HISTORY AT ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PERSONALLY SPEAKING

Were he not remembered in the ominous context of the eugenics movement, which he founded, the eminent English scientist Francis Galton (1822-1911) might stand today as one of the more whimsical examples of the passion to count and measure everything. Attending meetings of the Royal Geographical Society, Galton counted the number of fidgets in the audience as an index of the degree to which the auditors were bored by the memoirs being read. Sitting to have his portrait painted, he counted the artist’s brush strokes. Walking in British cities, Galton had an unobtrusive means of recording the different numbers of “attractive, indifferent, and repellent” women he passed, and from these data he formed a judgment of the geographical distribution of beauty in the British Isles (he concluded that London had the highest percentage of attractive women and Aberdeen had the lowest). Galton also attempted a statistical analysis of the efficacy of prayer.

Galton’s case indicates clearly enough that there may be limitations as well as benefits associated with counting things, and it is therefore somewhat apologetically that I offer the following statistics for your consideration. Last fall the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign requested of each departmental executive officer a statement concerning the quality of his or her department over the past five years. These quality statements were to be limited to two pages, thus leaving little room to expand upon the numerous meritorious achievements of the department or its individual members over the period in question. I am indebted to Associate Chairman John Buckler for assembling from past issues of our annual newsletter the appropriate data for 1976 to 1981. Francis Galton at least would have enjoyed the enterprise.

Between 1976 and 1981, faculty of this department published thirty-six books, twenty-four chapters in edited books, and some four hundred contributions to scholarly journals (110 articles and 290 book reviews). Members of the faculty contributed on some ninety different occasions to national conferences, either as speakers, commentators on papers, or chairs of sessions. On some sixty other occasions faculty travelled to other institutions in this country or abroad to lecture on their research. Fifty-six offices were held in national professional societies, twenty-four positions were held on the editorial boards (including the editorships) of journals, and twelve faculty served on national prize committees.

The merits of the scholarship of members of the faculty were recognized during this period by forty-eight national awards bestowed on faculty members, including American Council of Learned Society grants or fellowships (four), Fulbright Fellowships or Lectureships (five), National Endowment for the Humanities Grants and Fellowships (ten), National Science Foundation Fellowships (two), Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowship, one Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, the Organization of American Historians’ Frederick Jackson Turner Award for the best “first” book published in American history during one year, the American Historical Association’s Bolton Prize for the best book in Latin American History published during one year, several additional prizes for the best book or article in a particular year, and more.

The above figures do not include the various achievements of faculty during the 1981-82 academic year, nor do they include the achievements of alumni. And since the material that follows is less likely to cause fidgeting than the figures just reported may have done—and since it provides a much more ample opportunity to assess the quality of individual and departmental activities over the past year—I am pleased to urge you to read on. I would like to thank the many alumni who have contributed information for this year’s newsletter, and I would like especially to thank Professor Wallace Farnham for taking on the role of newsletter editor.

Richard W. Burkhardt, Chair

TEACHERS TO THE NATION

Confident though they are that in Urbana and through former students Illinois historians reach a wide audience with their messages about the past, Illinois historians have now special evidence that their mission is a national one. The survey of European history, A History of Western Society, written by John Buckler, Bennett Hill, and John McKay and published by Houghton Mifflin, has been widely adopted and is now entering its second edition. Among the universities that have found it irresistible are Harvard, UCLA, Northwestern, Indiana, Princeton, and Virginia. Congratulations to authors and readers alike.

The last edition of History at Illinois described the commentaries that nine members of the department had provided to accompany the Public Broadcasting series The World at War. The series, with illumination from Illinois, remains popular across the country. By one recent accounting, it has been aired on some fifty stations in thirteen states, from Florida to Alaska. It has even produced fan mail. A viewer in Tennessee wrote perhaps the most gratifying words: “I am happy to say that finally some of my tax money was put to good use thru you at the Univ. of Illinois.” Alas, our colleagues still await their Emmy Awards.

VISITING FACULTY

In 1981-82 the department had the assistance of Lorne McWatters and DeLloyd Guth, introduced in last year’s History at Illinois, as visiting colleagues. During the spring semester, as well, John Cordulack lectured on twentieth century American history. Cordulack holds his doctorate from Illinois and has for several years been on the faculty of Richland Community College in Decatur.

For 1982-83 two visiting assistant professors are in our midst. Robert Finlay comes from a year at Princeton’s Institute for Advanced Study to teach courses in medieval England, Renaissance, and Reformation. He received his doctorate from the University of Chicago and taught for six years at Hartwick College. His book Politics in Renaissance Venice, published by Rutgers, won the Howard R. Marraro Prize in 1980. He is in addition the author of several articles on Renaissance and Venetian themes.

Elizabeth P. Moore teaches courses normally taught by no less than three members of the department in American social, black, and women’s history. She has worked primarily in the field of women’s history, especially in the Progressive era. After writing a dissertation in that field she received her doctorate from the University of Illinois in Chicago in 1981. She has most recently taught at Roosevelt University and on the Chicago campus of the University of Illinois. The author of articles on women’s history, she has also served as a consultant for the National Endowment for the Humanities.
HISTORY COLLAGEUM SERIES

During the past year the department launched its Collageum Series, which organizes key events which commemorates a variety of historical fields and periods could share their work with faculty and students. The program, divided into fall and spring semesters, presents four key events, by members of the department and four by distinguished scholars from other institutions, all of whom take part in the series, by Professor Donald Treadgold of the University of Washington, who explored the theme, "Was Lenin a German Agent?" Notable events in the "University of Notre Dame" series include "Daily Life in a Medieval College." In the fall of 1977, the department also sponsored a "Conference on the History of Higher Education," which included a campus visit during a visit of several weeks at the University, discussed his long-time friend and colleague (and Indiana alumnus) Allan Nevins in an interview with the "Director of the Historical Society." The annual event endorses Professor Eberhard of Harvard University, who mentioned that his "University of Virginia..." would have been based on the present strong resources of the department and the university's exceptional library. In addition, it should have funds for endowed scholarships, distinct branches and visiting professorships, short-term research positions, and support for outstanding students. While each project might be separately endowed, at least three million dollars seems necessary to support the entire program.

UNIVERSITY SEeks PRIVATE FUNDS FOR HISTORICAL STUDIES

The University of Illinois Foundation, in an effort to broaden its research and teaching programs in the history of science, seeks funds from private sources. The University has a rich history in the field of science at Princeton University. His book Jacob Bzerus: The Emergence of His Chemical System, was published in 1977, and is a major contribution to the understanding of the history of science at Princeton. His other major contributions to the field have been in the history of science and medicine at the University of Minnesota, and the history of medicine in the United States. His work has been widely recognized for its excellence and has been published in a number of prestigious journals.

JULIET E. K. WALKER works in the field of African-American history and has special interest in its entrepreneurial, legal, and urban dimensions. Since coming to Illinois in 1976 she has developed several courses reflecting these interests, which have been active as speaker and consultant on campus and in many other places. Her book Free Frank: A Black Pioneer on the Antebellum Frontier will soon be published by the University of Kentucky Press. During the past year she read a paper at the Western Illinois Regional History Conference, published a book review in the Journal of American History, and, among other things, served as consultant to a NEH film on black workers in Chicago's meat packing industry. Currently she is working on a book documenting the role of blacks in the University of Chicago from 1890 to 1970 and is teaching courses at the University of Wisconsin at Madison in the 19th century. Her book is on leave with an NEH fellowship and is spending the year at the Institute for Advanced Study at the Institute of Affiliated American Research at Harvard, working on antebellum black entrepreneurs and business enterprise.

PROMOTIONS FOR BURTON, MELHADO, AND WALKER

Three members of the department have been promoted to associate professor with tenure, effective in the year 1982-83.

O. VERNON BURTON, a South Carolina, received his doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1964 and has been a faculty member at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since 1968. He is the new President-elect of the American Society for the History of Science. Burton's research focuses on the history of science in America, with a particular emphasis on the role of slavery and race in the development of science and technology. His work has been recognized with several awards, including the History of Science Society's Award for Distinguished Scholarship in the History of Science in 1982.

Dr. Burton's recent research has focused on the history of science in the United States, with a particular emphasis on the role of slavery and race in the development of science and technology. His work has been recognized with several awards, including the History of Science Society's Award for Distinguished Scholarship in the History of Science in 1982.

NEW PH.D.'S FROM ILLINOIS

Ten Illinoisans crossed the final hurdle and joined the community of Doctors of Philosophy in History during the year 1982. The graduates, together with the names of their first mailing lists, constitute a fair measure of the range of interests of those who presently roam the country in search of knowledge.

Allen, Richard: "Civics, Indian Immigrants & the Maintenance of Social Order in Jamaica, 1877-1887"; Faculty Advisor: Charles Stewart and Donald Crammey.

Boehm, Richard: "The Role of the Community College in Urban Social Mobility: Is it a Substitute for High School?"; Faculty Advisor: Robert McCloskey.

Blegen, Paul: "The Role of the Community College in Urban Social Mobility: Is it a Substitute for High School?"; Faculty Advisor: Robert McCloskey.

Blegen, Paul: "The Role of the Community College in Urban Social Mobility: Is it a Substitute for High School?"; Faculty Advisor: Robert McCloskey.
out his own research on his own subject within the general framework of his own Jewish ideologist. He was also an independent ideologue in his own right. His contribution to the Arab-Jewish discussion on Zionism, Palestine, and the Middle East. He was a prolific writer and advocated for the independence of the Palestinian people. His work was influential in the development of Arab nationalism and his ideas continue to influence contemporary Arab politics.

The Semite's society had become increasingly sophisticated and complex. Although their language and culture had been influenced by other civilizations, they had managed to preserve their identity and maintain their ancient traditions. The Semites were known for their military prowess, their trade networks, and their influence on various parts of the world. The Semites were also known for their religious beliefs, which included monotheistic religions like Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The Semite's impact on the world was significant, and their legacy continues to be felt today.

Unfortunately, the Semitic society had become increasingly divided and fragmented. This was due to the rise of other empires and civilizations that had taken advantage of their strengths and weaknesses. The Semites were not immune to the same struggles that plagued other societies, and their society was no exception. Despite these challenges, the Semites continued to thrive and make significant contributions to the world.

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GRADUATE STUDENT ACTIVITIES

For graduate students 1981-82 was a year of unusually varied activity, culminating in the annual Phi Alpha Theta banquet in April. Guest speaker at the banquet was Barbara Allen, chief of the Russian Languages division of the Voice of America. In her former capacity as Cultural Officer for the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Ms. Allen had been especially helpful to Professors Winton Solberg and Leonard Bates during their tenure as Fulbright lecturers in the Soviet Union. Ms. Allen spoke about the life of Soviet academics against a background of American academic life. The banquet was the occasion also for presenting awards to faculty and students by the History Department and Phi Alpha Theta.

Led by Larry Thornton as president, Kevin Kropp as vice-president, and Stuart Rosselet as secretary-treasurer, Phi Alpha Theta inducted twenty-two new members. On a fine September afternoon it sponsored a departmental picnic in Hessel Park. In March it conducted its annual book sale. Larry Thornton and Professor Robert Sutton, the faculty sponsor, attended the biennial International Phi Alpha Theta Convention in St. Louis in December. Thornton, delegate from Illinois’ Epsilon chapter, read a paper entitled “The Evangelical Church: ‘German Christians’ and National Socialism 1921-1939”.

The History Graduate Student Association, with Aliesa Malz as president, worked to reduce the anxieties and isolation of graduate students and speak for them on matters of departmental organization and policy. New students were assisted in meeting old and in profiting from their experience. Gary Todd photographed faculty and graduate students individually for a display to assist all in recognizing colleagues.

A group of graduate students informally banded together to raise money in aid of a colleague from abroad whose serious illness caused financial hardship. In addition to cooperating with Phi Alpha Theta in the book sale, they periodically appealed to the wallets of Illini with home-baked sweets and pastries, raising a sizeable sum and demonstrating that graduate students may be as skilled in the kitchen as in the library. WILL-AM broadcast a report on the project, and the department as well as the ailing student profited from the shared endeavor.

History at Illinois Editor: Wallace Fernham