THE NEW CHAIRMAN

As of August 15, 1974, Walter L. Arns-tein became chairman of the Department of History. He succeeded Professor Robert M. Sutton who had served in that capacity since 1972. Professor Arinstein holds a B.A. degree from the City College of New York, an M.A. degree from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. degree from Northwestern University. Before moving to the University of Illinois in 1968 he taught at Roosevelt University in Chicago (where he served for a year as acting dean of graduate studies) and, on a visiting basis, at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. His scholarly interests are focused on modern British history, and he is the author of The Bradlaugh Case: A Study in Late Victorian Opinion and Politics (Oxford University Press, 1965) and of Britain Yesterday and Today (D. C. Heath, 1966), a survey of British history since 1830; a third edition of the work was promised for 1976. His recent publications include “The Survival of the Victorian Aristocracy” in F. C. Jaheir, ed., The Rich, the Well Born, and the Powerful (Urbana, 1974), “The Religious Issue in Mid-Victorian Politics” in Albion (Summer, 1974), “The Myth of the Triumphant Victorian Middle Class” in The Historian (February, 1975), and “The Liberals and the General Election of 1915: A Skeptical Note” in The Journal of British Studies (May, 1975).

He has also contributed articles or reviews to such journals as Irish Historical Studies, History Today, the Journal of Modern History, the American Historical Review, and Victorian Studies. He served as a member of the Board of Advisers of the last-named journal from 1966 to 1975. He has also served as a member of the National Executive Committee and as program chairman of the Conference on British Studies, and he is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. In January, 1974, he won even greater notoriety by making an appearance on the TV quiz show “Jeopardy.” His wife is a pianist, and he has two college-age children whose interests are artistic or musical rather than historical.

At a time when the great economic and academic boom of the 1960s is clearly at an end, the Department of History of the University of Illinois is no more exempt than any other from being compelled to adapt to changing circumstances. As Professor Arns-tein suggested to the first Department meeting of the 1974-75 academic year, the nineteenth-century Liberal British Party motto, “Peace, Retrenchment, and Reform,” might serve as a useful guide. From the student's point of view there may well be silver linings: greater faculty continuity and more personal attention. As for the wider society within which the Department and the University operate, surely a period of economic downturn and world uncertainty is the very sort of time when the sense of perspective that a study of history can provide becomes most necessary.

RANDALL CHAIR INAUGURAL

Professor Robert W. Johannsen delivered the inaugural lecture as the first J. G. Randall Distinguished Professor of History to an appreciative audience in the auditorium of the College of Law on the evening of December 5, 1974. The title of Dr. Johannsen's lecture was "A New Era for the United States: Americans and the

MICHAEL ROGER SCHER

The Department of History was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Assistant Professor Michael R. Scher on Saturday, January 25, 1975. Dr. Scher was born in Chicago, Illinois on March 24, 1942, and was educated at the University of California at Los Angeles, where he received his undergraduate degree in 1964, his master’s degree in 1966, and his doctorate in 1972.

He joined the staff of the University of Illinois Department of History in September, 1972, after having taught at UCLA for one year. An extremely enthusiastic and popular teacher, he offered courses in nineteenth- and twentieth-century European history, and courses in the contemporary world. He had published a brief article in Les Cahiers de l'École and a longer one, “Neither War nor Nation: The Rise of Revolutionary Antimilitarism in France, 1870-1900,” in La Revue Roumaine d'Histoire. At the time of his death he was in the process of completing a large manuscript on the French pacifist, Gustave Hervé.

Dr. Scher participated in the Seventh Annual Illinois Conference of Community College, College, and University Teachers in October, 1974, at Allerton House, and spoke on a topic in which he was eminently qualified, “Involvement in Teaching and Learning — A Lesson in Dynamics.”

His many friends in Champaign-Urbana and the faculty of the Department of History deeply mourn his untimely passing.

NEW FACULTY

After serving as a visiting assistant professor during the 1973-74 academic year, Dr. John Haywood Pruect has joined the Department of History as an assistant professor of history in the Colonial American field. Dr. Pruect is a native of Virginia and took his first degree, with a major in history, at the University of Virginia in 1969. He was awarded the Ph.D. by Princeton University in June, 1973, with a dissertation entitled “The Anglican Clergy of Leicestershire and the Cathedral Clergy of Lincoln, 1660-1714.” In addition to offering courses in Colonial American history, Pruect has assisted with the survey courses in U.S. history and has coordinated the Department's developing role in quantitative studies.
In October 1975, the Department sponsored a special lecture in honor of Professor John G. Vasconcelos, who was a pioneer in the field of American ethnic history. The lecture was delivered by Professor Louis Wirth, a former student of Professor Vasconcelos and a leading scholar in the field. The event was well-received by the attendees, who praised Professor Wirth's insights and contributions to the field of American ethnic history. Following the lecture, the Department hosted a reception in honor of Professor Vasconcelos, which was attended by many of his former students and colleagues. The reception provided an opportunity for attendees to socialize and discuss the latest developments in the field of American ethnic history.
and in 1953 for the third summer in a row, he served as coordinator of the Illinois Summer Research Laboratory on Russian and Eastern Europe.


Robert B. Cline, a third-year graduate student in history, received part of the funds for his travel to the Argentine, Brazil, and Chile in 1953-1954, from a grant given to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The trip was sponsored by the National Science Foundation and was supported by the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the National Geographic Society.

John M. Krenkel, a senior at Eastern Illinois University, is working on his Master's degree in history. His thesis, "A History of the University of Illinois," will be completed in the spring of 1955.

Robert A. Weller, director of the Illinois Summer Research Laboratory on Russian and Eastern Europe, has recently completed his research on the political and social history of Russia. His book, "Russia in Crisis," is scheduled for publication in the fall of 1955.

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Louis C. Smith, assistant professor at Arizona State University, read a paper at the Fourth National Popular Culture Association meeting (Milwaukee) in May, 1974, and has had book reviews published in The Best Seller: Abstracts in American History and Life. He is serving as president of the Arizona State University unit of the American Federation of Teachers.


James Zimmerman, associate professor of history at Tri-State University (Angola, Indiana), has been named department chairman. He recently delivered a paper to the Great Lakes History Conference.

1973

Guy L. Lewis is associate professor of history at Greenville College in Greenville, Illinois.

Jon F. McKenna is a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Social and Policy Studies at Yale University.

Thomas Schlunz was promoted from instructor to assistant professor in the Department of History at the University of New Orleans. He delivered a paper at the Medieval Conference in Kalamazoo, Michigan in May, 1974.

Leonard Schup is enjoying his work as assistant professor of history and government at the Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas. Several articles by him are scheduled for publication in the near future.

Timothy C. Sullivan writes that he had "a rather unmomentous year." He is serving as a legislative analyst with the Ohio Legislative Service Commission.

1974

Judy Rosenbaum Mohraz continues as assistant professor of history at Southern Methodist University.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

During the last two years, Epsilon chapter of Phi Alpha Theta has continued to prosper with the addition of members at two initiation ceremonies in 1974-75. Jeff Brown was president for the period 1974-75, while Barry Wood is currently in charge of the organization. As a result of the generous contributions of the members of the Department, Phi Alpha Theta book sales offered a wide variety of books in history and other subjects. Money received by the organization was used to sponsor the Department picnic at the Knights of Columbus Park as well as the spring banquet. The speaker at the 1974 banquet was Professor Irene Neu of Indiana University. Professor Gilbert Fie of Eastern Illinois University addressed the 1975 banquet.

Phi Alpha Theta and the History Graduate Student Association have joined to sponsor several activities. They support the parties following the preliminary doctoral examinations each semester, and they have undertaken peer advising for graduate students at registration. In addition they have established a joint office in room 124A, appropriately enough next to the coffee room. The office serves as a storage space for organizational materials, an annex for coffee room discussions, and a study room for graduate students.

The British History Association continues to offer its monthly schedule of excellent meals and fine speakers. Speakers from outside the University have included Professors Lon Shelby of Southern Illinois University, Emmet Larkin of the University of Chicago, James Barnes of Wabash College, Michael Young of Illinois Wesleyan University, James Schmierchen of Illinois State University, and Jeanne Petersen of Indiana University. Speakers from within the University of Illinois were Professors Bennett Hill, Blair Kling, Caroline Hihl, W. L. Amstein, Amy Gottlich, Sheila Johnson, Robert McColley, Robert Halbert, and Catherine Kappauf. The organization has prospered under the able administration of Stephen Shaffer.

The academic year 1975-76 has seen the formation of a new organization, the Undergraduate History Association.

AWARDS

At the spring banquet, the Joseph Swain Prize for the best graduate student essay went to Mark Michelson (in 1974) and Carol Funk (in 1975). The Lawrence Marcellus Larson scholarship award for excellence in the fields of English and medieval history went to Esther Simon (in 1974) and Patrice Fitch (in 1975). Wayne Niemann was awarded the second Frederick S. Rodkey Prize in Russian history in 1974. Also in 1974, Thomas Compton, Melvin Adelman, and Parks Coke were given the Swain Graduate Publication Award for articles they had written. The Martha Belle Barrett Prize for outstanding undergraduate work in history went to Richard Sailer, James Herr, and Roger White in 1974, and to Gary Reiger, William Soderstrom, and David Ricken in 1975.