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The Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter

Do Not Overlook the Land of Mountains: Swiss and Swiss-American Historiography

By Robert Sherwood

When attending historical conferences, I am often asked about my research interests. When I respond that I study the Swiss and Swiss-American history, I often hear, “What is there to study besides cheese, chocolate and banks?” If I had a Swiss Franc for every time I was asked this or a similar question, I would be able to open one of those famous Swiss bank accounts that have been in the news in recent years.

When examining the historiography of Swiss and Swiss-American history, definite issues emerge in these interconnected fields. I will treat each topic separately due to the varied nature of the areas of study.

Swiss History has often been submerged beneath the larger fields of French, German, or Italian history. This is due to the linguistic breakdown of the nation. In essence to find Swiss history, one often needs to dig into the surrounding nations. That is a subject that demands more examination than can be produced here. Due to a conscious decision in the 16th century, Switzerland has been relegated to a minor player in Europe. In essence, the simple acceptance of this integration of Swiss history into the larger fields of study further pushes Swiss History to the margins. For historians who work in smaller fields, to be successful, they often must adapt their research to fit into preexisting accepted fields of research.

The Swiss have been attempting to write their history since the 16th century with Aegidius Tschundi publishing the *Chronicon Helveticum* in 1570. Johannes von Muller wrote a two volume history of Switzerland in 1786 and 1788 titled *Geschichten Schweizerischer Eidgenossenschaft*. These two provide some of the best examples of the early histories. Von Muller’s work is credited as being Friedrich Schiller’s basis for the play *William Tell*.

More recently Edgar Bonjour wrote *A Short History of Switzerland* written in the heroic nature in-

dicative of the era. Great men, who did great things, are the focus of this and early histories. The stories were of William Tell, Arnold von Winkelried and the three great founders of the Confederation.

Even as Bonjour and others were writing these histories, these iconic images were starting to be deconstructed. First appearing in the early 1900s, national icons came under siege, including the nearly sacred story of William Tell and his role in the founding of the Confederation.

A subject search in Worldcat for Switzerland reveals around one half of all the books written about Switzerland, excluding the travel books, will focus on the Second World War. Resistance, spies, accommodation, treatment of interned troops and the Swiss role with the Jews all find multiple volumes of work during this time. Most have a positive focus, a celebratory focus, a general feeling that the Swiss survived because they were different, more resourceful or more clever than others.

By the late 1970s these long held assumptions were starting to be challenged. These attacks were hastened in the 1970s with works such as *Modern Switzerland* edited by J. Murray Luck and *The Swiss Without Halos* by J. Christopher Herold. These books began to reexamine the traditional Swiss historical narrative that had been so long accepted by non-Swiss as accurate even while the Swiss themselves had questioned their own stories for decades. It took this shift to help non-Swiss understand what the Swiss already suspected.

The 1970s also saw the appearance of the most respected book on Switzerland and its culture and history that had been written to date, *Why Switzerland?* by Jonathan Steinberg. It is a seminal work in the field. It is still the book that explains better than any

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From the IEHS President

2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society. We've come a long way in half a century! What started out as the "Immigration History Group" in 1965 now has over 900 individual and institutional members around the world. Our members study (im)migration and ethnicity in North America, not just the United States; and our *Journal of American Ethnic History* showcases the wide-ranging work in our expanding field. To more adequately reflect the research interests of our members, the Executive Board drafted a revised mission statement last year, which will be posted on our new website in the weeks to come. Stay tuned!

I am honored to begin a three-year term as president of the IEHS during this anniversary year. I remember the first time I picked up a copy of the *Journal of American Ethnic History*. I was an undergraduate at Georgetown University, working on my senior thesis, and (thanks to the encouragement of one professor) contemplating a career as an historian. Thirty years later, I am indeed fortunate to be part of this thriving intellectual community. As president, I hope to build on the work of my predecessors, but I need your advice and suggestions as we move forward together. Please let me know how our organization can be helpful and relevant to your professional goals and interests.

The IEHS grows stronger because of the contributions of its members who generously serve on our award and advisory committees, and coordinate our many opportunities for networking and scholarly exchange. In particular, I want to thank Hasia Diner for her leadership as president these past three years. Hasia will continue to serve as an *ex-officio* member on our Executive Board. I am grateful to Torrie Hester, Jim Barrett, and Julio Capó, who have just completed three-year terms on the Executive Board. Rachel Kranson is also stepping down after graciously serving as manager of the IEHS website for the past five years.

As we begin a new three-year cycle, I am glad to count on the advice of our newly elected vice-president/president-elect, Madeline Hsu, and our new Executive Board members Lucy Salyer, Carlos Blanton, and Maddalena Marinari, as well as current mem-

bers Carl Bon Tempo, Hidetaka Hirota, Michael Innis-Jiménez, Kevin Kenny, Annie Pollard, and Diane Vecchio.

I am happy to report that Tim Draper and Cheryl Greenberg have agreed to continue on as secretary and treasurer, respectively; and John Bukowczyk and Nick Molnar will continue to provide expert guidance for our publications as editors of the *Journal of American Ethnic History* and the *IEHS Newsletter*, respectively. Nick Molnar has kindly agreed to assume responsibility for our website and to coordinate our social media platforms as our new Digital Humanities officer.

The Executive Board has identified a number of goals for 2015-2016 (and beyond). Here are just four:

- We plan an overhaul of our website and social media to make these platforms more relevant, helpful, and user-friendly. We want to use these platforms to highlight the exciting work of our members; share information on exhibits, films, and conferences; create more opportunities for scholarly exchange; and contribute to a more informed public conversation on matters relating to immigration.

- We have created a new membership category for adjunct professors and high school teachers. Many of our teaching colleagues do not receive the institutional support they need to keep up with professional activities and networking. We hope this reduced rate will make it a bit more feasible for adjunct faculty and US history teachers to be actively engaged in the IEHS.

- We hope to work with an archive or university library to create a permanent repository for 50 years of IEHS records. We are currently exploring a few options but we welcome your suggestions for institutional sponsors.

- Finally, we are happy to report that the IEHS is collaborating with the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota on a conference marking the 50th anniversaries of our respective organizations, as well as the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Hart-Cellar Act, which changed the contours of immigration to the United States. The conference,

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“Immigrant America: New Immigration Histories from 1965 to 2016,” is scheduled for October 23-24, 2015 in Minneapolis (<http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/collaboration/2015conference/>).

As we move into our next fifty years, the IEHS is positioned to thrive. We plan to offer more opportunities for intellectual engagement and collegial support and fellowship. Many of us are the lone scholars of immigration/ethnicity at our institutions, and membership in the IEHS offers us the opportunity to build community. Please send us the names of students and colleagues who might benefit from participation in our community so that we may reach out to them. And please encourage your libraries to subscribe to the *Journal of American Ethnic History* if they don't do so already, if only for the students now writing their senior theses and contemplating careers as historians of immigration. Let's invest in their futures.

We look forward to seeing you at the October conference in Minneapolis!



Maria Cristina Garcia

President, Immigration and Ethnic History Society

Back issues of the Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter are now available in the “Newsletter Archive” section of the IEHS.org website!

Navigate the IEHS.org publications or type the following link directly into your browser:

http://www.iehs.org/newsletter_archive.php?PHPSESSID=2e9a70db68af99f4032aab8e1f901448

Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

The **Immigration and Ethnic History Society** and the **Immigration History Research Center** are sponsoring Immigrant America: New Immigration and Immigration Histories from 1965 to 2015, an interdisciplinary conference marking the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Immigration Act. The conference will be held on **October 23 to October 24, 2015** at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. Both organizations will be celebrating their 50th anniversaries in 2015. This conference uses the anniversary of the 1965 Immigration Act to explore the connections between contemporary and historical migrations and communities in the U.S. The organizers invite faculty, graduate students, independent scholars, artists, community advocates, and public history professionals from a wide range of disciplines to join us in examining all aspects of post-1965 immigration, including the ways in which it has affected the study of immigration before 1965. In examining how immigration has transformed the United States in the past fifty years, the organizers hope to contribute to the development of migration studies across disciplines and to identify key directions for future scholarship. For complete information, conference themes, and submission guidelines, please email ihrc@umn.edu.

The **Southern Jewish Historical Society** is holding its fortieth annual conference, “Jews in the Urban South,” in Nashville, TN, on **October 30, 2015 to November 1, 2015**. Proposals outside of this theme will also be welcomed. Possible topics include Jews as mayors of southern cities; Jewish interaction with other immigrant/ethnic minorities in the cities including black-Jewish relations; ethnic politics and civic activities; Jews and urban education, arts and culture; Jews and urban business; Jews and mobility; and Jewish religion and religious practices. Proposals comparing and contrasting the Jewish experience in southern cities with those in cities elsewhere in the country or in other countries are also welcome.

New Publications Noted

Akhtar, Saima. "Immigrant Island Cities in Industrial Detroit," *Journal of Urban History* 41 (2015), 175-92.

Andres Jr., Benny J. *Power and Control in the Imperial Valley: Nature, Agribusiness, and Workers on the California Borderland, 1900-1940.* College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2014.

Baker, Thomas N. "John Wood Weighs In: Making Sense of the Burr Conspiracy in the Western World," *Ohio Valley History* 14 (2014), 3-22.

Barber, Sarah. *The Disputatious Caribbean: The West Indies in the Seventeenth Century.* New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Beam, C. Richard, and Jennifer L. Trout. *Dorothy V. Eberly Fry: Pennsylvania German Teacher and Storyteller.* Millersville: Center for Pennsylvania German Studies at Millersville University, 2014.

Bourke, Joanna. "Pain: Metaphor, Body, and Culture in Anglo-American Societies between the Eighteenth and Twentieth Centuries," *Rethinking History* (London), 18 (Dec. 2014), 475-98.

Casey, Kathleen B. "'The Jewish Girl with a Colored Voice': Sophie Tucker and the Sounds of Race and Gender in Modern America," *Journal of American Culture* 38 (2015), 16-26.

Cruz-Malav, Arnaldo Manuel. "'Under the Strike of Liberty': Giannina Braschi Rewrites Empire," *American Quarterly* 66 (2014), 801-18.

Dillon, Brian Dervin, Richard H. Dillon, and John Dervin Yi An Dillon. "Gum Shan vs Tan Heung Shan: 19th Century Chinese in California and Hawaii," *California Territorial Quarterly* 100 (2014), 6-47.

Diner, Hasia R. *Roads Taken: The Great Jewish Migrations to the New World and the Peddlers Who Forged the Way.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015.

Fang, Jennifer Y. "To Cultivate Our Children to Be of East and West': Contesting Ethnic Heritage Language in Suburban Chinese Schools," *Journal of American Ethnic History* 34 (2015), 54-82.

Fanning, Sara. *Caribbean Crossing: African Americans and the Haitian Emigration Movement.* New York: New York University Press, 2014.

Freyer, Tony Allan. *The Passenger Cases and the Commerce Clause: Immigrants, Blacks, and States'*

Rights in Antebellum America. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2014.

Green, Nancy. "Location, Location, Location: We are Where We Write?" *American Historical Review* 119 (2014), 809-816.

Green, Nancy. *The Other Americans in Paris: Businessmen, Countesses, Wayward Youth.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014.

Gronbeck-Tedesco, John A. "Documenting The Crime of Cuba: An American Left and the 1933 Cuban Revolution," *American Quarterly* 66 (2014), 633-60.

Halter, Marilyn and Violet Showers Johnson. *African & American: West Africans in Post-Civil Rights America.* New York: NYU Press, 2014.

Halter, Marilyn, Marilynn Johnson, Katheryn Viens, and Conrad Wright. *What's New about the "New" Immigration? Traditions and Transformations in the United States since 1965.* New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Herzog, Ben. *Revoking Citizenship: Expatriation in American from the Colonial Era to the War on Terror.* New York: New York University Press, 2015.

Hochman, Brian. *Savage Preservation: The Ethnographic Origins of Modern Media Technology.* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014.

Hsu, Hsuan L. *Sitting in Darkness: Mark Twain's Asia and Comparative Racializations.* New York: New York University Press, 2015.

Janis, Ely M. *A Greater Ireland: The Land League and Transatlantic Nationalism in Gilded Age America.* Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2015.

Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, Anna D. *The Polish Hearst: Ameryka-Echo and the Public Role of the Immigrant Press.* Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2015).

Keyes, Elizabeth. "Race and Immigration, Then and Now: How to Shift to Worthiness Undermines the 1965 Immigration Law's Civil Rights Goals," *Howard Law Journal* 57 (2014), 899-929.

Kibler, M. Alison. *Censoring Racial Ridicule: Irish, Jewish, and African American Struggles over Race and Representation, 1890-1930.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015.

Killick, John. "Transatlantic Steerage Fares, British and Irish Migration, and Return Migration, 1815-60," *The Economic History Review* 67 (2014), 170-91.

(New Publications Noted continued from page 4)

Kirk, John A. *Race and Ethnicity in Arkansas: New Perspectives.* Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2014.

Kusz, Veronika. "A Wayfaring Stranger in the New World: Ernst von Dohnanyi's American Rhapsody," *American Music* 32 (2014), 201-22.

Labrador, Roderick N. *Building Filipino Hawai'i.* Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2015.

Landy, Craig A. "Society of United Irishmen Revolutionary and New-York Manumission Society Lawyer: Thomas Addis Emmet and the Irish Contributions to the Antislavery Movement in New York," *New York History* 95 (2014), 193-222.

Londono, Johana. "Barrio Affinities: Transnational Inspiration and the Geopolitics of Latina/o Design," *American Quarterly* 66 (2014), 529-48.

Lopez, Sarah Lynn. *The Remittance Landscape: Spaces of Migration in Rural Mexico and Urban USA.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015.

Lovoll, Odd S. *Across the Deep Blue Sea: The Saga of Early Norwegian Immigrants from Norway to America through the Canadian Gateway.* St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2015.

MacKay, Kathryn L. "The Chocolate Dippers' Strike of 1910," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 83 (2015), 38-51.

Massey, Douglas S., Jorge Durand, and Karen A. Pren. "Explaining Undocumented Migration to the U.S.," *International Migration Review* 48 (2014), 1028-61.

Mathiesen, Henrik Olav. "Belonging in the Midwest: Norwegian Americans and the Process of Attachment, ca. 1830-1860," *American Nineteenth Century History* 15 (2014), 119-46.

Mizuno, Takeya, "A Disturbing and Ominous Voice from a Different Shore: Japanese Radio Propaganda and Its Impact on the U.S. Government's Treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II," *The Japanese Journal of American Studies* 24 (2013), 105-24.

Molina, Natalia. "The Long Arc of Dispossession: Racial Capitalism and Contested Notions of Citizenship in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands in the Early Twentieth Century," *Western Historical Quarterly* 45 (2014), 431-47.

Montgomery, Erick. "Reconsidering the Immigration Story of President Woodrow Wilson's Paternal

Grandparents," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 102 (2014), 21-40.

Munoz Martinez, Monica. "Recuperating Histories of Violence in the Americas: Vernacular History-Making on the U.S.-Mexico Border," *American Quarterly* 66 (2014), 661-89.

Nakajima, Hiroo. "Beyond War: The Relationship between Takagi Yasaka and Charles and Mary Beard," *The Japanese Journal of American Studies* 24 (2013), 125-44.

Nauright, John, Alan G. Cogley, and David K. Wiggins. *Beyond C. L. R. James: Shifting Boundaries of Race and Ethnicity in Sport.* Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2014.

O'Brien, Gillian. *Blood Runs Green: The Murder That Transfixed Gilded Age Chicago.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015.

Pallares, Amalia. *Family Activism: Immigrant Struggles and the Politics of Noncitizenship.* New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2014.

Rosales, Steven. "'This Street Is Essentially Mexican': An Oral History of the Mexican American Community of Saginaw, Michigan, 1920-1980," *Michigan Historical Review* 40 (2014), 33-62.

Rottenberg, Dan. *The Outsider: Albert M. Greenfield and the Fall of the Protestant Establishment.* Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2014.

Ritchie, Fiona, and Doug Orr. *Wayfaring Strangers: The Musical Voyage from Scotland and Ulster to Appalachia.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014.

Snyder, Robert W. *Crossing Broadway: Washington Heights and the Promise of New York City.* Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2014.

Thomas, Leanna I. "A Fractured Foundation: Discontinuities in Acadian Resettlement in Louisiana, 1755-1803," *Louisiana History* 55 (2014), 198-227.

Trujillo-Pag n, Nicole. "Recovering Latinos' Place in New Orleans," *Louisiana History* 55 (2014), 177-92.

Ueda, Reed. *Crosscurrents: Atlantic and Pacific Migration in the Making of a Global America.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Vazquez, Alexandra T. "Learning to Live in Miami," *American Quarterly* 66 (2014), 853-73.

Wangelin, William. "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Krause's Moment in Macomb," *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 87 (2014), 35-48.

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other in English what it means to be Swiss, as well as the Swiss role in the world.

The 1990s also saw a critical review of the role of the Swiss in the Second World War. Their treatment of immigrants, including the Jews, came into question. The idea of collaboration, to a certain extent with the German National Socialists, also created many pages of print. *Nazi Gold* by Tom Bower is representative of the Nazi connection between Swiss bankers and Nazi officers. *Operation Lucy: The Greatest Enigma of World War II* opens eyes to the amount of espionage during the wars. In an effort to survive the war, the Swiss government made concessions to the Nazi government including access to its rail tunnels.

The last thirty years have seen a reevaluation on many issues including women's rights, environmentalism, the role of Swiss overseas in a formal and an informal position of the Swiss *vis a vis* the European Union. Micro-histories such as *Switzerland: A Village History* by David Birmingham and environmental histories such as *Creating Wilderness: A Transnational History of the Swiss National Park* by Patrick Kupper exhibit the changing face of Swiss historical scholarship. Even Ralph Weaver's *Three Weeks in November: A Military History of the Swiss Civil War of 1847* breaks from the traditional military historiographical scholarship to enter new realms.

Swiss-American History has faced similar issues and problems as has the field of Swiss history, including lumping the Swiss experience with those of larger migrant groups.

In Pennsylvania, much of the works about the Swiss focus on the Mennonites and Amish, but they are often grouped along with German immigrants. Works dealing with South Carolina include *To Make This Land our Own: Community, Identity, and Cultural Adaptation in Purrysburg Township, South Carolina, 1732-1865* merge the Swiss and their linguistic companions either the French or Germans into one group. In Ohio, the Swiss are included in the discussion with the French, while in the wine growing regions of California, they are Italians. Due to linguistic similarities, it makes sense why they were grouped into them. For the majority of the time, the Swiss were seen as bit players on the scene.

The one group that has done the most for the

preservation of Swiss-American history is the Swiss-American Historical Society. In the early years of the society, the focus was on traditional forms of history. In its first incarnation, the Society published two of the seminal works on the Swiss in the United States. *Prominent Americans of Swiss Origin* and *The Swiss in the United States* are pivotal to understanding the early history of Swiss and the way they were viewed prior to the Second World War. Reactivated in its present form in 1964, this organization has done much to advance the discipline for the advancement of the discipline.

Leo Schelbert, a retired history professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, almost single-handedly kept the Society alive during the 1980s and 1990s. His publications are legion and his influence on a rising generation of graduate students interested in immigration produced a litany of well-researched subjects.

Two recent biographies testify to the growing understanding of the role of the Swiss Americans in United States History. The first was a biography about Louis Agassiz, the prominent naturalist and geologist, who was born and raised in Switzerland who later immigrated to Boston to work at Harvard University. Christoph Irmscher, the author of the recent *Louis Agassiz: Creator of American Science*, provided some new insight into the life of Agassiz, including the more controversial aspects of his life with belief in polygenism, or the belief that humans came from multiple starting points instead of just one. Albert Gallatin is another Swiss-American that has been in the news more recently as well. He served as the fourth Secretary of the Treasury under Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, and he was one of the most important Secretaries of the Treasury in our nation's history. In 2010, Nicholas Dungan published the book *Gallatin: America's Swiss Founding Father* on the heels of *The Founders and Finance: How Hamilton, Gallatin, and Other Immigrants Forged a New Economy* by Thomas K. McCraw. Both books enable the readers to see the importance of this key Swiss-American figure.

These works follow a larger pattern, as historical events are reaching critical anniversaries. For example in 1710, what was to become known as New Bern, North Carolina was settled by Christoph von Graffenreid, a resident of Bern, Switzerland. As 2010 approached, there was a renewed interest in the settle-

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ment of the town as the three hundredth anniversary arrived. Multiple other examples of this have occurred with regards to Swiss settlements in Highland, Illinois, Vevey, Indiana, and Bern, Indiana. Illinois has seen a resurgence in recent years with publications, monographs, as well as edited primary works adding to the historical knowledge of the Swiss involvement in the region. Originally published for the one-hundredth Anniversary of its settlement by Swiss settlers, *Centennial History of Highland, Illinois 1837-1937* by A. P. Spencer, this book was republished for the 150th anniversary in 1977. Two edited primary sources: *Journey to New Switzerland* and *New Worlds to Seek* focus on the settlement of Illinois by the Koepfli, Suppiger and Lienhard families.

One last geographic area that has managed to see multiple works on its subject is New Glarus, Wisconsin. This small southern Wisconsin town, originally settled by Swiss from Canton Glarus, has seen multiple works written about its history. From micro-histories to political and social histories, this town has more works about it than any other Swiss-American community. *New Glarus 1845-1970* by Leo Schelbert remains the best book on the settlement and growth of the Swiss in south Wisconsin. In 1998, Steven Hoelscher wrote *Heritage on Stage: The Invention of Ethnic Place in America's Little Switzerland*, a work that focused on the creation of historical memory in New Glarus. *Sauerkraut, Suspenders, and the Swiss* by Duane H. Freitag, published in 2012, focuses on the political life of the Swiss descendants from 1845-1945. Freitag looks at voting patterns by the Swiss and their descendants as a window into a society of former first-generation immigrants.

Two recent works dealing with more recent Swiss immigration to the United States are *Emigrant Paths: Encounters with 20th Century Swiss Americans* and *Westward: Encounters with Swiss American Women* both by Susan Bosshard-Kalin. These social histories deal with the issues of 20th century immigration that impacted other migrant communities.

One final area that has been written about more recently is the role of the Swiss immigrants in war, especially in the American Civil War. There have been multiple edited primary sources dealing with life of Swiss-Americans serving in the American Civil War. *An American Apprenticeship: The Letters*

of Emil Frey 1860-1865 is a great example of this and includes the letters of the future President of Switzerland about his experiences in the American Civil War. Swiss-Americans served on the Confederate side as well; Heinrich Wirz was one of two Confederate officers to be convicted of war crimes and executed. In a recent issue of the *Swiss American Historical Review*, Albert Winkler wrote an excellent article dealing with the recent scholarship on Wirz as well as many other aspects surrounding the Andersonville Prison Camp.

Swiss and Swiss American History are currently seen as a very small niche within the larger world of history. But as the history of the country should tell us, size does not matter. Swiss and Swiss American history provide for another lens to see the world.



Robert Sherwood is an Associate Professor of History at Georgia Military College in Milledgeville, Georgia. His focus is on Swiss and Swiss-American History, especially the way that sports has affected societies.

Upcoming Historiographical Articles

Thank you Rob for your contribution to this edition of the *IEHS Newsletter*. Upcoming issues will feature exciting discussions and overviews of fields that will be of great interest to our membership, including Southern Jewish History, Filipino Migration, German Migration, and Mexican Migration. The upcoming contributors are:

Winter 2015: **Jon Malek**, Western University

Summer 2016: **Marni Davis**, Georgia State University

Winter 2016: **Heiko Wiggers**, Wake Forest University

Spring 2017: **Jaime Aguila**, Arizona State University

Any reader who has an interest in contributing to future issues of the *IEHS Newsletter* is encouraged to contact the Editor, Nicholas Trajano Molnar, at nmolnar@ccp.edu

Remembering Two Longtime IEHS Members Who Recently Passed

Raymond A. Mohl, one of the leading urban historians in the United States, died on January 29, 2015 in Boca Raton, Florida. He was 75. Ray was a core member of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, serving in important leadership positions and fostering the IEHS's growth as an organization.



Dr. Mohl did his undergraduate studies at Hamilton College in Clinton, NY and received a Masters degree from Yale University and a Masters and Ph. D. in History from New York University in 1968. His Ph. D. dissertation at NYU was published by Oxford University Press in 1971 as "Poverty in New York 1783-1825".

He taught at Indiana University Northwest in Gary, Indiana, and there started his research into the history of the modern American city. His work in Gary resulted in two books: "The Paradox of Progressive Education: The Gary Plan and Urban Schooling" and "Steel City: Urban and Ethnic Patterns in Gary, Indiana 1906-1950"

In 1971 Dr. Mohl took a tenured position at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, where he taught and researched for 25 years, serving as the Chair of the Department of History. In 1996 he accepted a position at the University of Alabama at Birmingham as Full Professor and as Chair of the Department of History, retiring after 18 years in September 2014 as a Distinguished Professor of History. During that extended time he broadened his research to address many issues related to urban history in the south. This research led to books and articles on civil rights, race relations and immigration in Miami and Latino immigration in Alabama and other areas of the South. He did extensive research in other areas of urban American History including the relationship between the Black and Jewish communities in Miami during the civil rights and peace movements.

Over a nearly 50 year career, he delved into many different fields and periods of American history: social welfare history, immigration history, the history of education, labor history, African American history, race relations, ethnicity, civil rights, urban politics, housing, planning and highway policy, among others. In recent years, he focused on the intersection of policy and politics. In all, Dr. Mohl wrote or co-authored more than a dozen books and more than 150 scholarly articles on these topics.

"Interstate – Highway Politics and Policy Since 1939", co-authored with Mark Rose, was recently released in its third edition. This book looks at how decisions were made about locating the Interstate Highway System in cities throughout the country and how race and politics were often involved in those decisions, resulting in massive disruptions of neighborhoods, mostly in poor and ethnic areas of the cities. The book also addresses the freeway revolts in Seattle, San Francisco, New Orleans, Nashville, Memphis and other cities, mostly unsuccessful efforts by groups of city residents to block the construction of freeways and the destruction of neighborhoods.

He was awarded Fulbright Teaching Fellowships at the University of Tel Aviv, the University of Western Australia in Perth, and the University of Gottingen in West Germany. He also taught at Florida State's London Study Center and was a Visiting Professor at the University of New Orleans.

Dr. Mohl is survived by his wife, Dr. Sai Sai Dong, of Birmingham, Alabama, his two children, Nancy Kristofferson, of Georgetown, Texas, and Raymond Jack Mohl, of Arcata, California, and their mother, Penny Burkhardt, of Pompano Beach, Florida, and grandchildren Conner and Jensen Stamm, and by brothers Gregory Mohl, of Roswell, Georgia, and Bruce Mohl of Bonita Springs, Florida.

Ray grew up in Tarrytown, NY, and was in the last graduating class of Washington Irving High School in 1957. He was on the school's baseball team - no ferocious mascot there— they were the Washington Irving "Authors."



Victor R. Greene, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Emeritus Professor of History, died on September 5, 2014 at the age of 80. One of the earliest members of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, Victor served terms as the organization's President and Executive Secretary. In 2009, he was a recipient of the Society's Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of the formative role he played in the creation of the organization.

A noted scholar and teacher in the fields of American immigration, labor, and popular culture, Professor Greene earned a B.A. cum laude in History from Harvard University (1955), an M.A. in History from the University of Rochester (1960), and a Ph.D. in History from the University of Pennsylvania (1963). Before joining UWM in 1971, Professor Greene taught at the University of Notre Dame and Kansas State University. At UWM, he served on a number of important campus committees, and generously donated to the UWM Foundation and its programs that benefit students. He established a fund in honor of his own hero, former Milwaukee mayor Frank P. Zeidler, an annual award presented to a history master's student interested in American history. Recognizing Professor Greene's long dedication to undergraduate learning, the History Department created the Victor Greene Award to honor the best paper written in a History capstone course.

Professor Greene was active in many professional and community history organizations. In 2009 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Immigration History Society after serving as President and Executive Secretary. He also served on the History Committee of the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Centennial Commission, and was on the editorial board of the *Journal of American Ethnic History* and *Polish American Studies*. He was a member of the executive boards of the Wisconsin Society for Jewish Learning, the Kothu African American Dance Troupe, the Wisconsin Labor History Society, and the Milwaukee County Historical Society. He also lectured and taught widely

around the United States, and in China, the Czech Republic, England, and Poland.

Professor Greene authored many acclaimed books. His Ph.D. dissertation on Slavic miners in Pennsylvania was published as *The Slavic Community on Strike: Immigrant Labor in Pennsylvania Anthracite* (1968). Other notable books followed, including *For God and Country: The Rise of Polish and Lithuanian Conscience in America, 1860-1910* (1975), *American Immigrant Leaders, 1800-1910: Marginality and Identity* (1987), and two wonderful studies on popular immigrant music, *A Passion for Polka: Old-Time Ethnic Music in America* (1992), and *A Singing Ambivalence: American Immigrants between Old World and New, 1830-1930* (2004). He also co-edited, with UWM History Professor, Margo Anderson, *Perspectives on Milwaukee's Past* (2009).

Victor was married to Laura Greene. They have two children, Geoff and Jessica, and three grandchildren.

Upcoming PAHA/IEHS Panel in Honor of Victor Greene at the 2016 AHA

A panel honoring the work and life of Victor Greene, which will be co-sponsored by the Polish American Historical Association and the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, will be part of the PAHA's slate of programming embedded in the American Historical Association Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. The panel will occur on Saturday, January 9, at 10:30-12:00.

Those participating have been encouraged to submit their remarks for publication in the form of a forum in *Polish American Studies*. These remarks will appear in an upcoming issue of PAS.

The panel will be an excellent opportunity to both honor a distinguished historian and colleague, and to consider the broader changes our discipline underwent since the 1960s.

2015 IEHS Award Winners

Theodore Saloutos Memorial Book Award

Ana Elizabeth Rosas

Abrazando El Espiritu: Bracero Families Confront the US-Mexico Border. University of California Press, 2014

David Fitzgerald and David Cook-Martin (Honorable Mention)

Culling the Masses: The Democratic Origins of Racist Immigration Policy in the Americas. Harvard University Press, 2014.

Ellen Wu

(Honorable Mention)

The Color of Success: Asian Americans and the Origins of the Model Minority. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014.

IEHS First Book Award

Ellen Wu

The Color of Success: Asian Americans and the Origins of the Model Minority. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014.

Carlton C. Qualey Memorial Article Award

Hidetaka Hirota

"The Great Entrepot for Mendicants"; Foreign Poverty and Immigration Control in New York to 1882." *Journal of American Ethnic History* 33 (2014), 5-32.

The George E. Pozzetta Dissertation Award

Laura Gutierrez

"Repatriation and Revolutionary Promise: Migration, US-Mexico Relations and Transnational Citizenship, 1920-1964." University of California, San Diego, 2014.

Suraya Kahn

"Finding Palestine in America: The Impact of the Arab-Israeli Conflict on Arab-American Identity." Rice University, 2014.

IEHS Outstanding Dissertation Award

Jared Toney

"Locating Diaspora: Afro-Caribbean Migration and the Transnational Dialectics of Race and Community in North America, 1910 - 1929." University of Toronto, 2014.

Elizabeth Craft

(Honorable Mention)

"Becoming American Onstage: Broadway Narratives of Immigrant Experiences in the United States." Harvard University, 2014.

OAH/John Higham Travel Grant

Adrienne Winans

Ohio State University

Daniel Morales

Columbia University

Preston McBride

University of California, Los Angeles

Announcement: New Book Review Editor

Effective June 1, Ely Janis will assume the position of book review editor for the *Journal of American Ethnic History*. Ely Janis is Associate Professor of History at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, where he teaches courses on 19th and 20th century American history. The University of Wisconsin Press recently published his book *A Greater Ireland: The Land League and Transatlantic Nationalism in Gilded Age America*. The IEHS thanks him for taking on this important role.

Books for review and correspondence about book reviews and review essays should be directed to:

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Activities Report Form

New Publications? Awards? Conferences Planned?
Research Projects? Give us full details in the space
below. Attach an additional sheet to provide more
information if necessary.

The Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter

Nicholas Trajano Molnar
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About the Immigration and Ethnic History Society

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 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

All rates include membership in the Immigration & Ethnic History Society, the quarterly *Journal of American Ethnic History*, and the biannual *Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter*.

Individuals (1 Year):

Print or Online: \$45; Both: \$55

Students (1 Year):

Print or Online: \$25; Both: \$35

Institutions (1 Year):

Print or Online: \$257; Both: \$310

Non-U.S. Postage (Canada/Mexico): + \$10

Other Non-U.S. Locations: + \$35

Single Issues of the JAEH:

Individuals: \$20; Institutions: \$50

Back Issues of the IEHS Newsletter:

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