

The CCWH Newsletter

The Newsletter for the Coordinating Council for Women in History

TAKING THE LONG VIEW OF A WIDE HORIZON SUSAN WLADAVER-MORGAN

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Column	1-2
Executive Director	3
Member News	4-5
Book Reviews	6-8
Affiliates	9

Here in the dog days of summer, I realize that conferences scheduled to take place in 2013 or 2014 seem ridiculously far away. Yet deadlines are quickly approaching, and summer offers an ideal time to plan paper and panel proposals, to reconnect with former fellow grad students and colleagues at other institutions, and to brainstorm about topics and funding sources before the crush of school-term responsibilities begins again.

Let me draw your attention to four impending deadlines in particular. The Western Association of Women Historians (one of our sister organizations) will hold its annual conference in Portland, Oregon, my hometown, May 16-18, 2013, but the submission deadline is September 14, 2012, only weeks away. Two more deadlines come on January 15, 2013, right after the New Orleans AHA: those of the Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA, which will meet in Denver, August 8-10, 2013, and the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, which will meet in Toronto, May 22-25, 2014. (The PCB's setting reflects the fact that the AHA recently clarified that the Branch's territory actually includes the entire area west of the Mississippi—a region far larger than the Pacific Coast, which makes Denver an optimal venue. The Toronto meeting of the Berks marks the first time that the conference will take place outside the United States, highlighting the international reach of the field of women's history.) Finally, the proposal deadline for the 2014 AHA conference in Washington, D.C. (January 2-5, 2014), is February 15, 2013, barely a month after the New Orleans AHA. In other words, in order to participate in any of these exciting conferences, we have to get our proposals in order and submitted in less than six months.

These four organizations evolved to serve different purposes. The AHA, founded in 1884, grew out of the professionalization movement of the late nineteenth century; its Pacific Coast Branch was established in 1903 to serve members who lived on the West

Coast and could not easily attend the regular AHA conferences. Although permitted to join both organizations, women historians could not participate fully in either for many years. Not only did women have fewer opportunities to present at conferences, but they were actively discouraged, if not completely barred, from networking with their professional peers at "smokers," all-male parties, and other social events.

By contrast, organizations for women historians like the Berks and WAWH developed both to overcome the professional isolation of women historians and to offer venues for them to develop professional skills. Women historians in New England started informal meetings in the 1930s that came to be known as "Little Berks." By the 1970s, the field of women's history had grown, which led to the triennial "Big Berks" conferences that now draw thousands of scholars from around the world. The WAWH likewise began with an informal meeting in 1969 that developed into a large organization that meets annually in western North America.

I cite these four coming conferences because I have a personal stake in all of them, one way or another, and because I'd like to discuss a long-time concern of the CCWH. Early in its history (meaning the 1970s), the CCWH fought long and hard for the principle of gender

TAKING THE LONG VIEW OF A WIDE HORIZON

SUSAN WLADAVER-MORGAN

inclusiveness in the AHA. Yes, there was a practical element involved. After decades when nearly all committees and panels at the AHA were male preserves, insisting that every panel had to include at least one woman literally changed the face of the AHA. This simple policy change gave women scholars the chance to present their work—and their own questions, which were often not the same questions as had been asked before—in the public forum of the AHA. But beyond the practical advantages for women historians, the principle of gender inclusiveness in organizations that purport to serve the entire profession mattered then and matters now.

Some may ask why this principle still matters. After all, women in large numbers now present their work at the AHA, the OAH, the PCB, and elsewhere; they chair important committees; indeed, they have served with distinction as the presidents and executive directors of the major professional organizations. One could easily assume that these gains will never disappear (and I hope that is so). But take a quick look at recent programs for these organizations. They reveal that program committees have grown more casual about enforcing the policy, and women historians now often present on single-sex panels, just as men once did and still sometimes do. To me, this represents a risky step backwards.

While putting together panels made up of friends and people who share our perspective offers convenience, giving up the principle of gender inclusiveness risks putting women's history and women historians in a ghetto of our own making. If women historians regularly present single-sex panels on women's history to audiences consisting mostly of women, the profession can again begin to treat us and our work as marginal to "mainstream" history and hence expendable; men-only panels may again become acceptable and women's panels may be shunted off to undesirable venues and time slots. However valuable our insights to the development of historical studies, what good will it do us or the profession to present them in an echo chamber?

The profession needs us to stay engaged with his-

torians who do not necessarily share our perspectives, and we need to remain active in approaching established topics with our own questions and through the lens of our own experience. Openness to ideas from outside our comfort zone can sometimes change our minds, and we need to give as many other historians as possible the chance to learn from us, too.

Finally, I would argue for the principle of gender inclusiveness on both tactical and strategic grounds. In the short term and the long, we all need allies, men and women alike. We need allies not just to make for conference panels that draw larger audiences to hear our ideas but also to help each other discover sources, coauthor articles and books, find jobs and post-docs for our students, maybe write references for our promotion files, and generally deal with the travails of academic life as fully contributing members of the profession. And to do this, we need to make a conscious decision to look beyond "the usual suspects" and to work with a broader range of colleagues.

Does this mean that we need to forgo the comfort and mental stimulation of organizations like the Berks, the WAWH, and the CCWH's other affiliates? Not really, because they have always served additional purposes and never professed to represent the profession as a whole. At the same time, the principle of gender inclusiveness should extend to a broader inclusiveness, even within organizations that serve mostly women—to people representing other disciplines, ethnicities, regions, or whatever other boundaries we may resist crossing.

So, as you begin working on your conference proposals, I hope you will keep these ideas in mind. Please also remember that CCWH offers co-sponsorship of panels at the AHA (and at other organizations, too), so we encourage you to keep us informed of proposals you have in the works and to use our resources and those of our affiliates to reach across boundaries of region, gender, and discipline. For our own sakes and the sake of the profession, we need to broaden our horizons and let ourselves be surprised by what we find.

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SANDRA TRUDGEN DAWSON

Greetings from the dry and dusty Midwest! This has been the hottest and driest summer I have experienced since moving to the Midwest—temperatures regularly between 90 and 101 degrees for over seven weeks so far! It is difficult to get motivated for the coming semester but the academic year is fast approaching, as are the deadlines for all our annual awards. All our awards have the same deadline: September 15. Details and application forms are available on the website: www.theccwh.org. Please remind your students, friends, and colleagues to apply for our awards. Here are the details:

1. The Nupur Chaudhuri First Article Award was created in 2010 as an annual \$1000 award that recognizes the best first article published in the field of history by a CCWH member. Named to honor long-time CCWH board member, former executive director, and co-president (1995–1998) Nupur Chaudhuri, the article must be published in a refereed journal in one of the two years prior to 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.
2. The CCWH Ida B. Wells Graduate Student Fellowship is a \$1000 award to an A.B.D. graduate student working on a historical dissertation that interrogates gender and/or race, not necessarily in a history department.
3. The CCWH/Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Graduate Student Fellowship is a \$1000

award to a graduate student completing a dissertation of any topic in a history department.

4. The Catherine Prelinger Memorial Award is a \$20,000 award given 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.

Again, thank you so much for all your support of these awards. As you renew your membership later this year, please give generously to our awards. We especially need donations to increase the Nupur Chaudhuri First Article Award fund to maintain this important prize. The CCWH is a registered non-profit organization and so your membership and donations are tax-deductible. You should receive a renewal letter and membership form in your mailbox during the first week of October. If your mailing address has changed since last year, please let Amy Essington know as soon as possible. You can contact her at membership@theccwh.org.

We have good news about our website! Sara Kimble has been working closely with Susan Kullman to give the CCWH website a complete overhaul and a new look. The “go live” date is fast approaching. Be sure to check out our new look. If you have any ideas, comments, or suggestions, please let me know at execdir@theccwh.org.

NEW WEBSITE: NURSING CLIO

Several members of the CCWH are part of the blogging team for the new site, Nursing Clio. Nursing Clio is a collaborative blog project that ties historical scholarship to present-day political, social, and cultural issues surrounding gender and medicine. The mission of Nursing Clio is to provide a platform for historians, health care workers, community activists, students, and the public at large to engage in socio-political and cultural critiques of the ongoing and historical debate over the gendered body. Join the conversation at <http://nursingclio.wordpress.com/>.

CCWH MEMBER NEWS

Catherine Allgor, FP '92, had her presidential appointment confirmed by the Senate on June 27, 2012, and joined the Board of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation. This fall sees the publication of two books: a document collection with essays from the University of Virginia Press, "The Queen of America: Mary Cutts's Life of Dolley Madison," and a volume from Westview Press aimed at college students: "Dolley Madison and the Problem of National Unity."

Amy Essington published a review of *Commodified and Criminalized: New Racism and African Americans in Contemporary Sports*, edited by David J. Leonard and C. Richard King, in the *Journal of Sport History* (Spring 2012). She presented the paper "Changing the Historical Profession: Organizations of Women Historians in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s" at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians (April 2012).

Leslie Friedman, along with Bonda Lewis and Judith Offer, all members of the Institute for Historical Studies, presented a panel titled "History by Other Means" at a meeting of IHS in Berkeley, CA, March 11, 2012. Bonda Lewis is an actor/writer/historian. She appeared in costume as Sara Bard Field, who crossed the US by car in 1915 to present a women's suffrage petition to Congress. Playwright/poet Judith Offer discussed the historical content of her plays and the importance of historical accuracy for their effectiveness. Historian, dancer, and choreographer, Leslie Friedman spoke on the meeting of dance and history in her work. She showed excerpts from her dance *Why? Because*, which was inspired by World War I and the music of Elgar's cello concerto.

Amy Forss's first book, "Black Print with a White Carnation: Mildred Brown and the Omaha Star Newspaper, 1938–1989," will be published by the University of Nebraska Press in the fall of 2013.

"Liberty's Daughters and Sons," a conference honoring **Mary Beth Norton** (organized by her former students Molly Warsh and Susanah Shaw Romney, who first met when Romney was the TA in the colonial history course that Warsh took as a freshman), will be held at Cornell University on September 28–29, 2012. Details are available on the conference website at celebratingmbn.wordpress.com. Mary Beth assures everyone that she is not quite ready to retire, however.

In mid-May **Karen Offen** was the featured speaker at the Baden-Wurtemberg Seminar of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Germany. Karen serves on the board of the International Committee for the Historical Sciences (IHS/CISH) and as a member of the program committee responsible for selecting themes for the 2015 International Congress of the Historical Sciences in China. The CISH board and general assembly will meet in September in Budapest. A call for papers on the selected themes will ensue.

Kerry L. Pimblott recently accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor in African American and Diaspora Studies at the University of Wyoming.

Rebecca Jo Plant has a new publication, *Maternalism Reconsidered: Motherhood, Welfare and Social Policy*, edited by Marian van der Klein, Rebecca Jo Plant, Nichole Sanders, and Lori Weintrob (Oxford: Berghahn Press, 2012).

Elizabeth Pleck's new book, *Not Just Roommates: Cohabitation after the Sexual Revolution*, was published by the University of Chicago Press in June 2012.

CCWH MEMBER NEWS (CONT.)

Rochelle Goldberg Ruthchild has published “From West to East: International Women’s Day, the First Decade,” *Aspasia*, vol. 6 (2012): 1–24, as well as entries for Mariia Pokrovskaiia (357–361), Mariia Chekhova (393–397), Alexandra Kollontai (407–410), Anna Kal’manovich (411–414), and Anna Filosofova (414–418), in *Feminist Writings from Ancient Times to the Modern World: A Global Sourcebook and History*, vol. 2, edited by Tiffany K. Wayne (Santa Barbara: Greenwood Press, 2011).

Michelle Tusan’s new book, *Smyrna’s Ashes: Humanitarianism, Genocide and the Birth of the Middle East*, will be published in the Berkeley Series in British Studies at University of California Press this fall.

Nancy Unger has published a new book, *Beyond Nature’s Housekeepers: American Women in Environmental History* (Oxford University Press). According to environmental historian Virginia Scharff, “In this rich, learned, and lively synthesis, Nancy C. Unger reveals the astoundingly varied, crucial roles women have played throughout American environmental history.... A marvelous achievement!”

If you have a new book, article, conference presentation, have recently graduated or won a recent promotion, teaching award, have completed professional service, or have other professional news to share, send it to 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 February 1.

The May issue has a submission deadline of May 1.

The August issue has a submission deadline of August 1.

The November issue has a submission deadline of November 1.

LERNER-SCOTT PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Lerner-Scott Prize is given annually by the Organization of American Historians for the best doctoral dissertation in U.S. women’s history. The prize is named for Gerda Lerner and Anne Firor Scott, both pioneers in women’s history and past presidents of the OAH. A dissertation must be completed between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2012, to be eligible for the 2013 Lerner-Scott Prize. The prize will be presented at the 2013 OAH Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California, April 11–14. The application deadline is October 1, 2012.

Please send an electronic attachment of your complete dissertation to each of the three committee members listed below by **October 1, 2012**. Each application must also include a letter of support from a faculty member at the degree-granting institution, along with an abstract and table of contents. Please provide email addresses for both the applicant and the adviser, if available. The final decision will be made by February 1, 2013. The winner will be provided with details regarding the OAH annual meeting and awards presentation, where s/he will receive a cash award and a plaque.

Leslie A. Schwalm (chair), University of Iowa, leslie-schwalm@uiowa.edu.

Ruth M. Alexander, Colorado State University, ruth.alexander@colostate.edu.

Celia E. Naylor, Barnard College, cnaylor@barnard.edu.

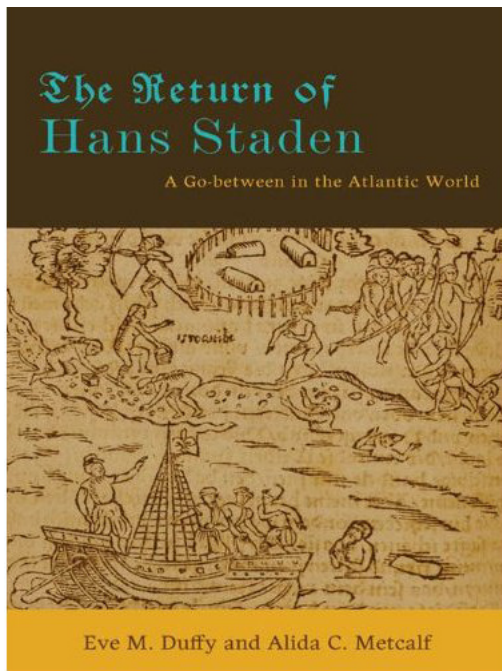
BOOK REVIEW

MARY LINDEMANN, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

The Return of Hans Staden: A Go-between in the Atlantic World. Eve M. Duffy and Alida C. Metcalf. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012. 192 pp. \$25.00. ISBN 978-4214-0346-5.

The dedication to this elegant little volume succinctly proclaims its purpose: “For our students.” Those three words prompted this reviewer to reflect on the attributes that can make a work succeed in the not-always-simple dual endeavor of engaging and instructing students. Balancing a good story with a strong interpretive line is not an easy task by any means. Several examples—starting with Natalie Zemon Davis’s rightly praised *The Return of Martin Guerre* and, for that matter, Carlo Ginzburg’s somewhat more difficult, but nonetheless fascinating *The Cheese and the Worms*—show how this can be elegantly accomplished. *The Return of Hans Staden* compares very favorably to both these classics in presenting a rousing story and solid introductions to major scholarly debates.

The general strategy Eve M. Duffy and Alida C. Metcalf deploy will be familiar to most scholars: the use of an individual’s story or an individual text as a window into a particular historical period or situation. As



historians of early modern Germany and colonial Latin America respectively, the authors are especially well placed to illuminate and interpret both sides of Staden’s *True History* that relates the narrative of his life, including his travels to Brazil and his captivity among the Tupinambá. Most sensational of his revelations was his characterization of his captors as cannibals, a perception that “whether accurate or not, became the justification for the enslavement of Indians” (p. 6). The truth or falsity of this, like the content of all travelers’ tales, thus allows the authors to consider the historical complexities inherent in disentangling “lies” and “truths” and probe the multiple, snarled meanings of dissimulation.

It also opens up an opportunity to explain the major noun in the subtitle: “go-between.” Hans Staden is a triple “go-between.” By delving into the differences and similarities of physical, transactional, and representational go-betweens in the early modern world, Duffy and Metcalf plunge us into its ambiguities, attractions, and horrors. Like many early modern adventurers, Staden lived several lives; he was a “simple traveler” (physical go-between), a cultural intermediary (transactional go-between), and an author (a representational go-between). The book takes moments and incidents in Staden’s life and from his *True History* as jumping off points for constructing and presenting what might oxomoronically be called a “panoramic slice” of early modern societies and cultures. The chapter on “The Traveler Returns,” for example, demonstrates how the authors pull threads out of Staden’s *True History* to weave a tapestry representing essential features of early modern German history. The Reformation, the Holy Roman Empire, the city of Marburg, German humanists, and especially Staden’s collaborator Johannes Dryander, all make cameo appearances. The same method works just as smoothly in the earlier chapters that use Staden’s experiences as a captive to flesh out the story of his life in Brazil and among the Tupinambá Indians, as well as to rescue unknown settlers, explorers, sailors, women, and others who traversed the Atlantic or lived on its edges from historical oblivion.

Particularly intriguing is the final chapter on images. Staden richly illustrated his book with woodcuts that,

BOOK REVIEW (CONT.)

MARY LINDEMANN, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

although they did not reach a high level of artistic quality, were nevertheless critical in fashioning a “second picture narrative” (p. 126) thus rendering his work “unique in both its voice and in its imagery” (p. 134). Here Staden appears in his guise of a representational go-between. But at the same time, and just as valuable for students, is the close study Duffy and Metcalf produce on the sixteenth-century book trade, which offers a primer on the dynamics of biblio-collaboration. Here, too, the pronounced ethnographical quality of Staden’s observations becomes obvious. Staden’s description of cannibalism among the Tupinambá, for example, projects a quite subtle and sensitive understanding of the ritualistic quality of cannibalism, despite his shocking treatment and his lively fear of being the next meal.

There are a great many things to admire in this slim volume and the authors’ limpid prose and their sure explanation of major historical themes are only two of them. Of course, they have to paper over often large cracks in the story or draw on other sources to fill in yawning gaps. Inevitably, much speculation occurs, although it is intelligent guesswork based on an excellent command of their respective historical fields. The text is rife with words like “probably,” “supposing,” and “likely” or phrases like “we may speculate” or “it would have been likely that.” Yet, like the many rhetorical questions that pepper the text, these speculations gently ease the reader into discussions of something historically more valuable, such as the impact of epidemics on native populations; overturn accepted verities; or explode historical myths by, for example, stimulating an awareness of how much motion, physical and mental, existed in the Atlantic world even in the sixteenth century. One must in the end agree with the blurb on the back cover that Duffy and Metcalf have produced an “artful and accessible” interpretation. They have succeeded in their aim of allowing us to “gaze into the sixteenth century” (p. 144). They are our go-betweens.

BOOK REVIEW

VIRGINIA R. BOYNTON, WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

For Business and Pleasure: Red-Light Districts and the Regulation of Vice in the United States, 1890–1933. Mara L. Keire. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010. 231 pp. \$60.00. ISBN 978-0-8018-9413-8.

Mara Keire’s *For Business and Pleasure*, which seeks to explain the economic motivations and strategies of anti-vice reformers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, argues that “the purpose of the anti-vice movement was to destroy the business of vice” (p. 88). With a focus on the methods used by Gilded Age, Progressive Era, wartime, and Prohibition Era anti-vice reformers, Keire stresses the impact on the vice trades and on urban machine politics of reformers’ efforts to restrict or eliminate gambling, alcohol consumption, and, especially, prostitution.

Drawing on a range of archival and published primary sources, Keire begins her analysis with the efforts of late-nineteenth-century anti-vice reformers to remove brothels, saloons, and dance halls from residential neighborhoods by restricting them, via “reputational segregation” (p. 3) (not to be confused with racial segregation) to well-defined red-light or “tenderloin” districts in downtown commercial areas. Their success in doing so caused urban purveyors of “commercial vice” (or the “sporting class”) to flourish in the newly formed red-light districts, which in turn led later Progressive-Era reformers to attempt a variety of methods to eradicate the

BOOK REVIEW (CONT.)

VIRGINIA R. BOYNTON, WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

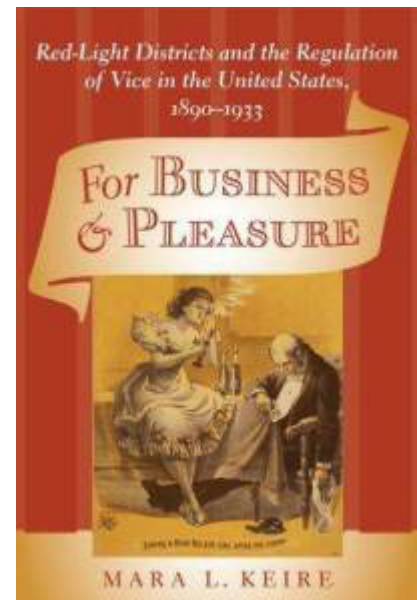
red-light districts established by their predecessors, districts which often abutted the respectable “white-light” theater districts.

Keire detours briefly from her general emphasis on New York City and Chicago to consider the impact on vice reformers of the early-twentieth-century race riots that originated in the tenderloin districts of Atlanta, Georgia, in 1906 and Springfield, Illinois, in 1908. She highlights reformers’ shift in the early 1910s from support for reputationally segregated but interracial vice districts to racially separate neighborhoods that included both residences and commerce, particularly in New Orleans, noting that “during the 1910s, an increasing number of white leaders renounced mixed-race red-light districts and started to think about a new type of segregation, residential separation by race, as a way to limit social disorder” (p. 62). Moreover, Keire argues “city officials and social reformers used the transgression of social norms and the possibility of interracial violence as a rationale for regulating urban vice” (p. 68).

Keire’s attention to the range of responses to the “white slavery” hysteria of the decade from 1907 to 1917 provides useful insights into the ways Progressive anti-vice reformers used “the language of economics, particularly the corrupting power of trusts and their control of society, to frame their attack on urban vice” (p. 69). It was not until war turned the federal government’s attention to the potential impact of prostitution on soldiers’ battle-readiness that the focus of reform shifted from those who controlled and profited from the sex trades to the women who worked as prostitutes. Ultimately, World War I led not only to federal targeting of prostitutes for allegedly infecting soldiers with venereal diseases but also to greater federal attention to alcohol consumption, with postwar nationwide Prohibition causing what Keire labels the “cartelization” of the illegal trade in alcohol: monopoly control of the alcohol trade by a few individuals in each city.

Keire broadly applies her analysis of the economic motivations and strategies of anti-vice reformers to all “urban” areas, yet most of her analysis rests on sources pertaining specifically to New York City and Chicago, and, to a lesser extent, New Orleans. While she incorporates material from a number of other cities, both large and small, her undifferentiated approach does not always allow for consideration of important local differences in political structure, reform culture, or population demographics.

This volume will provide students and generalists with an interesting overview of anti-vice reform approaches, particularly for the years from 1890 to World War I; however, the author’s tendency to overgeneralize from her conclusions based on sources specific to New York City and Chicago will make her study of less value to specialists.



CALL FOR REVIEWERS

We would like volunteer 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.

AFFILIATE NEWS

National Collaborative for Women's History Sites

Nupur Chaudhuri

NCWHS members have much to report. Recently, NCWHS members were thrilled to learn that US Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has committed to increasing the number of women's history sites and the interpretation at existing ones, naming the NCWHS a model partner. Secretary Salazar announced this intention at a March 17 Town Hall discussion at the Maryland Women's Heritage Center that he hosted as part of Interior's ongoing efforts to capture and tell a more inclusive story of America. In addition to two top National Park Service officials, Peggy O'Dell and Dr. Stephanie Toothman, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, First Lady of Maryland Judge Katie O'Malley, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks Rachel Jacobson, and more than sixty leaders in the women's history and heritage movement attended. They focused on efforts to preserve and highlight the many contributions of women throughout American history. Secretary Salazar's statement can be seen at www.ncwhs.org.

NCWHS was active at the 2012 Organization of American History conference. Members of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites had their annual meeting on Friday, April 20, at the conference. The annual meeting started with a continental breakfast at Frontier Airlines Center and was followed by NCWHS's OAH/NCPH session, "Lessons Learned in Researching, Preserving, and Interpreting Women's History at Historic Sites." The speakers were Peg Strobel (University of Illinois-Chicago and ex-co-president of CCWH), Heather Huyck (president-NCWHS and a member of CCWH), Beth Boland (NPS Heritage Education Services), and Pam Sanfilippo (US Grant NHS). Connie Sexauer (University of Wisconsin-Marathon County) was the commentator.

Upstate New York Women's History Organization

Mary Berkery, managing editor, *Journal of Women's History*

The Upstate New York Women's History Organization (UNYWHO) recently held a conference on April 21, 2012, on the Binghamton University campus. The conference was co-sponsored by the *Journal of Women's History*, edited by Jean Quataert and Leigh Ann Wheeler at Binghamton. Susanne Klausen of Carleton University in Ontario delivered the keynote address on her new project on abortion in South Africa during Apartheid. Klausen was the recipient of the *Journal of Women's History's* bi-annual prize for best article published in the *JWH* from 2009–2010. The conference also featured eight panels on a variety of women's, gender, and sexuality history themes, including "dressing women's bodies," "sex and state regulation," and "gender and the language of the family." Panelists included faculty and students from universities in upstate and downstate New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and California. Panel presentations ranged from graduate students working on their dissertations to distinguished historians presenting on new topics for book projects and articles, but regardless of their previous experience, many who attended found the conference to be helpful and rewarding. This type of smaller, regional conference has allowed for a deeper sense of community among women's historians.

UNYWHO, an organization formed in the 1970s, was resurrected recently as a networking and knowledge-sharing organization for women's historians throughout upstate New York. The 2012 Binghamton conference was the second since the organization's revival. In 2009, a conference was held at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York.

2014 BERKSHIRE CONFERENCE: TORONTO CALL FOR PAPERS

For the first time in its history, the Berkshire Conference on Women's History (also known as the "Big Berks") will be held outside of the United States, at the University of Toronto, on May 22–25, 2014. The major theme of the conference is Histories on the Edge/Histoires sur la brèche. The conference in Canada prompts conceptual, historical and analytic engagement with critical edges—sharpening, unsettling, de-centering, de-colonizing histories in a global context. Edges are spatial: impenetrable borders, stifling boundaries or protective borders and spaces of smooth entry. Edges evoke the creative and the avant-garde. Entangled in the idea of edges are rough encounters, jagged conflicts as well as intimate exchanges. It speaks to the alternative spaces the "edged out" have carved for themselves and to efforts made to create a common ground, or commons, on which to make oppositional histories.

Our theme reflects the growing internationalization of this triennial conference. It recognizes the precariousness of a world in which the edged-out millions demand transformation, as well as the intellectual edges scholars have crossed, re-created, and worked to bridge in the academy and outside of it. We invite all modes of critical thinking and work that represents a wide range of historical methodologies. In addition to established historical approaches and sources, we seek sessions using other evidence, such as visual and material artifacts, sonic objects, oral traditions, and affective archives. We encourage methodological risk-taking and hope for a mix of established and newer approaches. We especially invite conversations across centuries, cultures, locales, and generations. We welcome media panels that bridge historical and contemporary work related to art, image, film, and other types of cultural production and cultural institutions.

For a complete list of the subthemes to submit under, and for more information, please visit the website at <http://berksconference.org>. For questions, write: bcwh@utsc.utoronto.ca or. **Proposals due Jan 15, 2013.**

WOMEN'S HISTORIES: CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference: "Women's Histories: The Local and the Global"

The International Federation for Research in Women's History and Women's History Network, UK, announces a call for papers for the International Conference on "Women's Histories: The Local and the Global" to be held Aug 29–Sep 1, 2013, at Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield, UK. Keynote speakers will include Mri-nalini Sinha; Alice Freeman Palmer, University of Michigan; and Catherine Hall, University College London.

This international conference will explore the history of women worldwide, from archaic to contemporary periods. Engaging with the recent global and transnational turns in historical scholarship will examine the ways in which histories of women can draw on and reshape these approaches to understanding the past.

You are invited to submit proposals for individual papers or panels (three papers plus commentator) relating to the following strands: (1) the impact of global change on women's lives in specific localities; (2) relations between women in the context of global inequalities of power; (3) women's local responses and resistances to imperialism and globalization; (4) women, migrations, diasporas; (5) empires at home: women in imperial metropolises; (6) women as local producers, traders and consumers in a globalizing economy; (7) women's life histories and personal relationships across geo-political divides; (8) women's involvement in transnational networks; (9) national women's histories in comparative perspective; (10) teaching women's history in a globalising world; (11) the place of the global in local, community and public histories of women.

Please submit your proposal online through the conference website at <http://www.ifrwh2013conf.org.uk/submit-paper> or visit the website at <http://www.ifrwh2013conf.org.uk> for more information. Also, you may contact Samantha Jackson, events officer, at conference21@shu.ac.uk with questions.

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