



# The CCWH Newsletter

The Newsletter for the Coordinating Council for Women in History

Volume 42, Issue 2

May 2011

## CCWH PRESIDENT'S COLUMN BY BARBARA N. RAMUSACK

Since I would be attending as co-president of the CCWH, I was eagerly anticipating the 2011 meeting of the American Historical Association. Moreover, Barbara Daly Metcalf, a highly acclaimed scholar of Islam in colonial India, was the first historian of South Asia to preside at the AHA. In general Asia and in particular South and Southeast Asia had long been on the fringes of the AHA, much as women historians and women's history had been until the 1970s. After decades on the margin (only five AHA presidents have been specialists on Asian countries—three on China, one on Japan, and now one on South Asia—and usually about two to ten Asian history panels on the program), historians of South Asia now might achieve a certain level of recognition. The 2011 program included twenty panels on South Asia. Contributing to this total, the CCWH and the emerging Society for Advancement of the History of South Asia (SAHSA) cosponsored a two-session workshop, "South Asia and the Future(s) of Feminist Historiography." Consequently I was gratified but a bit frustrated that I had to choose carefully which panels on South Asia to attend in Boston.

By February women historians were expressing concern that the 2011 AHA meeting had few panels on

*“ We must be proactive in stimulating historians of women of all generations to submit panel proposals. ”*

women. Was this accurate? I counted fifteen panels on women in the United States and Europe versus twenty on any topic in South Asia. (I did not count panels that affiliate groups sponsored but had not submitted through the AHA program committee.) As a former chair of other program committees, I know that program committees have to make difficult decisions to achieve balance among various constituencies and an intellectually vibrant program; they can only select from panel proposals that have been submitted. Perhaps this more limited presence of historical scholarship on women at the AHA meeting might be attributed to historiographical trends to have more women's issues subsumed under the category of gender or to integrate papers about women on comparative panels analyzing topics such as environment, sexuality, war. Or maybe historians of women were preoccupied preparing proposals for the forthcoming Berkshire Conference on the History of Women in June 2011 at UMass at Amherst. However, it might be a wakeup call to CCWH members as well as historians of women that we cannot become complacent. We must be proactive in stimulating historians of women of all generations to submit panel proposals to the meetings of the AHA and our affiliate groups. The CCWH co-sponsorship of the SAHSA panel proposal indicates how the CCWH assists new groups to enrich the feminist historiography of women. It also demonstrates the continuing need for and value of the CCWH.

## CCWH MEMBER NEWS

Caroline Bynum's *Wonderful Blood: Theology and Practice in Late Medieval Northern Germany and Beyond* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007) won the Haskins Medal of the Medieval Academy of America in 2011 for the best book in Medieval Studies published in its year. Her new book, *Christian Materiality: An Essay on Religion in Late Medieval Europe* (Zone Books, 2011), has just appeared.

Dr. Máire Johnson is now Visiting Assistant Professor of Medieval History at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, and her contract was just renewed for a second year. She has successfully introduced two new classes here at OSU Stillwater, "Medieval Magic: Then and Now" (spring 2011) and "Celtic Culture through the Ages I" (fall 2011). Both have proven popular enough—even in advance press right now!—that students ask when she will offer them again as they were unable to fit the courses into their schedules the first time around. Máire's essay "Apocryphal Sanctity in the Lives of Irish Saints" was just published in the 2009 volume

(which came out in April 2011) of the Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium. She also gave a paper called "Feminine Holiness in the Lives of Irish Saints" at the Southeastern Medieval Association conference in November 2010, in Roanoke, VA. Her current project—other than finishing out this term's assignments, exams and marking and revising course material for the fall term—is preparing her dissertation, "Holy Body, Wholly Other: Sanctity and Society in the Lives of Irish Saints," for submission/publication.

Mary Beth Norton's new book, *Separated by Their Sex: Women in Public and Private in the Colonial Atlantic World*, has just been published by Cornell University Press. Its aim is to expose the origins of the public=male, private=female divide in Anglo-American thought. A teaser preview: evidently the first time women's household role is described as "private" is in a 1702 pamphlet. Members of CCWH who want to purchase the book at a 20% discount can contact Mary Beth directly at [mbn1@cornell.edu](mailto:mbn1@cornell.edu) and she will send them a pdf of a flyer they can use to do

so. Copies will also be available at the Berkshire conference.

Carla Pestana (Miami University, Ohio) won a Guggenheim Fellowship and spent much of 2010 working on her latest book, a study of the English conquest of Jamaica. With David S. Shields, she directed a Folger Shakespeare Library seminar on the early English Caribbean. Her essay, "Cruelty and Religious Justifications for Conquest in the mid-Seventeenth-Century English Atlantic," recently appeared in the collection edited by Linda Gregerson and Susan Juster entitled *Empires of God: Religious Encounters in the Early Modern Atlantic World*.

Lynn Weiner, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and Professor of History at Roosevelt University, is happy to report that she has co-authored an article with Janet Golden (Professor of History, Rutgers University, Camden): "Reading Baby Books: Medicine, Marketing, Money and the Lives of American Infants," *Journal of Social History* 44, no. 3 (spring 2011).

If you have a new book, article, conference presentation, graduation, recent promotion, service, teaching award, or other professional news to share, send it to [newsletter@theccwh.org](mailto:newsletter@theccwh.org).

The CCWH newsletter will now be published four times a year with the following submission deadlines:

The February issue has a submission deadline of January 15.

The May issue has a submission deadline of April 15.

The August issue has a submission deadline of July 15.

The November issue has a submission deadline of October 15.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### BY SANDRA TRUDGEN DAWSON

For those of us living in the Midwest, it certainly has been a long winter season but spring is finally here! I don't think I fully understood what a miracle spring really is until I moved to Sycamore almost three years ago. At the risk of sounding "twee," how on earth do plants survive months of permafrost? I'm guessing that spring is an even greater miracle in Alaska!

I arrived home the other day to find the Berkshire conference program in my mailbox. It is slim and full of wonderful panels and events. For those of you who are planning to attend the Berks at the University of Amhurst, there is a dessert reception co-sponsored by the CCWH and several other organizations on Thursday 9 June from 9:00 to 10:45PM. It will be a great time to meet old friends and make new ones. Please plan to come and introduce yourself and your colleagues to me and the other Board members who will be there. The conference program is packed with panels and events that promise to stimulate our interest and intellectual curiosity. If you are at the Berks, please consider sending a short article or report for our August newsletter.

Speaking of the newsletter, we have a new newsletter editor. Brittany Ferry has joined the CCWH team and brings with her valuable experience as an editor. Please join

me in welcoming Brittany to one of the most important positions in the organization. Please send her your news and articles. The CCWH has increased the number of newsletters to four each year. We need members to contribute articles, news and book reviews to make each newsletter interesting and readable. If you have published articles or monographs, contributed to an edited volume or attended a good conference, please let us know. If you have ideas for the newsletter that you think other members of the organization will benefit from, pass them along. Have you used a book in a class that has really resonated with your students? Have you designed a syllabus that incorporates new types of assignments? Have you found a really great website that should be explored? Perhaps you have discovered a new archive or an especially helpful software program? Please let us know so that we can share with our members. Let's all work to make the newsletter another place to go for new ideas to refresh our syllabi and our research.

As summer approaches, most of us have plans to undertake research or to meet that writing deadline. I have my ticket booked for a research trip to Britain, a new international calling plan for my cell phone, several jump drives, a list of archives and archivists, books to read on the plane, pencils, notepads, three-ounce bottles for all my liquids, and

foreign currency on hand. Traveling is not quite the pleasure it used to be, but I have developed a working relationship with the TSA at O'Hare. I'm sure many of you are planning similar trips to make the most of the summer break. That's why universities give us three months, isn't it? Many of us spend the summer simply catching up on all those things that have piled up through the academic year rather than taking time for ourselves to "re-charge." My challenge to you this May is to plan some activity that will stimulate your imagination and rest your body so that you are able to recharge body, mind and spirit. Read a novel, watch a movie, take some long walks, meditate, breathe deeply, and renew.

Until August....

**If you have ideas about a session for the 2012 AHA, contact Sandra Dawson to arrange co-sponsorship or to connect with other interested members. She can be reached at [exdir@theccwh.org](mailto:exdir@theccwh.org)**

**WOMEN AND SOCIAL MOVEMENT, INTERNATIONAL--1840 TO  
PRESENT: A NEW ONLINE ARCHIVE, PART II  
BY KATHRYN KISH SHLAR AND THOMAS DUBLIN**

We began the bibliographical work of the project by identifying organizations that printed records related to their international meetings. Our index terms now include the names of about 100 such organizations or meetings. The first organizations we treat were founded between 1840 and 1919. These eight decades cover a lot of ground, from the meetings of the International Council of Women to the founding of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in 1919.

The second group includes organizations founded from 1920 through 1959, which includes the creation of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the launching of the new era that the UN represented for women. In this era, the Cold War accelerated competition between East and West on women's issues, evident in the archive in publications of the Women's International Democratic Federation. New regional groups also gained strength, such as the Pan Pacific Women's Association.

The final group of organizations consists of those founded since 1960. Much of our work this past year has entailed expanding this group and acquiring sources related to their meetings and

agendas. Women's international activism has flourished in recent decades, transforming some existing organizations and creating new forums for activism, as in the UN conferences on women, 1975 to 1995, and the Casablanca Dream conference of 2007.

More than one-third of our 150,000 pages consist of conference proceedings. They begin with the founding of the International Council of Women in 1888, include a great many independent feminist congresses before 1920, and include numerous meetings of organizations dating from the past forty years. In all, we have identified 412 extant proceedings for events and have been able to scan 393 of them so far. Once the archive is complete, we hope that historians will help us expand on these numbers.

In addition to proceedings, we have scanned a wide range of reports, organizational correspondence, organizational histories, and testimony before international bodies. These reports are a rich source of worldwide comparative data. As we gather these materials from hundreds of repositories, we assiduously seek permission to reprint them, work that entails emails, correspondence, and phone calls around the world.

We are working closely with several archives and expect to include about 8,000 pages of manuscripts. Aletta Jacobs is an example of an author from whom we're including a significant amount of archival and printed material. We're very grateful for the support we've received from the Aletta Institute, which has kindly given us permission to digitize about 8,000 pages from their collections. From another dozen archives, we will digitize 25,000 more pages.

Among the books we have licensed to include in the archive is the book *Politics and Friendship*, which brings together the correspondence of leaders of the International Woman Suffrage alliance, including Dutch activist Rosa Manus and the American suffrage leader Carrie Chapman Catt.<sup>1</sup> A relatively little known activist, Madeleine Doty, spent much of her life working for the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in Geneva. Earlier, she traveled to Russia and covered the Russian Revolution for the women's magazine *Good Housekeeping*. The magazine's editors hired her to report on the Revolution and, blocked in the west by the European battlefields of World War I, her best route to Russia was through Japan. Photographs and correspondence in the archive permit us to track this

1. Mineke Bosch with Annemarie Kloosterman, eds. *Politics and Friendship: Letters from the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, 1902-1942* (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1990).

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period of her life and we follow this biographical material with the articles she published on the Russian Revolution.

Other author activists we are featuring include Minerva Bernardino of the Dominican Republic, one of three women delegates to the San Francisco meeting that founded the United Nations. With Eleanor Roosevelt, Bernardino participated at an early UN meeting in London in 1946, called to address an Open Letter to the Women of the World. We're also collecting extensive material by Nawal El Saadawi, a native of Cairo, who began her career as a medical doctor and worked with rural women. Her 1972 book, *Women and Sex*, became a feminist manifesto for her generation of women in the Middle East. She served as the founding president

of the Arab Women's Solidarity Association in 1986.

To escape death threats from Islamic fundamentalists in 1988, she began to live in exile, only returning to Egypt in 1996. We're including three of her books and several articles.

Another key author is Devaki Jain, a development economist and activist who in 2007 launched the Casablanca Dream, which seeks to bring together women of the Global South. These political leaders give us insight into the subjectivities as well as the power dynamics in women's international organizations, but many of the archive's sources express the hopes of women whose names appear only in passing in these records. Their history, along with that of prominent international women leaders, remains unwritten.

For almost 200 years, women's transnational organizations have generated remarkable records and attracted the energies of remarkable people. We do not yet know what these sources will reveal, but we do know there is nothing else like them in their capacity to permit scholars and students to study how women changed the world in a stunning range of geographies, cultures and eras.

We hope that this resource will find its place in many academic libraries and contribute to teaching and research in the transnational women's history that these documents address. As scholars and students become familiar with the archive, we hope to hear from members of the women's history community, to learn about their responses to the archive, and help to continue to reshape it in the years ahead.

### NEW BOARD MEMBER

Brittany Ferry earned her BA from Western Washington University in 2003, her MA in English from WWU in 2006, and her MA in history from Portland State, also in 2006. While at Portland State, she worked as a graduate editorial fellow for the *Pacific Historical Review*. Upon graduating, Brittany moved home to Cosmopolis, WA, and is now an employee of Grays Harbor College (Aberdeen, WA) as a writing tutor, GED prep instructor, and student orientation instructor. She also copyedits nonfiction manuscripts for McFarland and Co. and edits the newsletter of the Western Association of Women Historians.

### CALL FOR REVIEWERS

We would like submissions of book and media reviewers for sources relevant to women's history and women historians! Please consider telling us about a new source you've recently discovered, both its usefulness and its limitations, for future publication. Our book and media review editor, Whitney Leeson, can be reached at [wleeson@roanoke.edu](mailto:wleeson@roanoke.edu).

## NEW EXHIBIT: CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS IN CALIFORNIA BY STACEY ELLISON

On April 27, 2011, a new exhibit called "New Birth of Freedom: Civil War to Civil Rights in California" opened at the Nikkei Heritage Museum located at the Arboretum on the CSU Fullerton campus. Created by graduate students and co-curators Bethany Girod and Michelle Antenesse, it covers California's involvement from the Civil War to Civil Rights eras. One of the main features of the exhibit is audio files of civil

rights activists discussing their roles and experiences that are accessible by iPod Nanos. In addition, another graduate student, Stacey Ellison, designed a website to allow interested parties to submit stories related to the civil rights movement. This will give a voice to people who may not have had the opportunity to share their story. Furthermore, someone interested in participating in an in-depth interview may

make a request to be contacted by an oral historian. If you would like to participate in this oral history project, please visit: <http://new-birthoffreedomarboretum.blogspot.com/>. Links to the exhibit and the museum can be found on this page.

### CCWH PRIZE INFORMATION

**The CCWH Catherine Prelinger Award** is a \$20,000 award to a scholar whose career has not followed a traditional path through secondary and higher education and whose work has contributed to women in the historical profession. Deadline: September 15, 2011.

**The CCWH Nupur Chaudhuri First Article Prize** is a \$1000 award for the first article published in a referred journal by a CCWH member. The prize was created in 2010. Named to honor long-time CCWH board member, former executive director, and 1995–1998 co-president Nupur Chaudhuri, the article must be published in a refereed journal in one of the two years preceding the prize year. An article may only be submitted once. All fields of history will be considered, and articles must be submitted with full scholarly apparatus. Deadline: September 15, 2011.

**The CCWH/Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Graduate Student Fellowship** is a \$1000 award to a woman graduate student completing a dissertation in a history department. Deadline: September 15, 2011.

**The CCWH Ida B. Wells Graduate Student Fellowship** is a \$1000 award to an ABD female graduate student working on a historical dissertation, not necessarily in a history department. Applicants working on issues of race are particularly welcome. Deadline: September 15, 2011.

#### **CCWH Sponsored Award**

The National History Day Prize in Women's History, Junior Division, goes to a pre-collegiate student participating in the National History Day competition. Please visit <http://www.nationalhistoryday.org/SpecialPrizeinfo.htm> for more information.

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