5@osu.edu

Bar-Ilan University in Israel plans a conference for Nov. 25-26, 1998: "In and Out of Brooklyn: 1898 to the Present." The conference, held in honor of the centennial of Brooklyn's incorporation into the City of New York, will focus on the ethnic groups (including Jews) which contributed to the city's multifaceted culture in the past century. The conference will be held in Israel. Information: Adam Feigler, Dept. of Jewish History, Bar-Ilan Univ., Ramat Gan 52900 Israel. E-mail: feigler@bari.ac.il

The International Studies Association will hold its 40th annual convention in Washington, D.C. Feb. 16-20, 1999. Among major topics for which papers and panels are solicited is "Ethnicity/Nationalism/Migration and International Relations Theory." Deadline for proposals is June 15, 1998. For full information on submitting proposals, see the website: http://csf.colorado.edu/isa/enm/1999call.htm


The Armenians of New England Regional Conference will take place in Waltham, Massachusetts, April 9-10, 1999. Conference theme: "Celebrating a Culture and Preserving a Heritage." Deadline for paper proposals: Oct. 1, 1998. Contact Ruth Thomasian, telephone (617) 923-4542. E-mail: armeeec@aol.com

Dartmouth College, its Department of German Studies, and its Native American Studies Program will host a conference May 14-16, 1999: "Deutsche und Indianer: Indianers und Deutsche: Cultural En-
President's Message...  
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field regard the IHS in much the same way the (stereotypical) second generation looked upon its elders—as belonging to a hygios world, out of touch with contemporary issues.

We must show these co-workers of ours that they are mistaken. That is what the actions taken at Indianapolis are designed to do. Our new name, Immigration and Ethnic History Society (which will go into effect officially when the legal formalities are completed), invites participation by students of newer immigrants, racial minorities, and ethnicity in all its forms. We will also be reaching out to such persons through a membership drive in the coming year. Of course, our present members should do some recruiting too—just pass along to June Alexander the names of those who might be interested in joining. The enlargement of the program committee ought to make it possible to sponsor more sessions at scholarly conventions, which will enhance the Society’s visibility. Other projects for the future—especially the website and special conferences organized by the Society itself—have the same goal.

Indianapolis is potentially a turning point. Working together will make that a reality.

Philip Gleason  
President  
Immigration History Society

PERSONALS

The American Conference for Irish Studies has awarded its James S. Donnelly, Sr. Prize for the best book in history and social sciences to Ronald H. Bayor (Georgia Institute of Technology) and Timothy Meagher for their edited work The New York Irish.

At its annual meeting in Indianapolis in April, the Organization of American Historians awarded its Foreign-Language Article Prize to Catherine Collomp (Université de Paris XII at Val de Marne) for her article "Regards sur les politique d’immigration, le marché du travail en France et aux États-Unis, 1880-1930."

The article, originally in Annalés, will be published in English in the Journal of American History.


Neil Foley (University of Texas at Austin) was awarded the Frederick Jackson Turner Prize for his book The White Scourge: Mexicans, Blacks and Poor Whites in Texas Cotton Culture (Univ. of California, 1997).

Alejandro Portes (Princeton Univ.), long active in the American Sociological Association’s International Migration Section, has been elected president of the ASA. The new chair of the International Migration Section is Guillermina Jasso (New York University).

A. William Hoglund (Univ. of Connecticut) was David and Nancy Speer Visiting Professor of Finnish Studies at the University of Minnesota during the spring quarter 1998. He presented a colloquium May 27 at the Immigration History Research Center: “Revisiting Finnish America, World War I-Present.”

John J. Bukowczyk (Wayne State Univ.) delivered the 18th annual Fiederczyk Lecture at Central Connecticut State University, April 29, 1998. The title was “The Poles’ Other/The Poles as Other.” He also took part in a Nov. 1997 symposium at the University of Rochester on “Polish Workers in Europe and America.”

Thomas Sugrue (Univ. of Pennsylvania) was awarded the Bancroft Prize by Columbia University for his book The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit. It was also awarded the annual prize of the Urban History Association for the best book in North American urban history.

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THEODORE SALOUTOS BOOK AWARD, 1997

The annual Theodore Saloutos Award for the outstanding book of the year in American immigration history was made to Jon Gjerde, University of California, for his book The Minds of the West: Ethnocultural Evolution in the Rural Middle West, 1830-1917 (Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina, 1997). The award was made at the annual dinner of the Immigration History Society, April 11, 1998. The citation follows:

The Saloutos prize committee is delighted to present this year’s award to Jon Gjerde for his superb study, The Minds of the West: Ethnocultural Evolution in the Rural Middle West, 1830-1917. Gjerde breaks ground in his creative and original exploration of immigrant cultural communities—what he calls “minds”—and their interactions with each other, with their environment, and with native-born “Yankees.” He focuses on an often-neglected area of immigrant settlement, the rural upper Middle West, and presents a persuasive and dynamic picture of cultural struggle and change in nineteenth century America. The book addresses the competing images of the West held by native-born white Americans and immigrant settlers (primarily German and Scandinavian) as well as the region’s complex impact on both these immigrant communities and on American political culture and institutions more broadly.

Thousands of northern European immigrants settled in the American Middle West in the nineteenth century, seeing there opportunity and freedom to prosper while retaining their cultural traditions. Native-born Americans, on the other hand, viewed the Middle West as the dynamic crucible of a new national culture, shaped by contributions from these immigrants, surely, but uniquely American and reflecting American values. Thus they saw in the region both opportunity and danger; opportunity for immigrants’ energies to shape a new American greatness, and the danger that immigrants’ old-world understandings would challenge or undermine American conceptions of citizenship and society. Gjerde explores these conflicting visions by examining the contest for cultural space between immigrants and native-born citizens, as well as among and within immigrant communities themselves.

The transplanted cultures of the new settlers were shaped by the openness of the rural Middle West and the ability of tightly-knit communities to establish themselves in relative isolation. Families, churches, guilds, communities, and the building blocks of cohesive immigrant settlements, served as the sites in which the minds of the West reshaped both themselves and the broader social landscape. But the very openness of the land, its vastness, its richness, its possibilities, in turn reshaped immigrant cultures. Despite efforts to recreate values and structures brought from home, these communities underwent tremendous change as the result of conflicts with each other, with the assumptions of native-born Americans, and between the generations. The same freedom that allowed these cultures to retain their traditions in isolated enclaves also permitted challenges by members to the power structures established by those same enclaves—fathers, husbands, clergy, elites.

Gjerde traces immigrants’ home cultures, religious beliefs, family structures, and cultural values, as well as those of the American northeast with which they interacted. He concludes by tracing the redefinition of immigrants into “ethics” and how the new “ethnicized” political structures they developed entered and ultimately reshaped American institutions. Focusing primarily here on political parties, Gjerde explores the ways in which they became venues for passionate struggles over the proper role of traditional community institutions and over the relationship between them and American individualism and materialism. The result was a reshaping of American institutions by immigrant minds and a reshaping of immigrants into an increasingly pluralistic America. This beautifully written and persuasively argued book makes a substantial contribution to the field of immigration history, and we are delighted to present this award to its author.

Other New Publications Noted...

American Jewish History has published special issues (vol. 85, nos. 3 and 4; Sept.-Dec. 1997) on “Directions in Southern Jewish History.” The issues were co-edited by Mark K. Bauman and Berkeley Kalin.


Biale, David, Michael Galschinsky and


Riccio, Anthony V. Portrait of an Italian-American Neighborhood: The North (Continued on p. 9)
Immigrants of African Descent...

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address the issue of the complex relationship of Haitian immigrants to the native African-American population in each locale.

The relationship between native and foreign-born blacks in the United States has often been an uneasy one filled with ambivalence on both sides. In "Voluntary Immigration and the Continuing Encounters between Blacks: The Post-Quincentenary Challenge," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 530 (1993): 28-41, Roy Simon Bryce-LaPorte posed the provocative questions: "Who is or will be considered an African American?" and "When does a black person of foreign birth or ancestry become African American?" At times the realities of race have drawn the two populations together, particularly when outside discrimination triggered a reactive solidarity. More often, however, cultural differences have superceded alliances based on color. Immigrants typically attempt to assert their cultural distinctiveness, foster ethnic solidarity, and resist identification with what has been the most subordinated sector of American society, while African Americans may exhibit resentment at the perceived preferential treatment accorded the foreigners, regarding them as a competitive threat in an economy where resources available to racial minorities are scarce. Suzanne Model explores questions of comparative socio-economic mobility in her article "Caribbean Immigrants: A Black Success Story?" *International Migration Review* 25 (1991): 248-276.


As a byproduct of a society that is organized on the basis of a rigid binary racial structure, official government records such as those compiled by the U.S. Census or the Immigration and Naturalization Service are hopelessly deficient regarding black immigrant populations, further contributing to their sense of invisibility. For example, entrenched standards of "black" and "white" formed the basis of classification when the multiracial Afro-Portuguese population from the Cape Verde Islands arrived in southeastern New England during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Routinely grouped under other broader categories, those looking phenotypically most European or "white" were listed as "Portuguese" while the remainder were haphazardly labeled "African Portuguese," "Black Portuguese," and "Atlantic Islanders"--making any reasonable demographic estimates from these sources impossible. For further treatment of the history of Cape Verdean migration that includes oral history as well as demographic analysis based on ship manifests, see my *Between Race and Ethnicity: Cape Verdean-American Immigrants, 1860-1965* (Urbana, 1993).

Similarly, while British West Indians were distinguished from Puerto Ricans and Cubans, they were not distinguished from French or Dutch West Indians. Moreover, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service collected demographic information only on those who were perceived to be mulatto under the designation "West Indian Race"; those appearing to be darker-skinned were simply lumped under the generalized label of "African Race," and no effort was made to gather data concerning the social depictions of this group. Finally, information on Jamaicans was not compiled separately until 1953. Rather they were consolidated under "British West Indians" and then further subsumed under the classification of "Other Caribbean." As for arrivals from the continent of Africa, it was not until the 1960s that U.S. immigration records listed them separately by country of origin. The post-1960s period has witnessed a significant increase in continental African blacks entering the United States from such sub-Saharan nations as Nigeria, Ghana, and Ethiopia. In the 1960s alone, the number of African-born blacks in this country increased sixfold. This is an area, however, in which there is the greatest need for systematic research.

Although Puerto Ricans are not technically immigrants, their patterns of settlement in the continental United States mirrors many of the same dynamics as other foreign-born blacks. Clara Rodriguez' *Puerto Ricans: Born in the U.S.A.* (Boston, 1989) is the most thorough exploration of these questions while Piri Thomas' autobiography, *Down These Mean Streets* (New York, 1957) gives a vivid first-hand account of growing up as a dark-skinned child of Puerto Ricans in East Harlem during the 1930s and 1940s.

Finally, in addition to studies that deal with particular populations of African descent, there are several overviews and collections worth mentioning that include some discussion of these flows. Both David Reimers in *Still the Golden Door: The Third World Comes to America* (New York, 1992) and Reed Ueda in *Postwar Immigrant America: A Social History* (Boston, 1994) provide good background material on recent arrivals. There are essays by Nancy Foner on "The Jamaicans: Race and Ethnicity Among Migrants in New York City" and by Susan Buchanan Stafford on "The Haitians: The Cultural Meaning of Race and Ethnicity," in Foner's edited collection, *New Immigrants in New York* (New York, 1987) while I included chapters on West Indians and Haitians in my study of immigrant enterprise, *New Migrants in the Marketplace*.

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New Publications Noted...
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NECROLOGY
Jean Blackwell Hutson, longtime curator and chief of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York City, died Feb. 4, 1998 in New York City at the age of 82. She graduated from Barnard College in 1935, then received an MLS from the Columbia University Library school. She worked in various branches of the New York Public Library System, and in 1948 was appointed to take over the Schomburg Center, which was based upon the private collection of Albert Schomburg, a Puerto Rican of African descent. From 1948 to 1980, when she retired as director, Hutson developed the Schomburg collection and lobbied for funds to establish it in its own building, which was opened in 1981. The Schomburg Collection now holds 150,000 volumes, as well as numerous manuscripts, photographs and artifacts.

PERSONALS
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At its 1997 meeting, the International Migration Section of the American Sociological Association awarded its Thomas and Znaniecki Award to Roger Waldinger and Mehdi Bozorgmehr for their book Ethnic Los Angeles. Ewa Morawksa (Univ. of Pennsylvania) received honorable mention for her book Insecure Prosperity: Small-Town Jews in Urban America, 1890-1940 (Princeton, 1996). Morawksa’s book also received the Immigration History Society’s Saloutos Prize in 1997.

Robert L. Hall (Northeastern University) was awarded a fellowship by the American Council of Learned Societies to study “The Atlantic Slave Trade and the Transformation of Cultures in North America, 1526-1862.” In July 1998 he will become chair of the Department of African-American Studies at Northeastern.

Victor Greene (Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) will lecture on immigration history in August and September 1998 at the Institute of American Studies at Northeastern, Normal University in China. His visit will be supported by a grant from the Chinese State Education Commission.
Annual Meeting Minutes...

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Rudy Vecoli reported that the Saloutos Prize Fund is doing well and that some money had even been placed into a subsidiary account. At $5154.54 the Pozetza Prize Fund, however, remains low. It was suggested that the society initiate a campaign or take other measures to increase the Pozetza fund.

The meeting voted to increase the society’s annual contribution to the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History from $300 to $500, effective immediately.

Betty Bergland, Program Committee Chair, distributed a list of IHS sponsored panels which have been submitted to the OAH and the AHA for their 1999 annual meetings. The IHS is still awaiting decisions on all its proposals. For its 1999 meeting, the American Studies Association has accepted a panel (“Immigrants, Blacks, and Ex-Colonials: West Indian Life in the Twentieth-Century U.S.”) arranged by Donna Gabaccia with IHS sponsorship.

Following extended discussion about the society’s name and possibly changing it, the meeting voted to accept the preference ballot conducted during the 1998 IHS election as binding. Therefore the meeting approved amending the bylaws and changing the name to “Immigration and Ethnic History Society.” After the legal process formally changing the name has been completed, members will be informed.

Following a brief discussion, the meeting voted to amend the bylaws and restructure the Program Committee. The following amendment will replace Article X, Section 5: “The Program Committee will consist of six members appointed by the President and divided into three two-person subcommittees. A seventh member is the Vice-President, who will chair the committee. Persons will serve two-year staggered terms, with terms ending in June. The subcommittees will report to the Vice-President, who will appoint committee chairs, assign subcommittee duties, and coordinate committee activities. The committee will propose immigration and ethnic history panels at scholarly meetings and otherwise assist members to participate on appropriate panels.”

Philip Gleason reported that he will appoint an ad hoc committee to conduct an IHS membership drive. Discussion focused on strategies to attract new members. It was suggested that, following the ad hoc campaign, the society should consider establishing a permanent membership director or committee.

James Bergquist reported that the Executive Board has approved establishing an IHS web-page on the Balch Institute’s website. The IHS web-page, which Bergquist will monitor, should be operating soon. A brief discussion of possible contents ensued.

Alan Kraut conveyed the task force recommendation that the Society should sponsor national conferences. He suggested a conference every few years featuring the work of younger scholars. Lengthy discussion followed. Leonard Dinnerstein said that his institution would be willing to host a conference but that outside funding would have to be found. A sense-of-the-meeting resolution, stating that organizing conferences is a good idea and that IHS should move ahead and explore possibilities, passed unanimously.

Under “New Business,” Phil Gleason reported that National History Day organizers had expressed a desire that more professional historians and scholars, become actively involved in History Day activities. He urged IHS members to become more active.

Rudy Vecoli informed the meeting that President Clinton’s Millennium Program for historic preservation is before the Congress—the House of Representatives is currently in the process of formulating the bill. Since the program’s objectives include preserving historical artifacts and documents, IHS members are urged to contact their congressional representatives and also Rep. Ralph Regula (R-Ohio) about this legislation. A motion passed that the IHS should formally contact the president and should send a letter on behalf of the society.

Alan Kraut distributed a copy of a funding request prepared by the office of Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii). Akaka is seeking $400,000 for two National Park Service studies related to immigration history and the peopling of the nation. One study would identify potential national historical landmarks as well as potential additions and existing units of the National Park System that preserve and interpret the experiences of various ethnic groups. The second would evaluate the feasibility and desirability of preserving and interpreting sites within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, including Angel Island Immigration Station. Kraut indicated that materials were being provided solely for informational purposes (in the event that IHS members were contacted about the proposal). This is not a request that IHS members send letters to Senator Akaka or to their own congressional representatives. A sense-of-the-meeting resolution stating that the IHS supports Akaka’s idea and should officially back it passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

June G. Alexander
IHS Secretary

CALL FOR JOURNAL ARTICLES

Ronald Bayor, editor of the Society’s Journal of American Ethnic History, is issuing a call for papers for a special Spring 1999 issue of the journal. General topic will be comparisons of the mass immigration of the 1880-1950 period with the mass immigration of the period after 1965. For information about submission of manuscripts, contact guest editor Pyong Gap Min (E-mail: min@qcvmx3.acc.qc.edu), or editor Ronald Bayor (E-mail: RB2@prism.gatech.edu). Deadline for submissions: Aug. 31, 1998.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Philip Gleason, president of IHS, has appointed an ad hoc committee to promote membership in the Society. Chair of the committee is Prof. Gleason; other members are Victor Greene, (History, Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee); David G. Gutierrez, (History, Univ. of California-San Diego); Silvia Pedraza (Sociology, Univ. of Michigan); Maxine Seller (Educational Policy, SUNY-Buffalo); and K. Scott Wong (History, Williams College).
IHS News Notes...

THEODORE SALOUTOS BOOK AWARD

Closing date for submissions for the annual Theodore Saloutos Book Award is December 31, 1998. To be eligible, a book must be copyrighted 1998. 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. Reed Ueda, History Dept., Tufts Univ., Medford MA 02155.

Copies of the book must be received by all three members of the committee by December 31, 1998. Send books to Prof. Ueda at the address above; and also to: Prof. Cheryl Greenberg, Trinity College, Hartford CT 06106-3100; and Prof. John McClymer, History Dept., Assumption College, Worcester MA 01615-0005.

GEORGE POZZETTA DISSERTATION AWARD

At the annual dinner of the IHS on April 4 in Indianapolis, the second annual George Pozzetta Dissertation Research Award was given to Richard Sukjoo Kim, a graduate student at the University of Michigan. Mr. Kim's dissertation project is "The Dialectics of Nationalism and Ethnicity: Korean Immigration to the United States and Transnational Politics, 1882-1945."

The Immigration History Society announces competition for the 1999 George E. Pozzetta Award. It invites applications from any Ph.D. candidate who will have completed qualifying examinations by Dec. 1, 1998, 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. All materials must be received by each committee member by Dec. 15, 1998, which is the submission deadline. Send materials in hardcopy (no FAXes accepted) to: Josh DeWind, Social Science Research Council, 810 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10019; Barbara Posadas, Department of History, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115-2893; and Thos. J. Curran, History Dept., St. John’s Univ., Jamaica NY 11439.

ELECTION OF IHS OFFICERS

In the annual election of the Immigration History Society, three persons were elected to the executive board of the Society for the term 1997-2000. They are: Nancy L. Green (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, France); Irma Watkins-Owens (Fordham Un. at Lincoln Center); and K. Scott Wong (Williams College).

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

or FAX a copy to (610) 519-4450

Your name and affiliation:

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, 308 Campus Dr., Somerset, NJ 08873.

OFFICERS OF THE IHS

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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, 308 Campus Dr., Somerset, NJ 08873.