THE IMMIGRATION HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Vol. IV, No. 1 February, 1972

Published at SUNY, Fredonia, New York

Roger Daniels, editor
Richard Boylan, editorial assistant

DUES

Fewer than 10% of those receiving the newsletter have paid for the current year. Very few paid for 1970-71. Although back dues are forgiven, no one who does not pay $3 for the current year will get the next issue (May, 1972). Dues for next year, 1972-1973, are payable in September. Dues and newsletter correspondence should be sent to:

Roger Daniels
Immigration History Group
History Department
SUNY
Fredonia, New York 14063

April, 1972 Meeting

The April, 1972 meeting will be held at the OAH Convention in Washington, April 5-8, 1972. Executive Secretary John Appel informs me that a precise date, place and time for the meeting has not been arranged, but it will be announced and posted during the convention.

A Letter from the Editor

This issue of the IHG Newsletter appears three months late; Vol. 4, No. 2, will appear in May. Next year it should return to the November and March formats. The unfortunate delay this year was caused by the change in editors, the new editor's cross country move and certain financial and technical problems. My apologies.

For the future let me strongly request that members send news of publications, meetings and other significant activities. The newsletter can only be useful if the membership makes it so. If there are questions about a member's dues status please write; the costs of billing are, given our financial structure, impossible.

I would like publicly to thank the outgoing editor and executive secretary, Victor Greene, whose tireless efforts kept the newsletter and the organization going.

Roger Daniels, editor.

IHG Meeting, New Orleans, April, 1971

1. To advise the Group on the suggested change in name, it was decided to appoint a committee headed by Theodore Saloutos. It was to report at the December meeting.

2. Rudolph Vecoli described the status of the U. of Minnesota Ethnic Microfilms project. A priority list of ethnic newspapers to be reproduced has been established with Polish papers as the first to be copied. A committee of scholars, largely IHG members, will advise the project.

3. Professor Vecoli also reported the strong desire of certain European scholars to develop closer contacts with the IHG and immigration specialists. The possibility of setting up an international liaison committee was discussed but not acted upon.

4. Professor Greene announced his resignation as editor and executive secretary.

IHG Meeting, New York, December, 1971

1. Upon the recommendation of the executive board, the following were elected: John J. Appel, executive secretary; Roger Daniels, newsletter editor; Marian McKenna, program chairman; Carleton Qualey, Victor Greene and Theodore Saloutos, executive board members.

2. Theodore Saloutos, for his committee, submitted the following report:

   A sampling of opinion among members of the executive council of the Immigration History Group (IHG) and others in the field of immigration history indicates that for the

time being we would be better served if we retained the name we now have, Immigration History Group. Sentiment, at least among those polled, is evenly divided on the question of retaining the old name or adopting a new one, and little would be gained by becoming involved in a needless dispute at the present time. There is nothing in the present flexible, if not amorphous, structure of the IHG that prevents one from pursuing ethnic, immigration or other minority studies and being a dues-paying member. The committee believes that the end and long-range purposes of the members could be well-served if we concentrated on the one concrete proposal that has universal approval and that is to make the organization more permanent, cohesive and better-directed.

Sentiment is unanimous for the building of a much more durable structure than we have had in the past. Such thoughts are stated explicitly in the letters received for the only thing permanent we have had thus far has been the Newsletter. Because the mandate given the Committee on Name and Structure is not entirely clear, it is the view of this Committee that a special committee be appointed to prepare a new set of By-Laws that will meet more fully the needs of the IHG. If need be, or if the membership feels it advisable, this same Committee (Committee on Name and Structure) can fulfill this function, but the delegating of such responsibilities should be approved by the executive council and the membership. The committee for the drafting of a new set of By-Laws should be prepared to report to the executive council and the members in Washington in April 1972.

Roger Daniels
Carleton C. Qualey
Theodore Saloutos, chairman

After discussion, the report was accepted and the committee instructed to submit a draft constitution to the April 1972 meeting.

3. After a detailed presentation by Rudolph Vecoli and discussion from the floor, the following resolution was passed and has been sent to Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton:

> Resolved, that the Immigration History Group strongly urges the Secretary of the Interior, Rogers Morton, to submit the current plans for the American Museum of Immigration to be established at the Statue of Liberty for review by a panel of recognized scholars in the field of American immigration Studies. It is the Group's judgment that the museum as presently conceived grossly distorts the immigrant experience in American history.
>
> Be it further resolved, that the Group recommends that the Museum plans be revised in the light of contemporary scholarship on immigration and ethnic groups in American history.

IN MEMORIAM Carl F. Wittke, 1892-1971

The death of Carl F. Wittke marked the passing of one of our foremost authorities in American immigration history, an able lecturer and teacher, a prolific researcher and writer, a highly experienced administrator, and a champion of academic freedom. The son of Carl William Wittke, a recently arrived immigrant from Germany and a native of Columbus, Ohio, Wittke graduated from Ohio State University and pursued his advanced studies at Harvard University where he obtained his Ph. D.

Although Wittke wrote on themes other than immigration, such as Tambo and Bones (1930), a history of the American minstrel show, A History of Canada (1929), and The History of English Parliamentary Privilege (1921), and he furthermore served as chairman of the History Department at Ohio State University (1925-1937), Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Oberlin College (1937-1948), and later as chairman of the History Department, Dean of the Graduate School, and Vice-President of Western Reserve University, he made his greatest contribution in writing on German-American themes. Music was his favorite form of recreation.

Wittke's understanding of the German-Americans was facilitated by his command of the German language which he used freely as well as his German background. Wittke was deeply hurt by the treatment given the German-Americans during World War I much more than what happened to them during World War II. This, plus his antecedents, stimulated his study of the radicals and liberals among the Forty-eighters and his stress on civil liberties. His sentiments about the innocent but persecuted German-Americans were brought forth in his German-Americans and the World War (1936). Other books that followed on the German-American theme included: Against the Current: The Life of Karl Heinzen: 1809-1880 (1945); The Utopian Communist: Wilhelm Weitling (1950); Refugees of Revolution: The German Forty-Eighters in America (1952); and The German Language Press in America (1957).

Perhaps the book that proved most useful to historians was We Who Built America (1939) which covered all major immigrant groups since colonial days, except the English and the Negroes, whom he felt had their own historians. Wittke's inclusion of the new immigrant groups was significant because of the shortage of historians in these areas, the prejudices toward eastern and southern Europeans, and his own emphasis on the cultural pluralism of Horace Kallen.

Wittke also had a way of encouraging young scholars who crossed his path. The writer himself constantly was exhorted by Wittke to write the definitive history of the Greeks in the United States and was touched when Mrs. Wittke informed him that Carl had written to the Harvard University Press for a set of proofs of The Greeks in the United States to incorporate some of the findings into his revised edition of We Who Built America.

Although Wittke could be a devastating critic, basically he was a warm and emotional man who could make amends graciously when he found himself in error. A dedicated and cultivated scholar of the old school, he will be greatly missed by those who had the good fortune of coming under his influence.

Theodore Saloutos

NEWS NOTES

The American Jewish Committee's National Project on Ethnic America is publishing a newsletter, "The Group Life Report," and has a number of offprints and pamphlets, some of which are free:

Institute of Human Relations
165 E. 56th Street
New York, N.Y. 10022

A large number of immigration and ethnic history items have been reprinted by:

R and E Research Associates
4843 Mission Street
San Francisco, Cal. 94112

John B. Duff of Seton Hall University has published, The Irish in the United States (Wadsworth, 1971).

An "Ethnic and Minority Studies Center" has been established at Wisconsin State University, Pletteville, Wis., 53818. Prof. Norman Lederer is its Head.

The "Research Group for European Migration Problems" is interested in hearing from persons who want to affiliate with an international, interdisciplinary contact group. Write:

G. Beyer
RGEMP
17, Pauwenlaan
The Hague
Netherlands

An "Ethnic Studies Committee" has been established at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee with Victor Greene as its chairman.

Rudolph Vecoli, Director, Center for Immigration Studies, U. of Minnesota, has announced a Polish American History Project supported by foundation grants, which will include cooperative microfilming of newspapers. Those interested should write:

Edward V. Kolysko
Research Fellow
Center for Immigration Studies
1925 Sather Street
St. Paul, Minn. 55113

The Instytut Gospodarstwa Spoleczneyo (Institute of Social Economy), Warsaw has published Pamietniki Emigrantow-Kanada (1971). For details write Brabara Ratynsha, editor, at the Institute.

The American Italian Historical Association, 209 Flagg Place, Staten Island, N.Y., 10304, invites regular ($10) and student ($5) memberships.

The Council of Planning Libraries has announced (July, 1972) Exchange Bibliography No. 202, "Ethnic Groups in Urban Areas" Compiled by Bryan Thompson. Write:

Mrs. Mary Vance, ed.
P.O. Box 229
Monticello, Ill. 61856

A brief description of the Ethnic Archives Project of the Western Reserve Historical Society may be found in: John J. Grabowski, "WRHS - In Search of Ethnic History," The Ohio Archivist, (Fall, 1971), pp. 4, 7. The WRHS also has a four-page list of ethnic newspapers (mostly Cleveland) in its collections.

John J. Appel has published: "From Shanties to Lace Curtains: The Irish Image in Puck, 1876-1910", 13 Comparative Studies in Society and History 4 (Oct., 1971) pp. 365-75: and with Selma Appel, "The Grand Old Sport of Hating Catholics: American Anti-Catholic Caricature Prints", The Critic, (Nov.-Dec., 1971), with 14 illustrations.

Carlton C. Qualey, currently Visiting Professor of History, Cleveland State University, spoke before the December meeting of the Western Reserve Historical Society "On Being an Ethnic Historian."

The Balch Institute has been established with a concentration in American and ethnic history. Its programs include sponsorship of publications, research fellowships for advanced scholars, small grants and project funding for beginning scholars, and prizes for articles and books. Write:

Howard Applegate, Director
The Balch Institute
1627 The Fidelity Building
123 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19109

Roger Daniels has published: Concentration Camps, USA: Japanese Americans and WW II, (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1971), the initial volume in the Berkshire Series in Minority History under the editorship of Moses Rischin; and, with Spencer C. Olin, Jr., Racism in California: A Reader in the History of Oppression, (Macmillan, 1972).

Dan Caldwell has published: "The Negroization of the Chinese Stereotype in California", Southern California Quarterly, June, 1971, pp. 123-131, with three illustrations.

Victor Greene has published: "Polska i litewska minejszosc ethnicza w USA" (The Polish and Lithuanian Minority in the USA) in Problemy Polonii Zagranicznej, Tom VI-VII, Warsaw, 1971.

Papers read at the 4th annual conference of the American Italian Historical Association on the theme "Power and Class: The Italian-American Experience Today" held in New York City in October, 1971: Joseph Lopreato, University of Texas, "Social Science and Achievement Among Italian-Americans", Joseph Scimecca and Francis Femminella of SUNY, Albany, "Italian Americans and Radical Politics"; Silvano Tomassi, Center of Migration Studies, "Militantism and Italian-American Unity". The papers and other activities are described in the Association's newsletter for Fall, 1971.

The first issue of Societas: A Review of Social History appeared in Feb., 1971. This journal features articles dealing with social forces, the effect ideas and myths have on the relationships between men and constitutions in society, the ways in which interest groups help promote social changes, and the emergence of various types of administrative bureaucracies. The editor is now soliciting manuscripts, which should be submitted in duplicate. Priority will be given to articles which are analytical and/or interpretive in content. The journal is quarterly at $10 per year. Write:

Joseph Starr, Editor
Wisconsin State University
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901