FROM THE NOT-SO-EASY CHAIR

The Illinois Department of History takes pride in its century-old tradition of scholarly distinction and teaching excellence. Thinking back over just the last fifty years the names of Thomas Marcellus Larsen in medieval history, William Spence Robertson in Latin American history, James Garfield Randall in American Civil War and southern history, and Frederick C. Dietz in English history come to mind. A new chairman has an acute sense of the tradition he follows and of the responsibility he assumes. Partly as a consequence of the social challenges posed by the 1960s, many American universities today are reevaluating their programs and curricula and considering the prospects for their graduate students. We in history at Illinois are doing the same, without forgetting, to paraphrase the medieval humanist Bernard of Chartres, the giants on whose shoulders we stand.

I begin my administration of the department painfully conscious of the ancient dictum that it is easier to move a graveyard than to revise a university curriculum. This year we are taking a hard look at our graduate students in the traditional fields and, by incorporating into the curriculum more of the "new" social science approaches to the study of history, we hope that students will be better prepared for the severely competitive job market which they will enter. The enormous increase in information that has developed over the past twenty-five years requires that our curriculum be flexible enough to allow students to develop individual fields of study. Because the academic marketplace is, and promises to continue to be so lean, the department is accelerating its exploration of nonacademic employment possibilities for Ph.D.s. Faculty and graduate students are trying to learn about opportunities in the business world for those with doctorates in the humanities. This year we have an exceptionally able group of young women and men who have already completed or will this year complete their dissertations. Any help that you can give us in finding employment for them, in or outside of the academic world, will be much appreciated. If you have ideas or leads, please contact Professor Donald Queller or Clark Spence, the departmental placement officers.

Imaginative and innovative research will remain a chief concern of a major university. At the same time, population and economic trends clearly indicate that a larger percentage of faculty teaching time will be devoted to undergraduate instruction. In revising the curriculum we hope that the education of undergraduates in history at Illinois will counter these factors that seem to threaten liberal education today: the trend towards vocationalism, the emphasis on "practicalities," the subordination of words to numbers. New courses are being devised, some of which have already proved to be highly attractive; new methods are being introduced, about which only time can tell. I am convinced that the coming years will see a deeper commitment to thoughtful and imaginative undergraduate teaching. The strong interest of the faculty in research will ideally result in a greater infusion into teaching of the substance and excitement of the best scholarship.

Bennett D. Hill

HILL HEADS DEPARTMENT

Bennett D. Hill, a member of the University of Illinois faculty since 1941 and professor of history since 1975, took over as chief department executive officer in August 1978. A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Professor Hill holds A.B. and Ph.D. degrees from Princeton and an A.M. degree from Harvard. He is the author of English Cistercian Monasteries and Their Patrons in the Twelfth Century (Urbana, 1968), Church and State in the Middle Ages (New York, 1970), and numerous historical essays and reviews. He has been teaching on a regular basis both undergraduate and graduate courses in medieval history and a two-semester 300-level survey in the constitutional history of England. More recently he has been involved in the preparation (together with two University of Illinois colleagues) of a new History of Western Society scheduled for publication by Houghton Mifflin early in 1979. In the course of the 1977-78 academic year, he spoke on "Monastic Patronage: The Case of Savigny" at the December 1977 AHA convention in Dallas, and he contributed reviews to the AHR, Speculum, and the Library Journal. He was also listed as an "Excellent Teacher" in the 1977 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Senior Survey.

LYNN AND TOBY APPOINTED

John Albert Lynn, a native of Illinois, has returned to his undergraduate alma mater as assistant professor of history in order to teach courses in military history and in early modern European history. After receiving his B.A. degree at Illinois, he went on to the University of California at Davis for the M.A. and to UCLA for the Ph.D. He has held temporary teaching appointments at UCLA, the University of California at Long Beach, Indiana University, and the University of Maine as well as heading his own museum diorama studio. Articles by him on French military history have appeared in such journals as Military Review, Military Affairs, and the Annales Historiques de la Revolution francaise as well as in The Consortium on Revolutionary Europe, 1750-1850: The Proceedings 1974 (Gainesville, Florida, 1978).

Ronald P. Toby holds B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University as well as a certificate from the East Asian Institute there. His area of specialization is Japanese and Korean history with a focus on Japan's relations with its neighbors during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. With the assistance of Fulbright, Woodbridge, and Whiting Fellowships, Professor Toby has spent more than four years in Japan, and he holds a certificate of the Institute for Language Teaching from Waseda University in Tokyo; he has served both the U.S. State Department and a number of international organizations as interpreter. Articles by him, both in English and in Japanese, have appeared in a number of journals including the Journal of Japanese Studies as well as in the Trans-
April 1970, 70-71 academic year in Turkey under the auspices of a grant from the Social Science Research Council.

WINTON SOLBERG ON MISSION TO MOSCOW

Professor Winton U. Solberg was a Fulbright Lecturer at Moscow State University during the year 1977-78.

In addition to his lectures at Moscow University, Professor Solberg conducted research on the Soviet system of higher education and the status of American history and American civilization in the Soviet Union. Moscow University arranged for him to lecture in two different great halls in Moscow, an excellent biography and the University sent him to Leningrad twice to lecture at Leningrad University. Largely through his own initiative, with some support from the University and the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, he was able to travel and lecture in various centers in the Soviet Union. In Moscow he lectured twice at the Institute of USA and Canada Studies, and he lectured to historians at the Universities of Tashket, Kiev, and Tbilisi.

Upon returning home, Professor Solberg remained interested in his success in teaching the Russian American History. He was certain, however, that he had profited professionally from his experience. He concluded also that the scholarship exchange with the Soviet Union was vital for both. He would like to see greater Soviet cooperation in making scholarly opportunities freely available to American scholars who visit their country.

McKay, Hill, and Bucker Collabrate on New History

In January 1979, Houghton Mifflin Company of Boston is scheduled to publish a new History of Western Society intended for use in both four-year and two-year college programs. The book will appear in paperback in three formats: as a single-volume 1550-page book, as a two-volume edition ("From Antiquity to the Enlightenment" and "From Absolution to the Present"); and as a three-volume edition ("From the Renaissance to 1815," and "From the Revolutionary Era to the Present"). Three members of the University of Illinois Department of History, Professor George Smolinski, John D. McEwan, and Professor John B. Hill wore the chapters dealing with Near Eastern Origins, Greece, and Rome. Professor Bennett D. Hill wrote the chapters dealing with Medieval and Early Modern History, and the Early Modern State System. Professor McKay is responsible for the chapters covering subjects from the Scientific Revolution to the Enlightenment (1650-1791), and the French Revolution to the Industrial Revolution.

The work of the purpose is to explore not only to the great forces that shaped Western civilization but also to a "lively presentation" of the useful and meaningful for all the people. The text is a comprehensive work, covering all the important topics such as modes of production, state and economy, politics, culture, science, technology, art, and society. The text is an excellent resource for educators and students alike.

The Department Continues to Cope

By this newsletter is in press, the University of Illinois Council on Program Evaluation (COPPE) should have issued its final report on the Department of History. To judge the quality of this report, the most recent report was issued by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the spring of 1978. The report, which was prepared by the COPPE committee, includes a comprehensive evaluation of the department's programs and activities. The report highlights the department's strengths and weaknesses, and provides recommendations for improvement. The report is an important resource for the department, and it is available online for download.
1947

Lloyd E. Ambrose, associate professor of history at the University of Nebraska, in the summer of 1947 he was on an official mission to the World's Fair in New York.

1949

Roy A. Anderson, associate professor of history at the University of Michigan, was appointed to a four-year professorship at the University of California, Los Angeles.

1951

D. K. Anderson, professor of history at the University of Wisconsin, was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship.

1953

Ronald C. Brown, associate professor of history at the University of Chicago, was awarded a fellowship at Harvard University.

1955

J. H. S. Haines, associate professor of history at the University of California, Berkeley, was awarded a Ford Foundation grant for research in Latin America.

1957

J. D. Klein, associate professor of history at the University of Wisconsin, was appointed to the faculty of the State University of Iowa.

1959

J. M. L. Yelverton, associate professor of history at the University of Michigan, was awarded a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study.

1961

J. B. Brown, associate professor of history at the University of California, Berkeley, was awarded a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study.

1963

J. H. S. Haines, associate professor of history at the University of California, Berkeley, was awarded a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study.

1965

J. D. Klein, associate professor of history at the University of Wisconsin, was awarded a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study.

1967

J. M. L. Yelverton, associate professor of history at the University of Michigan, was awarded a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study.
The first semester's activities were highlighted by the annual fall picnic, which in spite of less than optimum weather proved a success, and the continuation of the Caunterbury House talks. A fund-raising book sale and the annual banquet, which was well attended, including a number of the more than forty new initiatives, was addressed by Dr. Otto Pflanze, editor of the American Historical Review. While on campus, Dr. Pflanze also gave a separate and enlightening talk on the publication of historical articles.

The officers for 1978-79 are Stuart Rosselet, president; Ingrid Antonsen, vice-president; Catherine O'Connor, secretary; and Kevin Kropp, treasurer.

The History Graduate Student Association (HGSA) continued its program of advising new students. It also made a number of recommendations concerning changes in the administration of the graduate program to the department's executive committee. The HGSA cheered the department softball team on to victory in its league during the spring of 1978 and again during the summer of 1978. (University of Illinois football team, take notice!) Keith King served as HGSA president during 1977-78. The current president is Helen Hundley.

The History Undergraduate Association (HUG) did not meet regularly during the 1977-78 academic year, but it held a highly successful meeting in April featuring Robert W. Johannsen speaking on "The Mexican War: America's Romantic Adventure." A full program of activities is on the agenda for 1978-79.

The British History Association had an active year of dinner or wine-and-cheese evenings featuring speakers or films. In September 1977, A. L. Beier of the University of Lancaster (England) spoke on "Social Problems in Elizabethan London," and in November 1977, Scott Bennett of the University of Illinois Library talked about "Revolution in Thought: Literacy and the Common Reader in Early Victorian Britain." The classic film The Private Life of Henry VIII was shown at the December meeting. On the verge of completing her own Ph.D. in history at Illinois, Esther Shkohiik addressed the February 1978 meeting on "Politicians' Wives: the Missing Rib of Victorian Political Biography." The April meeting featured an illustrated talk on eighteenth and nineteenth century parish church music by Nicholas Temperley of the University of Illinois School of Music. In May Paul Koppman, a University of Illinois Ph.D. then serving as visiting assistant professor of history here, spoke about "Women Attached to the British Army in America, 1755-1783." The president of the organization since January 1978 has been James Filkins.

STUDENT AWARDS

At the 1978 Department of History banquet, the Martha Belle Barrett Prize for outstanding undergraduate work in history went to Gerlinde Niedereiter. The Barrett Prize for the best senior thesis went to William Henry Link for a paper written under the supervision of Professor O. Vemon Burton. Frank E. Svietek received the Lawrence Marcellus Lassen Award as the ablest student to have passed doctoral examinations in English or Medieval history during the previous year. (Mr. Svietek went on to complete his dissertation during the summer of 1978, and he is now teaching at the University of Dallas.) The Joseph Ward Swain Prize for the best graduate student essay went to Linda Duchamp, John Andrick, Dennis Davis, and Robert Spude shared the Swain prize for scholarly publications by graduate students. The Frederick S. Rodkey prize in Russian History was subsequently awarded to Ira Lynn Campbell.

History at Illinois Editor: Walter L. Arnstein