Europe Takes a New Look at American Immigration

By Walter D. Kamphoefer

Many countries of contemporary Europe, from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean, are currently experiencing a role reversal in the realm of migration. In contrast to the century before World War I, when Europe exported some 60 million people to other continents, most Western European countries today, including some such as Spain and Italy that were until recently significant sources of labor migration to Germany or France, are now experiencing sizeable population influxes from within and beyond Europe. The presence of these newcomers has stirred up nativist movements and sparked debates over citizenship laws, naturalization, bilingualism, and cultural and religious pluralism. As European scholars are beginning to realize, these same conflicts and debates have been experienced before by natives of their lands—as immigrants to America.

The United States has long been a screen upon which Europeans projected their fondest hopes and their wildest fears. Certainly it is the first place they look for evidence that the Melting Pot or multicultural societies can (or cannot) work, as Nancy Green has recently demonstrated for France ("Le Melting-Pot: Made in America, Produced in France," Journal of American History 86 (1999), 1188-1208). The role of the United States in the formation of national identity is perhaps nowhere stronger than in postwar Germany, for the obvious reason that many homegrown sources of identity were so thoroughly discredited by the Nazi era. In the last two decades, German migration scholars have taken the lead in juxtaposing the experiences of their homeland as a country of emigration with its current role as Europe's leading country of immigration—drawing upon a usable past in an appeal to the public and to the Conservative political establishment, which has often closed its eyes to Germany's increasingly obvious situation as a de facto country of immigration.

Perhaps the German scholar most active in juxtaposing the German emigrant and immigrant experiences is Klaus Bade. As early as 1982 Bade hosted a symposium entitled "Vom Auswanderungsland zum Einwanderungsland?", which brought together historians, demographers, economists, sociologists, political scientists, and legal scholars, as well as practitioners working with foreigners in Germany—an international group comprising not only West Germans and Americans, but also including scholars from France, Sweden, Greece, Italy, and even East Germany. In the preface of the resulting two-volume collection with the title: Auswanderer, Wanderarbeiter, Gastarbeiter (Ostfildern, 1983), editor Bade stated clearly:

"In assessing the social problems that are associated with the transformation from a Gastarbeiter population to an immigrant minority, and for an understanding of the situation of the foreign population in the immigration process, the experiences of the classical countries of immigration and that of the immigrants themselves are useful, including those of millions of Germans in the 19th century, who were once just as "foreign" overseas as foreigners are in Germany today."

This line of approach has been continued by Bade down to the present. It helped to shape the contours of the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS) which he founded at Osnabrück in 1991. IMIS is an interdisciplinary institution which combines historical and contemporary studies of ethnicity and migration to, from, and within Germany and Europe. It is reflected in the titles of other books Bade has written or edited, for example Deutsche im Ausland, Fremde in Deutschland (Manich, 1992), an edited volume whose title translates as Germans in Foreign Countries, Foreigners in Germany. Another of his edited collections, whose title translates as Peoples across Borders: Borders across People: The Multicultural Challenge (Herne, 1995), takes an essayist's look at some of the same immigration issues, but on a European-wide basis, and once again includes essays examining the U.S. (as well as the Australian) experience. Bade has also collaborated with American scholar Myron Wiener on the steering committee for a 5-volume series, "Migration and Refugees," on patterns and policies regarding contemporary migration in Germany and the United States.

An important source of institutional support for immigration research was a concentration area in North American Studies established by the Volkswagen Foundation in the late 1970s and continued through the 1980s. It promoted comparative approaches and specifically mentioned "problems of emigration and immigration, minority groups, ...and socialization." Encouraging "European–North American scholarly cooperation," it demanded that doctoral candidates funded under this program work together with American scholars or institutions. The bulk of the scholars (Continued on p. 8)
News from Libraries, Museums and Research Institutes...

The American Association for State and Local History has received a grant of $221,517 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to enhance its American Indian Museums Program, which supports American Indian tribal museums.

The Social Science Research Council announces competition for research fellowships in International Migration to the United States during 2001-2002. Fellowships are available to support twelve months of dissertation or postdoctoral research, and also for a summer dissertation workshop for students from minority backgrounds to develop research topics, methods, and proposals. Applications due February 1, 2001. For information and application forms: International Migration Program, SSRC, 810 Seventh Ave., New York NY 10019. E-mail: migration@ssrc.org Web page: http://www.ssrc.org

The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia is receiving applications for fellowships for summer 2001. Proposed projects should pertain to the ethnic and immigrant experience in the U.S. Fellows receive a stipend for a one-month’s stay at the Balch library and archives. Applications must be postmarked by February 15, and received by March 15, 2001. For further information, application criteria and instructions, consult the Balch web page: http://www.balchinstute.org

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. will sponsor a series of two-week workshops at the museum during July and August 2001. The workshops are designed to foster collaboration among scholars with similar interests in holocaust studies. Grants include travel expenses, lodging and $500 for meals and incidental expenses. Applications must be postmarked not later than Jan. 30, 2001. For further information and applications, contact Dawn Barcliff, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington DC 20024-2126. E-mail: univ_programs@ushmm.org

The Carter G. Woodson Institute at the University of Virginia offers predoctoral and postdoctoral research fellowships for terms beginning Aug. 1, 2001. Fellowships are in the general areas of race, ethnicity and society in Africa and Atlantic World, including the African diaspora. Further information and application forms are on the web at: http://www.virginia.edu/~woodson/programs/fellowships.html

Contact the committee at the Carter G. Woodson Institute, Univ. of Virginia, PO Box 400162, Charlottesville VA 22904-4162. E-mail: woodson@gwis.virginia.edu Applications for the 2001 round are due Dec. 1, 2000.

The New England Regional Fellowship Consortium, consisting of eleven major cultural institutions, will offer fellowship awards for the period June 2001 through May 2002. Awards are for $5000 for eight weeks of research at participating institutions. Fellows must pursue research at a minimum of three of the participating institutions, with at least two weeks spent at each institution. Participating institutions include the Boston Athenaeum, Connecticut Historical Society, Historic Deerfield, the John Nicholas Brown Center at Brown University, the Maine Historical Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, Mystic Seaport, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the New Hampshire Historical Society, the Rhode Island Historical Society, the Rhode Island Historical Society, and the Vermont Historical Society. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 1, 2001. For application instructions and information, contact Erin Pipkin, Massachusetts Historical Society, 1154 Boylston Street, Boston MA 02215. Telephone: (617) 646-0505. E-mail: epipkin@masshist.org

The Organization of American Historians announces the 2001 Huggins-Quarles Award, given annually for minority graduate students in the dissertation stage of a Ph.D. program. Applicants should submit a two-page abstract of the dissertation project, and a one-page budget explaining the travel and research uses of the requested funds. Grants will not exceed $1000. For further specifications and information, contact the committee chair: A. Yvette Huglin, American Studies Dept., Oakes College Building, Univ. of California at Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz CA 95064. Applications are due Dec. 15, 2000.

The Pennsylvania-German Society invites book-length manuscripts in Pennsylvania-German History and Culture, for a new series to be published by Pennsylvania State University Press. The scope of the subject includes the spread of Pennsylvania-German culture throughout the United States, Canada and elsewhere in the world. For detailed information, contact the editor, Simon J. Bronner, American Studies, Penna. State Univ.-Harrisburg, 777 W. Harrisburg Pike, Middletown PA 17057-4898. E-mail: sbj2@psu.edu

The University of Alberta offers on its website a detailed annotated bibliography on Germans and German-speaking people in the province of Alberta. Its 6,100 entries include both primary and secondary sources. It may be searched by keywords. Online at: http://www.ualberta.ca/~german/altahistory/title.htm

The Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota has acquired archival materials of the late Robert Selvaja, Finnish-American leader who promoted a yearly ethnic celebration, “Finnfest.” For information about other new archival holdings, see the website: http://www.umn.edu/ihrc/news.htm

A new Internet discussion list has been established at the University of Newcastle, England, on the history of forced migration. To subscribe, consult website: http://www.mailbase.ac.uk/lists/forced-migration-history/

The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia, has among its newly-opened archival collections: Aspira, Inc. of Pennsylvania papers, from an organization promoting community services for the Philadelphia Puerto Rican community; collections from the Philadelphia center of the League of United American Citizens (LULAC); a collection of documents from Estampas Colombianas, a Colombian dance group founded in Philadelphia; and records from both local and national offices of TWIGS, an organization strengthening family life among African-Americans. Information about the library and archives at the Balch is on the web at http://www.balchinstitute.org

The Center for Migration Studies in Staten Island, New York, has prepared for use the collection of Robert Immordino, containing materials related to Italian Americans in New Jersey. CMS also has catalogued many photographs contained in the 1906 volume Gli Italiani negli Stati Uniti d’America. The catalog and other information is at http://www.cmsny.org. Information by telephone: (718) 351-8800.


On June 4, 2000 The Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota celebrated the opening of its new quarters in the university’s Elmer L. Andersen Library. The new address of the IHRC is Suite 311 Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222.21st Ave. South, Minneapolis MN 55455. Telephone: 612-625-4800. E-mail: ihrc@tc.ukmn.edu Web address: http://www.umn.edu/ihrc

The American Antiquarian Society offers a variety of research fellowships, both long-term and short-term, for use of the library’s resources. Most fellowships tenable during the period June 2001 through May 2002 have deadlines of Jan. 15, 2001. For full information, consult the Society’s web page: www.americanantiquarian.org. Or write for a fellowship announcement and application packets to Academic Fellowships, Room 100, American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury St., Worcester MA 01609-1634. Telephone: (508) 754-9069. E-mail: cfs@mwa.org

The Massachusetts Historical Society offers approximately twenty short-term research fellowships during the period July 2000 through June 2001. Each grant is for four weeks of research at the Society, with a stipend of $1,500. Advanced graduate students and postdoctoral scholars are eligible. Preference is given to candidates residing more than fifty miles from Boston. Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2001. Applications and questions may be directed to Erin Pipkin, Massachusetts Historical Society, 1154 Boylston St., Boston MA 02215. Telephone: (617) 646-0505. E-mail: publications@masshist.org Or consult the “Get Involved” section of the website, http://www.masshist.org

A new website concerning “Migration and Multicultural Lives” has been established at the University of Bremen Migration Research Centre. The website contains primarily links to other Internet resources. Web address: http://www.migration.uni-bremen.de

The M. E. Sharpe publishing house is seeking writers to complete entries of 1000 to 3000 words for the new Encyclopedia of American Immigration, to be published mid-2001. For a list of subjects and further concrete information, contact James Ciment, general editor, Encyclopedia of American Immigration, 151 First Ave. #79, New York City NY 10003. Telephone: (212) 473-0310. E-mail: cimentj@igc.org

ABC-Clio Books plans a new series on “Ethnic Diversity in the Nations of the World.” The series editor, Elliott Barkan, seeks individuals interested in writing a book on ethnic history and diversity within any one the following countries: India, Indonesia, Philippines, Russia, France, Germany, Poland, Argentina, Nigeria, Spain, Malaysia, Lebanon, or Turkey. Contact Elliott Barkan, Dept. of History, California State University, San Bernardino CA 92407-2397 E-mail: ebarkan@csusb.edu

The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America has created an archival information center on the Internet, containing information about and links to Polish and Polish American archival holdings. This research tool is available at: http://home.att.net/~piaa/archive.html

The Library of Congress has added to its Internet “American Memory” collections “From Slavery to Freedom: The African-American Pamphlet Collection, 1824-1909.” The collection can be viewed at the web address: http://memory.loc.gov/amem/aapc.html

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission solicits applications for its 2001-2002 Scholars in Residence program and its Collaborative Residency program. Scholars in Residence may pursue research at any of the PHMC facilities, including the Pennsylvania state archives. Collaborative Residency grants are for research relating to the interpretive mission of the PHMC or any of its facilities or programs. Grants are for four to twelve weeks at $1,500 per month. Information and application materials available from Division of History, PHMC, 400 North St., Harrisburg PA 17120-0053. E-mail: lshope@state.pa.us Website: http://www.phmc.state.pa.us
Conferences and Meetings...


The Polish American Historical Association will hold its annual meeting in connection with the American Historical Association in Boston, Jan. 4-6, 2001. Meetings of the PAHA will take place in the Marriott Hotel. For details on the program, consult the AHA Program, pp. 59-61.

The International Association of Asian Studies, the National Association of African American Studies, the National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies and the National Association of Native American Studies will hold a joint conference in Houston, Feb. 12-17, 2001. Information: Lemuel Berry Jr., Morehead State Univ., Morehead KY 40351. Tel: (606) 783-2650. Information on the web at: http://www.naaas.org


The National Association for Ethnic Studies will hold its annual conference in New Orleans March 29-31, 2001. Theme: "Race, Ethnicity and Pedagogy in the 21st Century." Information: Susan Rockwell, NAES, Arizona State Univ., Tempe AZ 85287. E-mail: susan.rockwell@asu.edu


Youngstown State University and its Center for Working-Class Studies will sponsor its Fifth Biennial Conference on Working-Class Studies May 16-19, 2001. Theme: "Memory, Community, Activism." Proposals due by Jan. 1, 2001. For information, address John Russo, Center for Working-Class Studies, Youngstown State Univ., Youngstown OH 44555. E-mail to Sherry Linkon at sjlinkon@cc.ysu.edu or telephone (330) 742-4662. Website: http://www.as.ysu.edu/~cwcs/


The twenty-second meeting of the North American Labor History Conference will take place at Wayne State University in Detroit on October 18-20, 2001. Theme: "Labor, Migration and the Global Economy: Past, Present and Future." Panel and paper proposals (including 1-2 page abstracts and brief curriculum vitae) due March 1, 2001 to Elizabeth Faue, Dept. of History, Wayne State University, Detroit MI 48202. Telephone: (313) 577-2525. E-mail: ad5247@wayne.edu


The Florida State University and the Allen Morris Conference Committee will sponsor the second biennial Allen Morris Conference on the History of Florida and the Atlantic World, to be held in Tallahassee, February 1-2, 2002. Theme: "Immigration, Migration, and Diaspora in Florida and the Atlantic World." Proposals due by May 1, 2001. Inquiries and proposals: Elna Green, Dept. of History, Florida State Univ., Tallahassee, FL 32306-2200 E-mail: egreen@mailter.fsu.edu Web info: http://mailer.fsu.edu/~rhererra/ allenmorris.htm

The Fourth European Social Science History Conference is planned for The Hague, Netherlands, Feb. 27-March 2, 2002. Abstracts of proposed papers and pre-registration forms (due March 1, 2001) are available on the web at http://www.iiss.nl/eshc Contact International Institute of Social History, Cruquiusweg 31, 1019 AT Amsterdam, Netherlands. E-mail: ceshc@iiss.nl
A MESSAGE FROM THE IEHS PRESIDENT...

Academic Year 2000/2001 has not even reached the halfway point, but the IEHS has already been pursuing a vigorous agenda of scholarly activities.

Between November 16th and November 18th, the IEHS broke new ground, co-sponsoring an important conference. Immigration scholars from across the country and abroad gathered in Minnesota for a conference on "Race, Ethnicity, and Migration: The United States in a Global Context." The well-attended conference was co-sponsored with the University of Minnesota's Seminar on Race, Ethnicity, and Migration. Professor Rudy Vecoli and I, who co-chaired the conference, wish to thank the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation and its President Stephen A. Briganti, as well as the Minnesota Humanities Commission and, at the University of Minnesota, the Immigration History Research Center, the President's Sesquicentennial Conference Series, the College of Liberal Arts Scholarly Events Fund and the Graduate School's New Initiatives in Interdisciplinary Research and Post-Baccalaureate Education Fund. I especially wish to thank David Gerber, David Reimers, and Maureen Nutting, who constituted the IEHS delegation to the organizing committee. The conference, which consisted of twenty-one panels, featured the work of some of the finest young scholars in our field. The keynote speaker was Roberto Suro, a journalist who covers immigration and ethnicity issues for The Washington Post and is the author of Strangers Among Us: Latino Lives in a Changing America (1998). It is my hope that this will be just the first IEHS sponsored conference on immigration and ethnicity, and that we can begin planning to have another one in 2002 or 2003.

Another opportunity to engage with each other will be the first annual IEHS Luncheon, scheduled for the American Historical Association Annual Meeting in Boston this coming January. The luncheon is on Saturday, January 6, 2001 at 12:15 PM at the Boston Marriott in the Cape Cod/Hyannis Rooms. The luncheon speaker will be Professor Werner Sollors of Harvard University, who will speak on "The Multilingual Anthology of American Literature (2000) and the Importance of Language Studies For Immigration and Ethnic History." A mailing has been sent out to all members with prices and menu options. The luncheon has been announced on H-Ethnic and our website. If you are attending the AHA, please join us as we begin this new IEHS tradition.

Also, watch the mail this winter for news of the IEHS Annual Dinner at the Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians in Los Angeles in April, 2001. Local arrangements czar and IEHS Vice President, Elliott Barkan, has lined up an excellent Armenian restaurant and a fine after dinner speaker, Professor David Gutierrez, University of California-San Diego.

Vice President Barkan is also in charge of organizing panels for forthcoming academic meetings. He has recently sent out a call for panel proposals. Proposals submitted will be considered by the IEHS for endorsement prior to their submission to the AHA and OAH program committees. The IEHS has also agreed to cooperate with the Executive Committee of the Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society to co-sponsor appropriate panels at these major academic meetings.

Remember that the IEHS is in the midst of a membership drive. Please encourage your students and colleagues to join us. For the first time, the IEHS is now offering discounts to new members. First-time members need pay only $23.00, a $7.00 discount.

The IEHS website is accessible through the Balch Institute's website. It is available to members who wish to announce conferences and other pertinent events. Our continued appreciation to James Bergquist for keeping our site up to date. At the April business meeting, I hope we can have a discussion of the feasibility of having our own website and moderator. In preparation for that discussion, I am forming a task force to study the website issue. I would appreciate hearing from volunteers who have some expertise in this area and wish to assist the IEHS in considering website development. Those who wish to volunteer should e-mail me at akraut@american.edu.

The IEHS is becoming an ever more active academic society, offering its members opportunities to share their ideas and their scholarship with each other. Be a part of it. Join us at the luncheon, the annual business meeting, and the annual dinner. Help plan our next major conference, enjoy our excellent journal The Journal of American Ethnic History, and submit panel proposals for forthcoming academic meetings. Encourage others, who are not yet members to join us, as well.

Finally, a special thanks to Vice President Elliott Barkan, Treasurer Diane Vecchio, and Secretary, Marian Smith for all their help this fall in organizing and publicizing IEHS activities.

—Alan M. Kraut
President. IEHS

A Note of Gratitude...

The last issue of the Newsletter (May 2000) carries this brief note: "Secretary June Alexander was honored at the annual meeting as she retired from her post." But the official minutes of the annual meeting, printed in the same issue of the Newsletter, make no mention of this matter. Why the omission of so significant a feature of our gathering in St. Louis? The answer is that June Alexander wrote the minutes, and she didn't include anything about the honor paid her. I haven't talked to her about it, and I don't claim to be a mind-reader, but I can think of two reasons why she left it out. First, as everyone who has observed her in action knows, June is a stickler for the rules. She believes strongly in following established procedures. And since the award recognizing her devoted service to the IEHS was not presented during the business meeting, it naturally didn't belong in the minutes of the business meeting. The other reason is that June is not a person who seeks the limelight. True, she has been very visible in the Society for more than a decade. But that was a result of the office she held. Acting strictly on her own account, she is reluctant to put herself forward—especially in claiming credit for things she has done.

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New Publications Noted...


Europe Takes a New Look...
(continued from p. 1)

engaged in "transatlantic juxtaposition." Americans as well as Germans, have enjoyed the support of the Volkswagen Foundation in their projects and symposia.

Wolfgang Helbich wrote in the introduction to the Volkswagen-financed immigrant letter anthology that he co-edited: "the editors of this volume can at least assert that they were attracted to German immigrant letters undoubtedly more because of this reversal, this possible mirror effect—yesterday Germans as 'Gastarbeiter' in America, today foreigners as a minority among a German majority—than through any patriotism, germanophila, or enthusiasm for the 'overseas Germans' (Briefe aus Amerika [Munich, 1988], 7). A still more direct and explicit comparison of the German experience as immigrants and as a host country respectively is apparent even in the title another of Helbich's essays, which roughly translates as: "Yesterday's Gastarbeiter? German Immigrants to the USA," first delivered in a series of university public lectures commemorating the 500th anniversary of Columbus's voyage.

Another historian who has reached out to an even larger audience is Willi Paul Adams, with a 43 page booklet whose original title translates "Germans in the Melting Pot of the USA: Experiences in the Largest Immigration Country for Europeans" (A revised English version appeared as The German-Americans: An Ethnic Experience [Indianapolis, 1993]). Here the comparisons with contemporary Germany are implicit rather than explicit, though a mere glance at all the German-language illustrations from the U.S. shows unmistakably that immigrants were in no hurry to disappear into the melting pot. That these comparisons are intended is nowhere clearer than from the name of the series in which the booklet appeared: "Miteinander leben in Berlin: Living with one another in Berlin," published by the Special Commissioner for Foreigners of this city-state.

One might ask to what degree this approach to migration and cultural pluralism has penetrated down to the general public, or whether it has largely been restricted to the refined atmosphere of academic ivory towers, in effect preaching to the converted. One sign of broader reception is simply the size of some of these print runs. Adams' booklet is in its third German printing with a total run of 15,000. Bade's 1992 volume was a book club selection and reached a combined circulation of over 30,000; his 1995 work is approaching 14,000 in sales.

A second indicator is the penetration of this approach deeper into the provinces, as witnessed by titles such as one that translates as Foreigners in Westfalia, Westfälische Immigranten in Foreign Countries (ed. Gisbert Strodtrees [Münster 1996]). Much more ambitious is an exhibition and associated catalogue which opened last year at an open-air museum mostly devoted to the normally conservative topic of rural material culture, entitled: Fremde in Deutschland—Deutsche in der Fremde (Clippenburg, 1999), with the subtitle Spotlights from the Early Modern Era to the Present.

Although taking in a much broader scope, it includes a substantial look at German immigrants to North America, and is scheduled to run at four other museums, two of them in the former East Germany.

Another level at which this juxtaposition has been applied is in secondary school materials. Nearly two decades ago, immigration historian Günter Moltmann argued in a special issue of the journal Amerikastudien (vol. 27:3 [1982]):

A study of European immigration to the United States during the 19th and early 20th centuries is not only a matter of historical retrospect, it is a study of social problems of today as well... Like former immigrants to America, strangers in Germany experience language barriers, schooling problems, ghetto life, the formation of a sub-culture, hostility from the dominating society, melting pot ideas, development of multi-culturalism, etc... It can be rewarding to include immigration history in the curricula of German schools.

And a 1988 collection edited by Dirk Hoerder, with the unmistakably juxtaposed title Einwanderungsland USA, Gastarbeiterland BRD (Berlin-Hamburg, 1988), includes a chapter providing instructional materials for the secondary level.

Such suggestions have been very aptly applied in a recent German social studies textbook, aimed at roughly the junior high level. It includes a whole chapter entitled "Seeking your fortune abroad," using as an epigraph the translated inscription on the Statue of Liberty. The chapter has sections entitled "Germans in Faraway America" and "Foreigners in Faraway Germany," presenting much primary source material from immigrant letters and newspapers (Gesellschaftslehre Global 1 [Frankfurt am Main, 1998], chapter by Volker Werner, pp. 100-121). While one might write this off to the Social Democratic leanings of the author, the larger point is that the book passed muster with one of Germany's leading textbook publishers.

The American example occasionally provides ammunition for the other side as well. A 1992 article in one German popular magazine, entitled "How Many Foreigners can a Country Stand?", turns to the U.S. for many of its scenes of horror (Peter F. Speier, "Wie viele Fremde kann ein Land vertragen?" P. M. Magazin, 6/1992, pp. 60-66). Its one-sided perspective presents the "old stock" black ghetto without any awareness of prospering Afro-Caribbean immigrants, cites Chinese gangs without any mention of "cybercoolies," and alleges that the U.S. "Millionaire" immigration visas are reserved for rich "white Europeans." Other anti-immigrant arguments forego such racism, but assert a fundamental difference between "crowded" Germany and the wide open spaces of the U.S. or Canada, blissfully oblivious of the overwhelmingly urban concentration of recent immigrants to these countries. But the long-term successful acculturation, indeed the near-disappearance of Germans as an ethnic group in contemporary America—and this despite the size and institutional completeness of the ethnic group and the degree of concessions made to them in the 19th century in areas such as bilingual education—presents a strong argument for greater patience and more of a long-term perspective in dealing with newcomers to postwar and post-Wall Germany.

Though Germany now attracts an immigration second in size only to the U.S.—a
combined function of its size, economic prosperity, liberal laws toward asylum seekers and ethnic Germans, and a geographic situation on the boundary between eastern and western Europe—it presents merely an extreme case rather than an exception to the normal European experience with immigration. Perhaps members of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society can provide a spark by drawing some of the same transatlantic juxtapositions that have been posed in Germany, and add a note of empathy to public discourse on the issue of immigration in their lands of origin and/or research specialization.

Walter D. Kamphoefner is Professor of History at Texas A & M University. He spent the 1998-99 academic year as a Senior Fulbright Lecturer in immigration history at the University of Osnabrueck, Germany.

A Note of Gratitude...
(Continued from p. 5)

And all those who held the office of president during her tenure as secretary would, I am sure, join me in saying she deserves credit for doing most of the things that kept the Society running smoothly over the past ten or twelve years. Because we could hardly let her retirement pass without special notice, I appointed last November a committee composed of three former presidents of IEHS to devise an appropriate form of recognition. The committee, composed of Victor Greene(chair), Rudy Vecoli, and Roger Daniels, prepared a plaque with the Society’s name and logo, signed by myself as president, which contains the following tribute:

"The Society wishes to offer its profound appreciation to JUNE GRANATIR ALEXANDER for her long and valuable service as its Secretary. Over the years she has been the mainstay of the IEHS, performing all the detailed work of the organization with care and devotion. We are grateful to her for keeping the welfare of the Society uppermost in her efforts and for setting it on a firm foundation for the future."

Besides this token of our indebtedness to June, the Executive Board approved the special committee’s recommendation that the Society provide air fare and incidental expenses for a research trip to Europe she will be making in the near future. This was represented by an oversized facsimile check, which was given to June at the dinner meeting. Another feature of the occasion was a brief and graceful review of the high points of June’s career, given by her Doktorvater, Rudy Vecoli. All this took June entirely by surprise. She didn’t expect anything because she didn’t think she’d done anything out of the ordinary as secretary! But her award was the only aspect of the dinner meeting that she had not personally arranged. Since we had no member in St. Louis, June, undertook all the work of local arrangements, from finding the restaurant to deciding on menu choices. One last example of the selfless way she spent herself on behalf of the Society. We will certainly miss her!

—Philip Gleason
Past President, IEHS

PERSONALS

Andrew Rolle (Huntington Library) was the keynote speaker for the American Italian Historical Association conference in San Francisco on Nov. 12, 1999. The title of his address was “The Immigrant Experience: Reflections of a Lifetime.”

John McClaymer (Assumption College) and Brian Gratton (Arizona State University) have taken over duties as co-editors of the H-NET discussion list H-ETHNIC.

Randall Miller (St. Joseph’s University) was co-curator of the exhibit “The Genesis of Republicanism,” shown during the fall of 2000 at the Library Co. of Philadelphia.

Roger Daniels gave the keynote address at the Norwegian-American Seminar VII, held in August 2000 in Hamar, Norway. His title was “The Changing Nature of American Immigration and Ethnicity, 1825-2000.”

Thomas Dublin (Binghamton University) was awarded his university’s 1999 Award for Excellence in Teaching.

On June 9, 2000, Robert Swierenga (Hope College) was named a knight in the Order of the Netherlands Lion by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, in honor of his contributions to Dutch-American studies.

Vicki Ruiz (Arizona State University) was named to the National Council on the Humanities by President Clinton.

Leonard Dinnerstein (University of Arizona) received an award for the best article of 1999 in the Journal of the West. The article was titled “Jews in the ‘Old Southwest.’”


NECROLOGY

Lily Schwarz, longtime archivist at the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center and its Head Archivist since 1985, died January 12, 2000. During her career in charge of the archives, she developed it into a major repository in Jewish urban history.

New Publications...
(continued from p. 7)


Immigration and Ethnic History Society Luncheon
AHA Meeting, Boston, January 6, 2001

The Society is holding its first annual luncheon at this year’s American Historical Association meeting in Boston on Saturday, January 6, from 12:15 to 1:45 in the Cape Cod-Hyannis Rooms of the Boston Marriott. The luncheon speaker will be Prof. Werner Sollors, Harvard University, who will speak on "The Multilingual Anthology of American Literature (2000) and the Importance of Language Studies for Immigration and Ethnic History."
The cost of the luncheon is $33, with a reduced price of $28 for students. The choice of entrées is:
Marinated Sliced Breast of Chicken Cilantro (honeydew and cantaloupe salsa) with pasta salad, or
Roasted Vegetable Wrap (roasted vegetables with Balsamic drizzle wrapped in a tortilla) with Orzo pasta salad.
All entrées include New England clam chowder, dessert, and a beverage. Please detach or copy the form below and mail your check and entrée choice to IEHS Treasurer Diane Vecchio.

Luncheon Reservation Form

Enclosed is my check for ____ persons at ____ $33 each or at ____ $28 each (student) for the IEHS Annual Luncheon (Jan. 6, 2001).

Name ________________________________

Address ________________________________

Telephone ___________________________ Email ___________________________

Make checks payable to "IEHS" and mail to: Diane C. Vecchio, IEHS Treasurer
Farman University
Department of History
3300 Poinsett Highway
Greenville, SC 29613-0444

Choice of Entrée:
____ Marinated Sliced Breast of Chicken Cilantro
____ Roasted Vegetable Wrap

From the Program Committee...

The Program Committee for the Immigration and Ethnic History Society solicits proposals for papers and sessions for several forthcoming professional meetings. We are interested in helping individuals to complete/coordinate such proposals with the goal of submitting the completed sessions under the IEHS’s sponsorship or co-sponsorship. We will consider a broad range of topics concerning immigration and ethnicity, and want to extend the range of groups and issues we cover. We urge both graduate students and post-Ph.D. colleagues, including those at the community college as well as university levels, to submit proposals to us. Proposals concerning American Jews will be reviewed by both the IEHS’s Program Committee and that of the American Jewish Historical Society, in order that we might then co-sponsor such sessions.

The deadline for the 2001 Pacific Coast Branch meeting of the AHA (at Vancouver, B.C.) is the beginning of December 2000. The deadline for the 2002 Organization of American Historians meeting (in Washington, D.C.) and the 2001 American Studies Association meeting (also in Washington, D.C.) will be mid-January 2001.

The deadline for the 2002 American Historical Association meeting (in San Francisco) and the 2001 Social Science History Association (in Chicago) is mid-February 2001.

The deadline for the 2002 Western Historical Association meeting (location not yet set) is at the end of August 2001.

The earlier you can submit proposals, the more time you give us to help you complete them before the deadlines. Please indicate a) your name, b) affiliation, c) mailing address, d) telephone number, e) email address, f) the proposed session topic/title and/or paper topic and a brief statement about their intent or scope, g) a one-page vita on yourself, h) if possible, the names and addresses of others who you think might be interested in participating, and i) finally, the name(s) of the meeting(s) in which you wish to participate.

Send proposals to Elliott Barkan, IEHS Vice-president and Program Committee Chair, Dept. of History, Calif. State Univ., San Bernardino CA 92407-2397. E-mail: ebarcan@csusb.edu

Proposals relating to American Jewish history can also be sent to Pamela Nadell, chair of the Academic Council, American Jewish History Society. Her E-mail: pnadell@american.edu.

—Elliott R. Barkan, chair
IHS News Notes...

THEODORE SALOUTOS BOOK AWARD

Closing date for submissions for the annual Theodore Saloutos Book Award is December 31, 2000. To be eligible, a book must be copyrighted 2000. A book may be nominated by the author, the publisher, a member of the prize committee, or a member of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society. Inquiries and nominations should be submitted to the chair of the Saloutos Prize Committee, Prof. Ewa Morawska, Dept. of Sociology, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA 19104.

E-mail: emorawsk@sas.upenn.edu

Copies of the book must be received by all three members of the committee by December 31, 2000. Send books to Prof. Morawska at the address above; and also to: Prof. John McClum, History Department, Assumption College, Worcester MA 01615-6005; and Prof. Erika Lee, Dept. of History, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis MN 55455.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In 2001, the Immigration and Ethnic History Society will fill three positions on the Executive Board for terms ending 2004. Members may send suggestions for any of these positions to the chair of the nominations committee, Melvin Holli, History (MC 198), Univ. of Illinois at Chicago, 601 S. Morgan St., Chicago IL 60607-7109.

E-mail: mholli@uic.edu. Tel.: (312) 996-2232. FAX: (312) 996-6377. Suggestions may also be sent to any member of the committee: Deborah Miller, Minnesota Historical Society (debbie.miller@mnhs.org); Vicki Ruiz, Arizona State U. (Vicki.Ruiz@asu.edu); Marilyn Halter, Boston U. (Mhalter@bu.edu); or K. Scott Wong, Williams College (Kevin.S.Wong@Williams.edu). Suggestions due to the committee by Jan. 15, 2001. Ballots will be mailed in mid-February 2001.

GEORGE POZZETTA DISSERTATION AWARD

The Immigration and Ethnic History Society announces competition for the 2001 George E. Pozzetta Award. It invites applications from any Ph.D. candidate who will have completed qualifying examinations by Dec. 1, 2000, 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, 2000, which is the submission deadline. Send materials in hard copy (no FAXes accepted) to: Diane Vecchio, History Dept., Furman U., Greenville SC 29613, chair of the committee; Thos. J. Curran, History Dept., St. John’s Univ., Jamaica NY 11439; and David G. Gutierrez, Dept. of History. University of California-San Diego, 9500 Gilman Dr., La Jolla CA 92039. Inquiries to Prof. Vecchio at diane.vecchio@furman.edu

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The annual meeting of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society will take place jointly with the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians in Los Angeles, April 26-29, 2001. The annual dinner will take place the same weekend. Further details about these events will be included, with the ballot which will be mailed to all members in late February.

Activities Report for the Immigration and Ethnic 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 or send information via E-Mail to: JBERGQUI[email]villanova.edu

Your name and affiliation:

THE IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC HISTORY SOCIETY

...was founded in 1965 as the Immigration History Group. It was chartered in 1972 as the Immigration History Society. In 1998 the Society, which had traditionally dealt with ethnicity as well as immigration, changed its name to the Immigration and Ethnic History Society.

The purpose of the Society is 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 and Ethnic 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 Society includes subscriptions to the quarterly Journal of American Ethnic History and the semiannual Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter. Dues for individuals: one year, $30; 2 years, $55; 3 years, $75. Dues for institutions: one year, $100; 2 years, $194; 3 years, $268. Students: 1 year, $15. For domestic first-class mail, add $32 per year. For all subscriptions outside U.S.A. and Canada, add $30. Membership dues should be sent to Journal of American Ethnic History, Transaction Periodicals Consortium, Rutgers University, 35 Beren Circle, Piscataway NJ 08854-8042.

OFFICERS OF THE IEHS

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Inquiries about the Society should be directed to the appropriate officer. This newsletter was edited with additional 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 and Ethnic History Newsletter are part of membership in the Society. Members' changes of address should be sent to Journal of American Ethnic History, Transaction Periodicals Consortium, Rutgers University, 35 Beren Circle, Piscataway NJ 08854-8042.

Visit the IEHS website at: http://www.balchinststitute.org/iehs

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