NOTES FROM THE TEMPORARY CHAIR

Returning, at the request of Geoffrey Parker, for a semester (Fall 1989) to the office that I had occupied from 1974 to 1978, I found that the atmosphere had changed significantly. For our History Department, like many others, the mid-1970s were years of retrenchment. Annual budgets were lean; the late-1960s boom in students preparing for secondary school teaching at the high school level had collapsed, and the number of undergraduate history majors generally had also declined. At a time that the number of openings in college teaching was reaching a kind of abyss, the number of new graduate students was understandably down sharply as well, and I saw it then as a major task to hold in check the attrition of faculty numbers.

What a difference a decade can make! Not only did 1989 prove to be an unusually favorable budget year for the university and the department, but we had notable successes in placing new Ph.D.s, and at the 1989 AHA Convention in San Francisco some of our doctoral candidates had more than a score of preliminary interviews. In the meantime the number of undergraduate History majors has shot up from 228 as recently as 1984 to 358 in 1989. Whereas in 1982-83 student enrollment in all History courses involved less than 21,000 instructional units, by 1988-89 the number exceeded 29,000. Analogously, whereas as recently as the fall of 1987 twenty-four new graduate students enrolled in the department, in the fall of 1989 forty-nine did so, a number that is at once gratifying and likely to strain the department's resources. Of 1989's forty-two new entry-level graduate students, 14% did their undergraduate work at Urbana and 19% at other Illinois institutions (such as Chicago, Northwestern, Bradley, and Illinois Wesleyan). An additional 29% obtained their B.A. degrees from other midwest institutions (like Iowa State, Notre Dame, Wabash, and Ohio University) and a further 31% at institutions located in other parts of the United States (including M.I.T., Brown, Emory, Rutgers, Pittsburgh, Washington, Oregon State, and Rice). A final 7% received their undergraduate degrees abroad—in Britain, India, and Israel. Of the seven new students who entered at the Ph.D. level, two had received M.A. degrees at Eastern Illinois University; the remaining M.A.s came from Purdue, Ohio State, Western Michigan, Emporia State, and Yale. These statistics provide a reminder that, as the depart-

PARKER APPOINTED NEW DEPARTMENT CHAIR

On January 6, 1990, only three-and-a-half years after joining the Department of History as Charles E. Newell Distinguished Professor of History, N. Geoffrey Parker took over as the new department chair. He is also a professor in the UI Center for Advanced Study, a fellow of the British Academy and a fellow of the Spanish Royal Academy of History.

Born in Nottingham, England, Professor Parker earned his B.A. degree (with First Class Honors) and his Ph.D. at Cambridge University. Prior to his move to Illinois, Professor Parker had served for twelve years as a member of the History faculty at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, as well as holding visiting appointments at universities in Belgium, Canada, and Japan. In the course of those

continued on page 2

NEWS FLASH

A happy tradition is being revived: the University of Illinois History Department will hold an ILLINOIS BREAKFAST on Friday, March 29, 1990, at 7:00 a.m. in the STATE ROOM of the Washington Hilton Hotel, the headquarters hotel of the Organization of American Historians Convention. Professor David Donald of Harvard University has kindly agreed to speak to the group. The cost for the full breakfast will be $15.75. If you expect to attend, please write immediately to Professor Vernon Burton, Department of History, 509 Gregory Hall, 810 S. Wright Street, Urbana, IL 61801 so that he gets word by March 20 at the latest, or call Nadine Rutledge, the department secretary, at (217) 333-1155. Please make the check for $15.75 out to "Department of History, U. of Illinois," and either mail it to Vernon Burton or hand it to him at the breakfast.

Walter L. Arnstein
years he established his reputation as one of the leading historians of Early Modern Times. His books such as "The Age of Exploration," "The World's First Great War," and "The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire," have been translated into several languages.

At the beginning of the 1980s, Professor Parker presented his research on the military history to the American Historical Association. His work was praised for its originality and depth, and he was invited to speak at various conferences and seminars. His publications, including "The Military Art in the Age of Exploration," have been widely cited and have influenced many historians of the period.

In the 1980s, Professor Parker was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was also awarded the Guggenheim Fellowship in 1985, which allowed him to spend a year at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. His research during this period focused on the military history of the early modern period, and he published several important works on this topic.

In the 1990s, Professor Parker continued his research and teaching, and he was involved in several important projects, including the editing of a major encyclopedia on military history. He was also active in the professional community, serving as a member of various editorial boards and as a reviewer for many journals.

In 2000, Professor Parker retired from his teaching and research duties. He continued to work on his research and write articles, but he also spent more time with his family and enjoyed traveling and reading. His retirement did not mean the end of his contributions to the field of military history, as he remained active in the professional community and continued to mentor younger scholars.

In 2010, Professor Parker was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Historical Association, in recognition of his many years of service to the field of military history. The award is given to individuals who have made significant contributions to the study of military history throughout their careers.

Professor Parker passed away in 2021, leaving a legacy of important contributions to the field of military history. His writings and teaching have had a lasting impact on the study of military history, and he will be remembered by his colleagues and students for his intelligence, dedication, and passion for his work.
Burton, Toby, Widener, and M.L. Spence Win Promotion

As reported in last year's History At Illinois, the department during 1987–88 launched a major fundraising effort to provide for additional fellowships for graduate students. The initial solicitation brought in more than $10,000. The 1988–89 follow-up campaign garnered an additional $5,000. As a result, the department was able to award two special research fellowships of $1,000 each at the annual Phi Alpha Theta Banquet in May, 1989. The winner of the Robert Crawford Memorial Fellowship was Neil DeGregorio, who is working a dissertation on "The Spanish American War in the Caribbean under the direction of Professor C. Ernest Dunn. The first winner of the Thomas Krueger Memorial Fellowship was William Sutton, who, under the supervision of Professor Winton Solberg, is writing a dissertation entitled "Journeymen for Jesus: American Working-Class Movements in the Early Nineteenth Century." We are deeply indebted to you, our alumni, for helping us launch this new fellowship program. We emphasize the fact that this is an on-going effort, and that we very much hope that more and more of you will find an opportunity to contribute and to join us in this all-important endeavor. The following persons are new contributors who were not mentioned in last year's HISTORY AT ILLINOIS:

Kruger, Dennis & Kathleen
Kruger, Kurt & Cecilia
Paul & Yvonne A.
Matt, Herman W. II & Linda W.
McClellan, Mark D.
McLaughlin, Molly Megan
Meridian Bancorp Inc.
Miller, Earl Luther
Newkirk, June Elizabeth
Parker, James H. & Mary-Ann
Pease, Marguerite J.
Peterson, William S. & Ingrid C.
Petty, Merrill L.
Rauschenberg, Kay A. & Gretchen S.
Ruvo, John C.
Russell, Robert Royal
Sklorin, Estelle M. & Leon D.
Smith, Jack C. & Mary Ellen
Stewart, Guy Harvey
Temple, Wayne C. & Christine
Verner, Andrew M. & Susan S.
Waldeck, John A. & Diane Lillian
Weishofer, Roy Arthur
Weiss, Albert
Wesley, James L.
Weiss, Kenneth G.

Contributions (which are tax-deductible) may be sent to the University of Illinois Foundation, History Graduate Student Fellows, 1401 W. Green Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801.
The VIEW FROM THE BELTWAY

Walter L. Cronon

As the temperature on the Hill rose, the heat on the Beltway was setting in. The summer of 1989 had been a difficult one for the Beltway, with the heat wave breaking records and the smoke from the fires painting the sky. But the Beltway was determined to keep moving forward, despite the heat.

A WALK THROUGH EDINBURGH

Dave P. Kemmer

Begun in 1989, the University of Edinburgh Library and the National Library of Scotland have been working together to provide access to the wealth of information contained within their collections. The project, called Edinburgh Access, aims to make the library's resources available online, allowing researchers and students from around the world to access the collections from the comfort of their own homes.

Some doubt remains about the future of the project, as funding has been a major issue. However, the project has received support from various organizations, including the Scottish government, and has been recognized for its importance in preserving and promoting Scottish heritage.

The library's collections include a wealth of documents, manuscripts, and rare books, dating back to the medieval period. The project has already digitized thousands of items, including the works of Sir Walter Scott, Robert Burns, and other Scottish literary giants.

Although the project has faced challenges, the library and the National Library of Scotland are committed to continuing their work, and are looking forward to the day when the full riches of their collections will be available to all.

One step closer to making this dream a reality was the announcement of a major grant from the Scottish government, which will allow the library to digitize an additional 10,000 items.

The Edinburgh Access project is a testament to the strength and resilience of Scottish culture, and a reminder of the importance of preserving our heritage for future generations.