

OAH OHIO ACADEMY OF HISTORY Newsletter

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OHIO ACADEMY OF HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXI, Number 1

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

David M. Fahey
Miami University

The Ohio Academy of History has been an important part of my professional life since I attended my first Spring meeting in April 1970. Probably it is the most successful statewide organization which embraces all historical specializations. Like other scholars, historians increasingly define themselves by their specializations. The willingness of those of us living in Ohio to assume an additional identity as members of a statewide community of historians provides a kind of balance, or so I think. For most of us time is even scarcer than money. Consequently, I am grateful that my fellow Ohio historians are generous with their time as they attend the Fall and Spring meetings, volunteer to present papers, provide copy for the newsletter, and agree to serve on committees and to be candidates for office.

And what of my agenda? In the months leading up to my one-year term as president, I have been busy appointing committees. I have done my best to include "new people." The Academy needs to renew itself continuously. I also have become aware that the office of secretary-treasurer has become onerous, certainly a burden for anybody providing institutional continuity by serving for several years. It must be a priority in 2000-2001 to restructure the office which may mean creating an additional elected or appointed position. Another thing to think

about: adapting the Academy to the technological opportunities of the Internet. How should the newsletter be published? How should the committees and the executive council meet? How should the officers communicate with academic departments, historical societies, and other places where historians work? Finally, how can we share our knowledge and love of history with the public at large?

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Dissertation Award Nominees

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Nathan Citino. "Eisenhower, King Saud, and the Politics of Arab Nationalism: U. S.-Saudi Relations, 1952-1960." Ph.D. diss., Ohio State University, 1999.

During the early Cold War, the United States depended on Middle Eastern oil to sustain European reconstruction and defense. Its extraction involved a series of arrangements among oil-producing and transit states, petroleum corporations, and the western allies known collectively as the "postwar petroleum order." This study examines the U.S. relationship with Saudi Arabia in the context of the postwar petroleum order and considers how integration into global oil economy affected the Saudi state.

The Eisenhower administration relied on the Arab-American Oil Company (Aramco) to defuse conflict with the Saudi government through expanding royalties, a diplomatic approach that emerged from the domestic political economy. When Arab nationalism and Cold War tensions threatened the postwar petroleum order, however, Eisenhower cultivated King Saud as an Arab leader who could rival Egyptian President Abd al-Nasir.

By the late 1940s, Britain and the United States had reached a compromise vision for Western Europe that required Anglo-American cooperation in the Middle East. Only through continued access to Persian Gulf oil could Britain remain part of the multilateral economy in Europe fostered by the U.S. Yet, while the U. S. employed a corporatist oil diplomacy, the British consolidated their imperial presence in the Gulf. Anglo-American disputes including the Buraymi and Suez crises stemmed from a basic clash between these policies.

The private structure of the U.S. oil diplomacy played a major role in the evolution of the state founded by Abd al Aziz ibn Saud. The king's reliance on Aramco obviated the need for an elaborate administration and helped to delay political reform by his heirs, Saud and Faysal, who struggled for power following their father's 1953 death. A decline in royalties finally necessitated governmental reforms and led to the formation of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which was a conservative attempt by Arab and non-Arab oil-producers to secure the best possible terms within the postwar petroleum order.

The dissertation is based on research at the Eisenhower Library, national Archives, and the British Public Record Office; it draws upon Aramco documents found in the William E. Mulligan papers; and it incorporates published, Arab-language sources.

Barbara Terzian. "Effusions of Folly and Fanaticism": Race, Gender, and Constitution-Making in Ohio, 1802-1923." Ph.D. diss., Ohio State University, 1999.

This dissertation argues that Ohioans used their constitutional conventions as arena in which to contest competing visions of their community, particularly racial and gendered constructions of that community. On the simplest level, the dissertation is the story of how the words "white male" came into Ohio's first constitution in 1802 and how, eventually, they came out. On another level, it describes what Eric Foner calls "the battles at the boundaries:" the struggle of Ohio's African-Americans and women to break down the boundaries that excluded them from full participation in the political and civic community.

The dissertation also analyzes the role of the Ohio Supreme Court in judicially defining the boundaries of the political and civic community. By construing the word "white" to mean any

person with more than one-half white blood, the Court included people of color in the political community by deciding who could vote, and, in the civic community, by deciding who could attend public schools. The Court's opinions themselves and the repeated challenges to the Court's decisions reflected that the Court did so against the wishes of many white Ohioans.

For Ohio's African-American men, suffrage came with ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment. But white opposition remained long after the Fifteenth Amendment and the legislature's decision to eliminate separate schools. The refusal to remove the word "white" from the Ohio constitution in 1912 illustrates the persistence of a white-only vision of the community by a large segment of Ohio's white men.

Ohio suffragists, although primarily white and middle-class, continued to link their own status as disfranchised citizens and the rights of African-Americans well past ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment. They sought to remove not only the word "male" but also the word "white" from Ohio's definition of voting qualifications. Only once Ohio women could vote, as a result of the nineteenth amendment, did Ohioans change their constitution, a symbol of the community, to reflect a community of black and white, male and female on equal terms, by removing the words "white" and "male."

MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Douglas Gibson Gardner. "Andersonville and American Memory: Civil War Prisoners and Narratives of Suffering and Redemption." Ph.D. diss., Miami University, 1999.

This dissertation is an exploration of how Civil War prisoners of war and others experienced, remembered, and communicated wartime sufferings to themselves, contemporaries, and posterity. The work contributes to scholarship in wartime experience and memory associated with

Paul Fussell and John Keegan and, more recently, many Civil War scholars. The major sources for the study are the textual narratives, songs, and visual images produced by or about prisoners during and after the war. Civil War prisons, and sometimes extreme conditions that prevailed at Andersonville, Elmira, and elsewhere, especially during the last two years of the war, proved the most divisive points of postwar debate among whites about the war's conduct. Postwar remembrances of black soldiers and the special dangers they faced as prisoners increasingly disappeared from white reflection even as blacks were segregated from the American mainstream.

Prisoners and others had cultural materials at hand to help them explain captivity. Narratives about captivity, sacrifice, and redemptive suffering—grounded in biblical and Christian archetypes—filled antebellum America: narratives about slavery and about captives of Indians were only the most obvious uses of tropes applied to limitless situations. Redemptive suffering was in general the most commonly used metaphor to describe and justify the war's horrific sufferings. The sufferings of prisoners took place in specific human bodies. When emaciated Union prisoners returned North in a special exchange in early 1864, Congressional committees, the Sanitary Commission, and the illustrated press published engravings depicting and lamenting the grotesque thinness of these "living skeletons," a term borrowed from the commercial sideshow associated with P.T. Barnum. Parlor songs and children's magazines provide insights into how the relatives of prisoners experienced the uncertainties of their kin's confinements.

Union prisoners, politicians, and publicists set the parameters and bitter tone of reflection and intersectional debate about prisoners during the war. Not until the late 1870s and beyond, and especially in the 1890s, did Confederate veterans and lost Cause promoters and guardians such as the United Daughters of the Confederacy mount effective counterattacks on the Union position.

Anita Larson. "Death at the Hands of Another: Domestic Homicide in Post World War II Ohio, 1946-1960." Ph.D. diss., Miami University, 1999.

Public outcries against domestic abuse have occurred twice in the United States, first in the mid-nineteenth century and again in the mid-twentieth century. Within this approximately one hundred year period between public outcries against wife beating, I argue that a two-part societal compromise took shape. Public concern over wife beating peaked in the late nineteenth century, with the passage of laws that made wife beating illegal in most states. As public attention to domestic violence waned in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the compromise began to take shape. Men were allowed to beat their wives, providing it remained private. But if such violence became public knowledge, a response that deflected public outrage was necessary to keep that compromise intact.

This study focuses on the fifteen years following World War II, 1946-1960. Defiance, Montgomery and Franklin counties in Ohio were selected for a case study format. Data came from death certificates and homicide criminal case files in all three counties. Newspapers and popular magazines were also examined for their coverage of domestic abuse and homicide.

My research establishes that a two-part compromise was intact during the post World War II era. Contrary to what is believed, domestic abuse in the post-war era was not as covered up as many have argued. Much domestic violence remained hidden from public view, as it was part of the compromise to tolerate abuse in private, but a substantial amount became public knowledge, as well. The two-part compromise permitted men to beat and abuse their wives, despite the illegality and moral repugnance of such activity, provided the violence remained private. When domestic violence turned deadly

and thus public, the compromise was threatened. As the cases in this study show, husbands who killed their wives often received jail terms, but women who killed an abusive spouse were often granted leniency. Punishment for murderous husbands and leniency for abused wives prevented a public confrontation on the issue of domestic abuse and violence that had been avoided for many decades.

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Kristen E. Gardner. "By Woman, For Women: A History of Female Cancer Awareness Efforts in the United States, 1913-1970s." Ph.D. diss., University of Cincinnati, 1999.

"By Women, For Women, and With Women: A History of Female Cancer Awareness Efforts in the United States" examines how the American public, and women in particular, learned about breast, cervical, ovarian, and uterine cancers between 1913 and the 1970s. It traces the popular discussion of female cancers in magazines, newspapers, films, novels, and television shows, compares this discussion to the medical understanding of the disease, and analyzes the agenda of cancer educators including their attention to issues of gender. Since the early decades of this century, formal networks of women have discussed women's susceptibility to cancer, informed women of early detection principles, and worked to decrease morbidity from the disease.

In the midst of recent and very successful efforts to redefine women's health and direct more attention to female cancers, it is easy to overlook the grassroots efforts of earlier generations of women who often limited their agenda to education and awareness, worked within established women's organizations, and generally targeted audiences that were limited to white and middle-class women. Yet these early efforts suggest that the 'history of silence' is a myth. For decades, women (and men) have

talked and written publicly about cancer. They laid the ground work for the contemporary women's health movement. This dissertation begins to examine the neglected history of early female cancer awareness efforts.

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

Ty M. Reese. "Toiling in the Empire: Labor in Three Anglo-Atlantic Ports, London, Philadelphia and Cape Coast Castle, 1750-1783." Ph.D. diss., University of Toledo, 1999.

The importance of the slave trade to the eighteenth-century economic, social and political development of the Atlantic World is an area of great debate. One reason for the debate is that most studies of the slave trade have focused upon the trade's direct participants: the merchants, captains, sailors, slave intermediaries, company officials, plantation owners, overseers and drivers whose primary labor brought them into the trade. The study redirects this ongoing debate by focusing on the missing element of the indirect participants. These were the ship builders, coopers, general laborers, porters, watermen, canoemen, tradesmen, manufacturers and others whose labor, while not a direct part of the trade, contributed to the trade. Through an examination of this indirect participation, especially that of the laborers, this study reveals new dimensions of the slave trade, showing it to be more extensive than once thought and emphasizing the importance to the slave trade of areas where the actual presence and use of slaves was minimal or absent. Two examples are a London ship carpenter who constructed a vessel that one day carried African slaves from West Africa to the Americas and a textile manufacturer in India whose cloth was included in sortings traded for slaves. By examining the slave trade's indirect participant in London and Cape Coast Castle, this study reveals the large number of laborers whose toil contributed to the slave trade's success and profitability. This study also

illustrates how the ability of the direct participants to utilize both unfree and wage labor systems was vital to the trade's success. An understanding of indirect participation strengthens the argument of Phillip Curtin and others of the global, not just Atlantic, consequences of the slave trade. Finally, through a review of the secondary literature concerning labor in Philadelphia, this study demonstrates that, in the city where American abolitionist and revolutionary movements gained great momentum, many of its laborers indirectly contributed to the success of the slave trade.

ACADEMY NEWS

2000-2001 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The following have been named committee chairs for the 2000-2001:

Dissertation Award

James Krukones (John Carroll)

Distinguished Service Award

Warren Van Tine (Ohio State)

Nominating

Elizabeth MacLean (Otterbein)

Outstanding Publication

Ann Heiss (Kent State)

Program

Vladimir Steffel (Ohio State-Marion)

Public History

Steve George (Ohio Bicentennial)

Public History Award

Stephen Gordon (Ohio Historical Society-Historic Preservation)

Standards

Thomas Sosnowsky (Kent-Stark)

Teaching Award

Nancy Garner (Wright State)

AWARDS, GRANTS, HONORS AND LEAVES

MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Andrew Cayton and Allan Winkler were awarded the title of "Distinguished Professor" April 14 by the University's board of trustees.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

LESLIE ALEXANDER was elected permanently to the Board of Directors of the African Heritage Studies Association.

ROBERT BREMNER has been appointed to the board of the online service of the Benton Foundation Connect for Kids.

NICHOLAS BREYFOGLE was awarded a Fellowship for University Teachers from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

DAVID CRESSY was awarded the 1999 Philip Schaff Prize of the American Society of Church History for his book *Birth, Marriage and Death: Ritual, Religion and the Life-Cycle in Tudor and Stuart England*. This award is made to the author of the best book published in the two previous calendar years presenting original research on any period in the history of Christianity.

STEPHANIE SHAW has been invited to accept a one-year fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University.

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

ERVING E. BEAUREGARD has been reappointed Membership Director of the American Catholic Historical Association. He

has also been reappointed to the Editorial Board of *Research Review*.

ACADEMY PUBLICATIONS

MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Phil Shriver and Clarence E. Wunderlin, eds. *The Documentary Heritage of Ohio*. (Upcoming publication.)

Steve Waksman. *Instruments of Desire: The Electric Guitar and the Shaping of the Musical Experience*. Harvard University Press.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

David Cressy. *Travesties and Transgressions in Tudor and Stuart England*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Mark Grimsley. Co-editor of *The Union Must Stand*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2000.

Michael J. Hogan, ed. *The Ambiguous Legacy: U.S Foreign Relations in the American Century*. Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Geoffrey Parker. An Italian translation of *Philip II*. Bologna: il Mulino, 1999.

_____. An Italian translation of *The Military Revolution: Military Innovation and the Rise of the West, 1500-1800*. Bologna: il Mulino, 1999.

_____. *The Spanish Armada*, revised edition. Manchester University Press, 1999.

Nathan Rosenstein. Co-editor of *War and Society in the Ancient and Medieval Worlds: The Mediterranean, Europe, and Mesoamerica*. Center for Hellenic Studies, Trustees for Harvard University, 1999.

Dale Van Kley. *The Religious Origins of the French Revolution: From Calvin to the Civil Constitution, 1560-1791*. Revised paperback edition. Yale University Press, 1999.

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Erving E. Beauregard. "Lynn Harold Hough: Servant of Humanity." *Methodist History*, volume

37, number 4 (July 1999): 226-41.

_____. *Notables of Harrison County Ohio*.
Lewiston, NY: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2000.

CANDIDATES FOR OAH ELECTION

The Nominating Committee has made the following choices for the forthcoming Ohio Academy of History election:

VP/President Elect

Elizabeth McLean (Otterbein)

Secretary/Treasurer

Thomas Taylor (Wittenberg)

Editor OAH Newsletter

Martha Pallante (YSU)

Council Position 1

Amy Green (Denison)

Vivien Sandlund (Hiram)

Council Position 2

Martin Wainwright (Akron)

Barbara Green (WSU)

PAST CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITS

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI/MIAMI UNIVERSITY

HILDA L. SMITH at Cincinnati and JUDITH P. ZINSSER at Miami University organized an international conference on "Metaphysics into Science: Gender and Knowledge in Early Modern Europe." The conference was held at the Kingsgate Conference Center at the University of Cincinnati on 6-7 April 2000 and at the Miami University campus on 7-8 April 2000. The conference was a meeting of scholars from North America and Europe to investigate the creation of our modern concept of "science," the loss of its philosophical bases, and

the gendering of its institutions and practitioners.

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

ERVING E. BEAUREGARD presented a paper entitled "Defunct Ohio Private Colleges and Universities" at the Great Lakes History Conference on September 24, 1999 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITS

CAPITAL UNIVERSITY

The Ohio Academy of History Spring meeting will be held on 6-7 April 2001 at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. For information, contact Thomas Maroukis, Capital University.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY

"Parallel Cities. Different Paths: Cincinnati and Kharkiv (Khar'kov) in the 19th and 20th Centuries," a conference, will be held in Oxford, Ohio on October 12-15 2000. Speakers are leading historians of American urban life and comparative studies and American and Ukrainian specialists on Ukraine/Russia. For details contact Robert W. Thurston, Dept. of History, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056. E-mail thurstrw@muohio.edu.

TOLEDO ART MUSEUM

The Ohio Academy of History Fall meeting will be held October 6, 2000 at the Toledo Art Museum. For information, contact Ron Lora, University of Toledo.

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Fifth Biennial Conference of the Center for Working-Class Studies will be held May 16-19, 2001. The conference will explore some of the ways that academics, activists, and organizers are making working-class culture a public activity. For details direct written correspondence to John

Russo, Biennial Conference, Center for Working-Class studies, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio 44555. Fax or E-Mail inquiries should be sent to Sherry Linkon at 330-742-4622 or sjlinkon@cc.ysu.edu.

received by January 1, 2001. Address written correspondence to:

John Russo
Biennial Conference
Center for Working-Class Studies
Youngstown State University
Youngstown, OH 44555

RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE- WESTERN CAMPUS

DONNA VAN RAAPHORST has retired from teaching at Cuyahoga Community College-Western Campus.

Fax or E-Mail inquiries should be sent to:

Sherry Linkon
330-742-4622
sjlinkon@cc.ysu.edu

OHIO ACADEMY OF HISTORY

The Ohio Academy of History seeks papers for its Annual Meeting at Capital University April 6 - 7, 2001. Scholars are sought in all fields of history, including World, Latin American, African, Asian, European as well as American. Proposals may consist of individual papers or sessions organized around a common theme. The Academy also welcomes discussion panels. Sessions generally include three papers (20 minutes each), a chair, and a commentator. The best papers will be refereed for publication in the Academy's Proceedings.

Proposals should include a title, a 150-word abstract, a short biography, resume or curriculum vitae of each participant, relevant phone numbers, and both E-mail and mailing addresses. Proposals should be submitted by November 1, 2000 to:

Vladimir Steffel
The Ohio State University Marion Campus
1465 Mt. Vernon Ave.
Marion, OH 43302
Tel: 740-363-2181 x6249
Fax: 614-292-5817
E-Mail: steffel.1@osu.edu

CALL FOR PAPERS

CENTER FOR WORKING-CLASS STUDIES CONFERENCE

The Center for Working-Class Studies at Youngstown State University seeks papers for its Fifth Biennial Conference May 16 - 19, 2001. Proposals from students, workers, faculty, organizers, and activists in all fields are encouraged. Along with papers the conference seeks performances, film showings, workshops, roundtables, and presentations of all kinds.

Areas of exploration include literature of and by the working-class; social, oral, and labor and working-class history; material and popular culture; current workplace issues; geography and landscape; journalism; sociology and economics; labor and museum studies; fine, graphic and performance art; multiculturalism; ethnography; biography; autobiography; pedagogy; and personal narratives of work.

Presenters should describe their projects with suggested presentation format. Proposals should be between 250 and 300 words and must be

2000 OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION AWARD

WINNING BOOK

William B. Scott and Peter M. Rutkoff. *New York Modern: The Arts and the City*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999.

New York Modern is an excellent examination of the arts in twentieth century New York City. The authors define "New York Modern" as "neither a style nor a school; rather, it was an artistic dialogue— part engagement, part resistance, part alienation, part celebration— that invited artists from a variety of backgrounds and with divergent concerns to voice their own understandings of modern life." Urban development influenced the artists while they in turn helped to shape American life as they defined modern culture. What it meant to be modern was rooted in the urban realism of Walt Whitman, Thomas Eakins, and Edith Wharton, influenced by European ideas and styles, and shaped by American commercial, folk, and popular culture images. The New York art community, in all its diversity, is examined within the changing historical context of the city. That diversity was reflected in both the participants and the media of the modern art movement. This well-researched work combines architectural, urban, art, political, and economic history. Engagingly written, it takes the reader on a journey through the neighborhoods and personalities that define twentieth century artistic creativity. *New York Modern* makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the importance of that city in defining modern art.

OTHER NOMINATIONS

Saul Cornell. *The Other Federalists: Anti-Federalism and the Dissenting Tradition in America,*

1788-1822. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999.

The Other Federalists is a well organized study of a diverse group of individuals who helped to define the dissenting political tradition in the United States. Cornell exhibits a great depth of scholarship, both in investigating the primary documents and in examining the historiography of the topic. According to the author: "One of the Great ironies of American history is that the Constitution was framed the Federalists, the proponents of a strong central government. Their opponents, the Anti-Federalists, were defeated in one of the greatest political struggles in American history. Ratification of the Constitution did not, however, eliminate Anti-Federalist ideas; localism continues to be a powerful force in American life." Cornell re-examines the public debate over the constitution and the variety of anti-Federalist ideas. He then demonstrates a continuity between the movement and the rise of dissension in the 1790s and the anti-Federalist legacy that accompanied the rise of Jeffersonianism and Jacksonism. A renewed interest in anti-Federalist thought and its relationship to changing constitutional interpretations makes this book a timely and significant study.

Philip A. Howard. *Changing History: Afro-Cuban Cabildos and Societies of Color in the Nineteenth Century*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1998.

Changing History is an innovative account of nineteenth century benevolent societies that contributes to our understanding of the African experience in Cuba. Slaves and free African immigrants drew on their cultural heritage to create religious and language based mutual aid societies in urban areas. These "cabildos" initially served to address the impact of forced migration and labor but evolved to both promote cultural preservation and to encourage changes in Cuba's

colonial system. After the 1850s, new groups, the "sociedades de color," largely made up of Creole peoples, encouraged Afro-Cuban participation in the rapidly developing industrialized economy. Their principle function was not cultural preservation, but social and economic betterment. Following the 1886 abolition of slavery, the function of these organizations expanded again to defend human rights and to promote integration. This well-researched and well-written book is an important microstudy that increases our knowledge of African cultural and economic development in nineteenth century Cuba.

Larry L. Nelson. *A Man of Distinction Among Them: Alexander McKee and the Ohio Country Frontier: 1754-1799*. Kent: Kent State University Press, 1999.

A Man of Distinction Among Them provides a fresh portrait of an important figure in the early history of the old Northwest. Alexander McKee, son of a Pennsylvania trader father and a Shawnee mother, was a key actor in the Ohio country during the second half of the eighteenth century. Throughout the book, Nelson explores how this mixed-race parentage, common on the frontier, contributed to McKee's efforts to mediate between the European and Indian worlds. The author points out that "McKee enjoyed great success as a mediator because he had full access to and great influence with decision makers and elites on both sides of the cultural divide." This meticulous study is based on research in both U.S. and Canadian archives. It emphasizes McKee's role as a cultural intermediary in Indian-White relations but also examines his life within the larger context of political and cultural development along the frontier. We learn much about how issues of class and race influenced the development of British policy in the area. Nelson's approach offers an interesting model for studying cross cultural contact in other areas beyond the Ohio frontier.

Leila J. Rupp. *A Desired Past: A Short History of Same-Sex Love in America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999.

A Desired Past combines the personal past of the author with scholarly research to provide an engaging overview of an under-studies aspect of the American past. The book is a concise overview that acknowledges two decades of research concerning gay and lesbian history. In an excellent introduction to this topic, Rupp explores the social construction, over time, of definitions for same-sex relationships. According to the author, "we need to comprehend the variety of desires and loves and sexual acts that make up our past because the very ways we think about gender and sexuality are a product of this history." *A Desired Past* reveals the complexity of the subject as Rupp explores the diverse social contexts within which same-sex practices and rhetoric developed over several centuries. European/Indian cultural clashes over sexuality, gender differences in nineteenth century romantic same-sex relationships, early twentieth century medical explanations for homosexuality, and the more recent emergence of gay communities are the main issues that frame the book's organization. Despite the dearth of sources, Rupp provides fascinating individual accounts to illustrate these larger themes.

Call for news items
for the Fall Issue of
the OAH Newsletter

Please send to:

Martha Pallante
Youngstown State University
History Department
One University Plaza
Youngstown, Ohio 44555

Deadline: October 1, 2000

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OAH OFFICERS

James O'Donnell, President; David Fahey, Vice-President/President Elect; Richard F. Spall, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer; R. Vladimir Steffel, Immediate Past President; Martha L. Pallante, Editor *The OAH Newsletter*.

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