



# INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS

## THE INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR VOL. 22, NO. 4 — WINTER 2008

*The newsletter of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars*

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT Winter 2008

Many thanks to all who participated in our 2008 Member Survey this past summer! Thanks to the information gathered from the survey, the NCIS Board has been able to make available some special information and services for all of our members. First, a quick look at some of the data:

- Respondents were two-thirds female, and the majority of our members fall into the 55–64 age bracket, followed closely by those ages 65–74.
- Two-thirds of respondents are members of their major disciplinary organizations (e.g., American Historical Society, Modern Language Association), and just over half attend the national conference for their organization at least one year out of every three.

- Those who did not attend their disciplinary conferences most often cited travel and related costs as the primary reason.
- Historians comprised the largest group of respondents, followed by scholars in literature and philosophy.

*(continued on the next page)*

#### FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

- ❖ 2008 NCIS Conference Photographs
- ❖ Review of the 2008 Frankfurt Book Fair
- ❖ Calls for Papers, Member News, and More!

- Top areas of interest to respondents included networking with other scholars in their fields, keeping current within their disciplines, promoting their work, and acquiring information on publishing, grants, and library access.

Based on the wealth of information the survey provided, several projects have been accomplished or are in progress. New benefits for our members include:

- There is an all-new guide to library access on the Web site in the Members Only area. This guide is organized by state and is available as a Web page or a PDF file at [www.ncis.org/libraries.htm](http://www.ncis.org/libraries.htm). It lists hundreds of public, college, and university libraries throughout the United States and the requirements for obtaining borrower status for independent scholars. Help us keep it up to date by e-mailing any relevant information you have to [info@NCIS.org](mailto:info@NCIS.org).
- The Web site also has an updated to grants and funding opportunities listed at [www.ncis.org/funding.htm](http://www.ncis.org/funding.htm). Most grants in the humanities and social sciences given in the United States are open to independent scholars.
- NCIS has obtained a Club Quarters membership for all our members to use. Club Quarters ([www.clubquarters.com](http://www.clubquarters.com)) offers full-amenity hotel-style rooms in several major cities in the United States and in London, England, including locations near major museums, archives, and university collections. To make reservations, just call the location you need and state that you are a member of NCIS.
- Starting in late 2009, NCIS will offer at least two grants of \$300 each year for NCIS members who have had papers accepted for presentation at their national disciplinary

conferences. Full details on the application process for these grants will be posted on the Web site this spring.

Finally, to facilitate communication among all of our members, I urge you all to sign up for the NCIS Group on Google Groups. Just visit <http://groups.google.com/group/independentscholars> and sign up with an e-mail address you check regularly. We hope to use this group for all e-mail communications starting in mid-2009.

A very happy and productive New Year to all! ❖

—Kendra Leonard, President

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Visit [www.ncis.org](http://www.ncis.org) for links to our affiliate organizations and a Web-based form to contact the NCIS officers with your questions, comments, or suggestions.

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

In my last letter, I mentioned that I would be presenting a paper at another conference, which would prevent me from attending the NCIS conference at the end of October. It would seem that some higher power was not overly pleased with me as a result, since I spent the better part of my conference weekend nursing a sprained ankle! Thanks to a brace, a bandage, a fold-up cane, and many sympathetic people, I was able to present my paper, attend several excellent panels, and have a thoroughly enjoyable time—even though I must have been a truly pathetic sight to see as I hobbled through the corridors.

Reflecting on my conference weekend, I suppose I could draw an extended metaphor from my experience—independent scholars do tend to have a lot of obstacles in their paths, and there are times when it seems like all you can do to work with what you have. But for independent scholars especially, what you get out of your scholarly experience is very much a reflection of what you are willing (and, of course, able) to put into it. A truism, perhaps, but true nonetheless. I ended up making some new contacts and refreshing my spirit for research and scholarly work, both of which I hope will provide encouragement when I find myself lacking in creative energy.

I am looking into a few other conferences for 2009, trying to balance the pressures of my bank account with my desire to keep motivated by receiving feedback from fellow scholars. Several of the new NCIS benefits that Kendra mentions in her presidential letter are very welcome, and do much to enhance the membership experience. For now, though, 2009 is fast upon all of us, and I would like to wish everyone a pleasant, prosperous, and—above all—productive New Year! ❖

— Shannon Granville

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Looking for previous issues of *The Independent Scholar*? The officers and editorial staff are working to make back issues of *TIS* available for members on the NCIS Web site at <[www.ncis.org](http://www.ncis.org)>.

**THE 2008 NCIS CONFERENCE**  
OCTOBER 25–26, 2008



*The Graduate Theological Union, UC Berkeley*

The 2008 National Coalition of Independent Scholars conference and NCIS Board meeting was held on October 25 and 26, 2008, at the University of California, Berkeley.

The following pages contain only a few of the many photographs taken during the conference.

If you would like to share your experiences for the 2008 conference, or pass along your conference paper for publication in a forthcoming issue of *The Independent Scholar*, please feel free to e-mail <[slgranville@gmail.com](mailto:slgranville@gmail.com)>.





*Displaying the publications of NCIS member authors*



*The NCIS Board meeting*



*From plenary lectures...*



*...to panels and presentations...*



*...to socializing and networking with fellow independent scholars. ❖*

## CLUB QUARTERS

One of the new NCIS member benefits is membership in the Club Quarters chain of private, full-service hotels. For NCIS members who are looking to make a trip to several major U.S. cities, as well as London, England, Club Quarters membership will allow you to book comfortable rooms in a quiet, comfortable, top-quality hotel for very reasonable rates.

The Club Quarters hotels are designed for a short-term or long-term business or professional traveler, with rooms that are intended to accommodate one or two guests per room (though certain hotels have rooms that can accommodate three or four people). For longer trips of more than 30 days, Club Quarters can offer corporate apartments with included kitchens at a per-night rate that is even lower than the regular hotel rate. All the hotels have free high-speed Internet access—wireless in the hotel's common areas and wired in the guest rooms. A guest keycard will provide access to a private club room, in which complimentary hot coffee and tea and reading material are available at all hours. Some of the club rooms offer complimentary cold beverages at certain times of day, including red and white wine and a selection of beers. In addition, the Club Quarters staff members offer a number of concierge and valet services, from laundry and dry-cleaning to private meeting rooms. Not all of the hotels have in-house restaurants, but staff members will be happy to provide suggestions on places to grab a quick meal or savor fine dining nearby.

The greatest advantage of the Club Quarters hotels, more often than not, is the price relative to the location. A single traveler can stay in Rockefeller Center for as low as \$126 per night, or in London's Trafalgar Square hotel from £68 per night. Club Quarters hotels in other cities offer similar rates based on location.

## The Club Quarters Hotels

<[www.clubquarters.com](http://www.clubquarters.com)>

### **New York City**

- Rockefeller Center: 25 West 51st Street (5th Avenue, opposite Rockefeller Plaza)
- Midtown: 40 West 45th Street (5th and 6th Avenues, near Times Square)
- Wall Street: 52 William Street (Financial District, Wall and Pine Streets)

### **Chicago**

- Central Loop: 111 West Adams Street (Near the Rookery and LaSalle)
- Wacker at Michigan: 75 E. Wacker Drive

### **Washington, DC**

- 839 17th Street NW (Farragut Square, near the White House)

### **Philadelphia**

- 1628 Chestnut Street (Business District)

### **Boston**

- 161 Devonshire Street (Milk and Franklin Streets, near Faneuil Hall)

### **Houston**

- 720 Fannin Street (Main and Rusk Streets)

### **San Francisco**

- 424 Clay Street (Embarcadero Center)

### **London**

- London Gracechurch: 7 Gracechurch Street (Leadenhall Market)
- London St. Paul's: 24 Ludgate Hill (St. Paul's Cathedral)
- London Trafalgar Square: 8 Northumberland Avenue (Trafalgar Square and Houses of Parliament)

If you decide to stay at a Club Quarters hotel and would like to share your experiences, contact the *TIS* editor with your thoughts. We hope that this benefit will be useful to all NCIS members! ❖

## CONVERSATION WEEK 2009

### An Invitation to Independent Scholars

Would you like to help revive the art of conversation in your community? Would you enjoy bringing together a small group of lively minded people, to talk seriously but not solemnly, about one of the most important questions facing humankind today? And be able to compare your insights with groups throughout the world, which will be discussing the same question during the same week, via the Internet?

A unique opportunity to engage in this global celebration of great talk will be available during Conversation Week 2009, March 23–30, 2009, at [www.conversationcafe.org](http://www.conversationcafe.org).

NCIS members in New York City, including Linda Farhood-Karasawa, Yvonne Blanche, and Julia Ballerini, are already planning to participate. “This will be exciting and important,” says Yvonne, who is spreading the word to colleagues in the City University of New York system.

Hosting a group during Conversation Week exemplifies the kind of “intellectual activism” which I (Ron Gross) recommended to independent scholars in my *Handbook* (available online at [www.sfu.ca/independentscholars/isbook.htm](http://www.sfu.ca/independentscholars/isbook.htm)).

Conversation Cafes are a way for people to listen with respect, speak from the heart, and seek truth together on the most important questions of our time. And once a year, Conversation Cafe organizes a week when everyone, everywhere is invited to sit down in small groups to consider together the most important questions in the world today. Conversation Week is a celebration of the power of conversation to change the world. The goal is to empower people worldwide to convene a meaningful, respectful discussion in their community.

The questions are suggested and vetted by people all over the world. Last year, more than 500 people from over 100 countries told us what the most important question in the world was. This year it will be more, and we want to hear from you. The quest for the 10 most important questions today begins in November 2008. Tune in to [www.conversationcafe.org](http://www.conversationcafe.org) in November when people worldwide will be invited to submit three candidates for the most important question in the world today. In December the vetting begins with people worldwide being surveyed to determine the top 10 questions from the top 50 that surfaced from the thousands submitted. In January the top 10 most important questions will be announced.

In the following months, hundreds of hosts from every continent will be oriented into the simple Conversation Cafe method and fully supported to host a conversation on one of the top 10 questions during Conversation Week 2009 (March 23–30). Everything that hosts need to succeed is available on the Conversation Week Web site ([www.conversationcafe.org](http://www.conversationcafe.org))—including a manual and PR materials.

After Conversation Week, hosts and guests alike are invited to return to the Conversation Cafe Web site to post comments, pictures, and insights—and to take a survey—so the world knows “what’s on our mind.” Because we live in challenging and complex times, no one knows THE answer, but everyone holds a piece of the answer. You can say your piece during Conversation Week 2009: March 23–30, 2009. We, and the world, will be all listening.

To become involved in Conversation Week 2009, please contact Lorie Wood by e-mail at [lorie@conversationcafe.org](mailto:lorie@conversationcafe.org). ❖

*Submitted by Ron Gross (author,  
The Independent Scholar’s Handbook)  
and Lorie Wood, Project Manager, Conversation Week.*



## **ORAL HISTORY: A DYNAMIC CONTRIBUTOR TO MILITARY HISTORY**

*Kathryn W. Lerch*

(This paper was presented at the NCIS 2006 conference “Scholars Without Borders.”)

The purpose of this paper is to give a very brief overview of the Legacy Initiative anthology project, and second to focus more specifically on the value of oral history as a “dynamic” means of enhancing, corroborating, or even focusing on significant historic wartime events. Something of interest to me and to my students is how can verified evidence from oral history transcripts can be melded together effectively with other primary source materials? Why is it important to listen to a veteran’s “own words”? Is it possible for oral histories to contribute a whole new dimension to the study of military history? And finally, how does oral history benefit students, veterans and ultimately researchers?

First, a little background: During the 2000–2001 school year, in lieu of the typical research paper freshmen history students were assigned an oral history interview project. They were to record an interview with a veteran and write a paper based on their interview. Out of the 50-plus students who were involved in this project, 16 were later invited to join the new extra-curricular activity, the Legacy Initiative, a hands-on history project. Thus, in the fall of 2001, the Legacy Initiative project gave students an additional opportunity to work with and study unpublished wartime written documents and oral histories. The goal was to teach students how to select, then edit and research the very best accounts, in order to write essays for potential publication. Small teams of students were assigned to manage letter collections according to time period: Civil War, World War I, World War II, and Modern Wars (Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf War). Students read through hundreds of wartime letters, and using identifiable criteria, selected the best or most engaging accounts for further research and editing. Into this mix of written materials, we elected to

add some of the best oral history essays from the previous year, even though at the time we considered these interviews to be less desirable than the “real documents.” How wrong we were, though. When our first anthology was published (which included six oral history accounts), we were contacted by the office of U.S. Senator Richard Lugar to see if we would be interested in partnering with them and the Library of Congress Veteran History Project to interview veterans. Now four years later, with a second published anthology (which includes 11 oral history accounts), and with almost 400 oral history interviews archived, and a third anthology in the works, we are all the more committed to using oral history accounts both in the freshmen classes and with the Legacy Initiative students as a dynamic resource for study, research, and writing military history.

At first, one might think an oral history account that is related by the interviewee more than 60 years after the events took place has the potential of just being another fish story or something that has been embellished upon until it no longer resembles the original event. Nothing could be further from the truth. To evaluate the accuracy of events portrayed in oral history accounts and to determine the value of oral history as historical evidence for military history, I reviewed works by some authorities in the field of oral history. Specifically, I tried to answer three questions: One, why is wartime a popular narrative in oral history? Two, how do oral histories enhance or corroborate events and, three, what is the value of listening to veterans or civilians in their own words?

### **Wartime Is a Popular Narrative Topic**

Wartime is indeed a popular narrative topic. The value of eyewitness accounts cannot be underestimated and eyewitnesses are the sources with the most “authority.” The interviewee’s responses may be even better than their earlier wartime letters.

Typically, the oral history account of wartime experiences comprises off-hand comments or short versions of a series of stories—usually the

result of an unintentional prompt. In a survey of our interviewees, the majority of the responders did not tell any type of story until 25 or more years after the events occurred. Why the delay? There are a number of reasons: most veterans wanted to get on with life after World War II, they had no desire to dwell on what was done with. A typical veteran did not want to share stories, unless it was with fellow veterans such as at reunions. Many felt that what they had witnessed was not suitable for sharing with wives, mothers, or even their parents. Rather, interviews and story-telling appears years later, and often skips a generation. In other words, the emergence of such stories, according to Paul Thompson represents a “life review” or “a sudden emergence of memories and a desire to remember, and the special candor which goes with the feeling that active life is over, achievement is completed.”<sup>1</sup>

Getting veterans to tell their stories is essential. A parent of one of my students shared with me how much it had meant to her elderly father to tell his story to his granddaughter. No matter how late in life these stories are told, they are still valid. Valerie Yow writes that “people tend with the passage of time to be more, rather than less, candid . . . near the end of the life, there is a need to look at things as honestly as possible to make sense of experiences over a lifetime.”<sup>2</sup>

During the years following a veteran’s wartime experience, a family may have heard absolutely nothing about a person’s wartime experience, or at best, there were small bits and pieces. For Alessandro Portelli, the oral history interview is unique. The story has never been told in *that* form before. “Most personal or family tales are told in pieces and episodes, when the occasion arises; we learn even the lives of our closest relatives by fragments, repetitions, hearsay. Many stories or anecdotes may have

been told many times within a narrator’s immediate circle, but the whole story has hardly been told in sequence a coherent organized whole. . . .” The interview process itself has “status and importance” and “enhances the authority and self-awareness of the narrator, and may raise questions about aspects of experience that the speaker has never spoken or even seriously thought about.”<sup>3</sup> A perfect example of this is Korean War veteran Kenneth Rexrode, whom we interviewed in 2001. He came to speak to classes of students. He brought with him mementos from the war years, his photograph album, his uniform, and a box containing all the letters he had sent to his mother during the war. He confessed he had not reread those letters, nor had he ever talked about the war to his wife whom he had married the week before he shipped out to Korea. Excerpts from his letters, photographs, and interview were included in our first anthology.<sup>4</sup> He joined us for our book signing events and this reawakening of wartime memories was a positive experience for him. After 50-odd years, he finally shared what life had been like in the foxholes during the war, and he decided to start sharing his story with other school groups. Rexrode had never thought he had done anything of value during the Korean War.

Rexrode is also characteristic of many veterans who “just did their job.” Portelli, though, suggests that one reason why the war narrative is so popular is because “as we know, it is hard to keep any (male) informant from expounding about what he did in the war (or in the service). War embodies history in the most obvious schoolbook sense of the word; having been in war is the most immediate tangible claim for having been in history.”<sup>5</sup> When Rexrode saw his letters in print, accompanied by photos, the floodgates of conversation opened up. He was a part of history.

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<sup>1</sup> Paul Thompson, *The Voice of the Past*, 3rd ed. (New York: Oxford University Press: 2000), 137.

<sup>2</sup> Valerie Raleigh Yow, *Recording Oral History: A Guide for the Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2d ed. (Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press: 2005), 20.

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<sup>3</sup> Alessandro Portelli, *The Battle of Valle Giulia: Oral History and the Art of Dialogue*, (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press: 1997), 4.

<sup>4</sup> Kathryn W. Lerch, ed., *Words of War: Wartime Memories from the Civil War Through the Gulf War*, (Zionsville, IN: Guild Press of Indiana, 2002), 155–163.

<sup>5</sup> Portelli, 6–7.

## Remembering What Is Important, While Enhancing and Corroborating Events

Oral history accounts have the ability to enhance and corroborate significant events in the minds of veterans. “I really didn’t have anything to tell,” commented numerous veterans at the 2004 World War II Memorial Dedication. Yet after an hour-long interview they would leave; they and their family were astonished by the stories that had remained untold until then. Other interviewees had family members prompt them to tell me a story they had heard the veterans tell before—this is an example of twice-told tale, but until this interview, it had never told in the context of the whole wartime experience.

According to oral historian, Donald Ritchie, “historians documenting traumatic events of the past have found that many survivors will refrain from talking about those events, even to their own children. Researchers point out that the first stage of grief is shock, and the second stage is denial. People can stay in denial for a very long time. But as they grow older, and as others who share the experience die, the survivors will grant interviews as a way of reconciling a haunting record, and also ensuring that future generations do not forget.”<sup>6</sup>

One such veteran was Glenn Snyder, who served as a medic on Iwo Jima. A child of the Great Depression, he left poverty behind when he joined the navy. Snyder remembered being a part of the sixth wave of troops coming onto the beaches at Iwo. He had just turned 19 years old two weeks earlier—and this was etched like a “flashbulb memory” in his mind. It was impossible for him to put out of his mind the three horrific days that followed while he lay under fire on the sulfuric beach sands. What Snyder remembered from Iwo Jima was concealed for more than 50 years. Snyder suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and he eventually broke his silence. He revisited Iwo Jima as a guest of the Japanese

government in the 1990s, and he started telling his story at numerous schools. This was important therapy for him. For veterans such as Snyder, “the experience of being interviewed . . . stimulat[ed] a cathartic release of long pent-up emotions.”<sup>7</sup> Many of these World War II veterans would not have wanted to be interviewed in 1946, because “the scars are too recent,” according to Ritchie. Admittedly, the “memory of details will be sharper and closer to the actual events that the interview occurs,” but the passage of time adds maturity and veterans are more able to “sort the significant from the trivial.”<sup>8</sup>

What *is* remembered then can be used as evidence. According to Ritchie, “interviewers can question inconsistencies between the oral account and written documentation. A good oral history can present and preserve convincing evidence in quotable, first-person prose that enlivens historical narratives. But oral history should not stand alone as a single source.”<sup>9</sup> This is something I encourage my students to do—to familiarize themselves with the known dates of certain events, and to read sufficient background materials so that they can weigh the accuracy of the oral narrative with written resources. One example comes to mind. A student interviewed her grandmother who as a very young girl had been living in France during the German occupation in World War II. Upon reviewing the transcript, the student commented that her grandmother was most emphatic that the Germans had arrived in her village in 1938. This date was, of course, not correct. I cautioned the student, and suggested that she check the actual dates of the German invasion. Just because the interviewee mistakes a date, this does not mean the whole narrative is inaccurate—rather that is how this woman chose to remember it. Dates (unless they are flashbulb memories) often err, but specific events, feelings of fear, and actually seeing things happen appear very real.

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<sup>6</sup> Donald A. Ritchie, *Doing Oral History: A Practical Guide*, 2d ed., (New York: Oxford University Press: 2003), 36.

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<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 234.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 39.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 119.

Oral history “provides a more realistic and fair reconstruction of the past, a challenge to the established account. In doing so, oral history has radical implication for the social message of history as a whole. . . . The military and naval historian can look beyond command-level strategy and equipment to the conditions, recreations, and morale of other ranks in the lower deck.”<sup>10</sup> Similarly, our interviewees represent all walks of life.

Oral histories can also be significantly more dynamic if their transcripts are viewed in the context with the veteran’s personal correspondence or diaries. Unlike letters that may extend to fill a piece of paper, sometimes with trivia, the interview responses are more selective. For example, a veteran can sort out the trivial from his experiences and select specific incidents that are especially significant. When oral and written materials are melded together, one has a more complete and realistic account of the events as they most likely occurred.

### **Value of Listening to Their Own Words**

Finally, what is the value of listening to veterans in their own words? “Who speaks to whom?” asks Portelli. “There is no oral history before the encounter of two different subjects, one with a story to tell and the other with a history to reconstruct. For the oral historian, an interview is always a learning experience.”<sup>11</sup> With each interview that my students do, we are not surprised to discover that each interview “is important because each interview is different from the others.”<sup>12</sup> Each D-Day landing experience, for example, is quite unlike another; each veteran remembers a different portion of their experience, which may contrast sharply with another’s experiences. Yet, when the mosaics of experiences are combined into a whole, there is a clearer picture of that particular D-Day. During World War II, there were after-action reports and interviews with the important

officers. Not so much for the common soldier—at least not until recently. When Steven Spielberg’s movie *Saving Private Ryan* and later Steven Ambrose’s book and TV series *Band of Brothers* were popularized, viewers suddenly had an opportunity to visualize the life of the average soldier. The Library of Congress Veteran History Project is well-designed to generate especially good interviews. Through careful phrasing of questions, the veteran’s story “becomes richer, more nuanced, more understandable in the telling . . . [providing] a source that must be analyzed with extreme care.”<sup>13</sup>

Portelli contends that history is “not just about events, . . . but also about how these are experienced and remembered in the imagination.”<sup>14</sup> Yow also believes that veterans, “whether young or old, remember what is important to *them*.”<sup>15</sup> I interviewed a veteran who had enlisted with his best friend following December 7, 1941. Both had made a promise to one another, that if the other died, the survivor was to return to their hometown and tell the other soldier’s parents how he had died. He survived and what upsets him most now is that he can no longer remember his friend’s name. For him this was shameful because his friend had paid the ultimate sacrifice. It was not surprising that a veteran forgot the name of his friend. Thus, emotion can be as important as what is or is not remembered.

### **Value of Their Stories**

Oral history is the “search for a connection between biography and history.”<sup>16</sup> For my students, their task is to ask questions, to delve with sensitivity into these individuals’ past wartime experiences. This responsibility is at times daunting, or uncomfortable especially if the veteran finds it difficult to speak about certain wartime incidents. Yet the process of doing an

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<sup>10</sup> Thompson, 7.

<sup>11</sup> Portelli, 9.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, 58.

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<sup>13</sup> Albert Santoli, *Everything We Had: An Oral History of the Vietnam War by Thirty-Three American Soldiers Who Fought It* (New York: Random House, 1981), 27.

<sup>14</sup> Portelli, 161.

<sup>15</sup> Yow, 39.

<sup>16</sup> Portelli, 6.

interview and completing a transcript has numerous benefits. It may be cathartic or satisfying for the veteran. As I tell my students, the resulting transcript is a primary source, which needs to be looked at closely, and evaluated in the light of other secondary historical scholarship. This opens up a whole new realm of information, which helps put the veteran into the historical context of events—more so than if just written documents are used.

There are additional benefits: the content found in veteran interviews adds immeasurably to our whole collection, and when interviews can be sorted according to time period and topic, connections can be found which will enhance the stories even more. Thanks to doing oral histories, students learn how to work with primary sources, and they can be guided in editing well-researched and crafted stories for papers and our biannual anthologies. Thus, “oral evidence...makes for a history which is not just richer, more vivid, and heart-rending, but truer.”<sup>17</sup>

In conclusion, students have said the following about the Legacy Initiative’s project: “Working on Legacy Initiative documents made me think about war in a new way. Because you are editing the documents (correcting, deciding what is important, what is not, re-reading), you find yourself paying attention to details—what someone ate for breakfast, what they miss about home—and then suddenly, you come across an unbelievable combat scene. What struck me was just the humanity—all these stories were more similar than different.” Also, “the oral history project provides a unique opportunity for students to engage history on a personal level. We know all the facts of a war, but this project reveals the many faces and voices of war. It is a look at the organic and emotional toll of war, much more than the usual cut-and-dried history of our classroom.”

*Kathryn W. Lerch, chairman of Social Studies at Park Tudor School in Indiana, is the founder of the Legacy Initiative, a project devoted to preserving oral and written wartime accounts. ❖*

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<sup>17</sup> Thompson, 117.

## THE FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR OCTOBER 15–19, 2008

*Irmgard Heiler*

Through a hitch in organization (the car park was still closed) that made me miss the opening press conference, I missed out on Paulo Coelho. But thanks to the steady press releases on Paulo Coelho’s blog, I do know the main argument of his speech: The book world is all about “sharing ideas”: therefore, the success of the book since Gutenberg’s time, when “produced on an industrial scale,” and therefore the “advent of the web... , imposing a new way of sharing ideas and defying old economic models,” is a paradigm shift: “The democratisation of an idea...starts to reach a whole new scale....The user becomes someone that not only has something to tell, but who is also able to share their likes and dislikes.” And moreover: “people are sharing what they deem pertinent in a free way and they expect the same thing to occur in all systems of mass communication.”

The Frankfurt Book Fair, the biggest of its kind, celebrated its 60th anniversary (making a fresh start in 1949 after having been located in Leipzig for two centuries). Its universal attraction seems undiminished: Visitor numbers were up by 5.6 percent on last year which already was a record year, with 299,112 attending the fair, 186,240 of them trade visitors. In 13 hall units, 7,373 exhibitors from 100 countries presented 402,284 products, including 123,496 new releases (about 42 percent of them books, 30 percent digital products), a 1.4 percent growth—as much as 2 percent among the Anglo-Saxon exhibitors.

The German exhibitors still form the largest group by far (3,337 stands), followed by British (834) and U.S. publishers (662). While the main German hall was packed, you were still able to stroll through the international halls (countries and regions usually are to be found in levels and blocks) in a fairly relaxed way. Literary agents and the press shared one level. There was an

International Centre, an Antiquarian Book Fair, a Book Art Square, a Calendar Exhibition, a Comics Centre, a level reserved for the Digital Market Place (which had expanded by a third). Certain forums, film and TV, have their places, there was a reading tent and much more.

In all, a total of 2,500 events took place during the week, 400 of which involved professional events—half of these were on digitization. A total 400 events were connected with this year's Guest of Honor, Turkey. (Next year, it will be China, and in 2006 it was India—both very much present in 2008.) More than 250 Turkish authors and 100 publishers attended, among them a strong independent publisher's delegation to present its literature, culture and history and to enter into dialogue with the industry.

It was a huge event, and in the course of the week I certainly walked the miles of a marathon. In between interviews and talks the exhibitors would treat you to small presents; invite you for snacks, coffee, and drinks; and offer brochures and posters in extravagant paper bags. Introductory subscriptions were freely available. You could also pick up books (usually sold on the last day for 30 percent less) and attend cocktail parties (which go on in several Frankfurt hotels far into the night). It was fun, exhausting, somehow annoying in its overwhelming commercialism, and yet ultimately inspiring in its opening up of new cultures.

Through a hitch in organization (the car park was still closed) that made me miss the opening press conference, I missed out on Paulo Coelho. But thanks to the steady press releases on Paulo Coelho's blog, I do know the main argument of his speech: The book world is all about "sharing ideas": therefore, the success of the book since Gutenberg's time, when "produced on an industrial scale," and therefore the "advent of the web... imposing a new way of sharing ideas and defying old economic models," is a paradigm shift: "The democratisation of an idea... starts to reach a whole new scale.... The user becomes someone that not only has something to tell, but who is also

able to share their likes and dislikes." And moreover: "people are sharing what they deem pertinent in a free way and they expect the same thing to occur in all systems of mass communication."

There was the guided tour for journalists on digitalization, which took us from "Books and Bytes" (about innovative Web projects, digital market places, blogs, and the like) to the "Noah's Ark of Remembrance," the Frankfurt University Library's free-access digitization project for Jewish studies in the German-speaking world.

Some discussion panels were strongly attended: those on the electronic book and its presentations, on the controversial approach of publishing houses toward open access, on the chances of blogging for the scientific world, and especially on book art, typography, the future of book design. Good fun was the presentation for Mickey Mouse on his 80th birthday, and the reception of the newly introduced Leya Prize award for the best novel written in Portuguese (won by Brazilian Murilo Antônio de Carvalho, for *O Rastro do Jaguar*).

Still, the direct encounter with the author is the visitor's favorite—sometimes publishers, the odd celebrity (of politicians, Mikhail Gorbachev put in an appearance). This is the place to ask a question, possibly to have a chat, or else have a book signed. But how do writers themselves fare? Orhan Pamuk described his first-time visit to the Frankfurt Book Fair as deeply disillusioning (although the translation of his book was awarded a prize, and he was welcomed by Siegfried Unseld of the Suhrkamp publishing house, who "was full of smiles"): "I could see that the world publishing industry was much bigger and richer than I had imagined in Istanbul... having seen how large it was, I was painfully aware how small and insignificant I was as a young writer."

It was revealing to listen to some interviews of German authors, such as the disputatious Günter Grass; or to the discussion "Do we still need literature?" in the International Centre between

Alaa al-Aswani, the Egyptian believer in stories as binding together human experiences, and Kiran Nagarkar, the skeptic, focusing on Indian literature as an endangered species, lost to the movie-world which has become the reality of India. It was good to meet the counter-example Baby Halder (doing a reading tour in Germany on the occasion of the translation of her book *A Life Less Ordinary*) at the stall of her flamboyant Indian female publisher, Urvashi Butalia, for Zubaan Books.

Most rewarding was to witness the Turkish president Abdullah Gül at the Turkish exhibition, a hall of fame of Turkish authors decorated with huge portraits and statements and pictures of Turkish life and culture to delve into this what the motto of “Turkey in all its colours” expressed in an all-too simplistic way. Eye-catching the photos of long-lost times, and of female authors expressing a total modernity while watching the half-veiled president’s wife. More than two hours of quiet amazement told me how little we know about the Turkish authors and their world.

There is a deep rift between Turkey’s intelligentsia and politics; some of the better-known authors, like Leyla Erbil, Ahmet Oktay, and Tahsin Yücel, boycotted the Book Fair. On the other hand, Orhan Pamuk, persecuted only some years ago for his outspokenness about the Armenian massacre in 1915, now being the only Nobel prize winner of Turkey the Turkish figurehead, used the world’s attention to speak out for the rights of authors. Writing is not preeminently about national culture: “I naively believe that I am expressing feelings shared by the vast majority of humankind”, so he warned against Turkish censorship: “Article 301 of the Turkish penal code continues to be used to silence and suppress many other writers, in the same way it was used against me; there are at this moment hundreds of writers and journalists being prosecuted and found guilty under this article. While I was working on the novel that I published earlier this year, I needed to research old Turkish films and songs. I did this easily on YouTube, but now I would not be able do the same; YouTube,

like many other domestic and international Web sites, has been blocked for residents of Turkey for political reasons. Those in whom the power of the state resides may take satisfaction from all these repressive measures, but we writers, publishers, artists feel differently.” Nevertheless, he described Turkish literary life and book trade as vibrant and in good shape, finishing with the words: “May the Frankfurt Book Fair bring hope and happiness to us all.”

Aimed at Germany was the artist Anselm Kiefer’s speech at the Peace Prize Award of the German Book Trade on the closing day of the Book Fair (the most prestigious award for literary, scholarly or artistic activities in Germany): He was honored as “an artist of global importance who has consistently sought to confront us with a disturbing moral message of that which is ruinous and volatile”—and he did so in his speech deploring the all-too-quick cleaning up of the debris of history after Second World War and again after the fall of the wall, a process within Germany that wants to forget and not to remember. ❖

Links:

<[www.book-fair.com/en/](http://www.book-fair.com/en/)>

The English-language homepage of the Frankfurter Buchmesse (Frankfurt Book Fair)

<<http://paulocoelhoblog.com/>>

Blog by Paulo Coelho, one of the speakers at the Frankfurt Book Fair

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Are you interested in submitting an article to *TIS*? If so, please e-mail a brief description of the article and a proposed length to <[slgranville@gmail.com](mailto:slgranville@gmail.com)>. The submission deadline for the Spring 2009 issue is February 15—however, articles submitted for publication in a later issue are more than welcome.

## INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS SUPPORT INDEPENDENT BOOKSHOPS

*Good as it is to inherit a library, it is better to collect one.*

– Augustine Birrell (1850–1933), “Book Buying,”  
*Obiter Dicta* (1888)

### WASHINGTON, DC

A lot of eyes will be on Washington, DC, this year, as the upcoming presidential inauguration draws worldwide media attention to the capital of the United States. Not everyone will be there to see the inauguration in person, but if you happen to be traveling in the District and its surrounding areas, there are a good handful of independent bookshops that are worth a visit.

Several of the District’s best-known independent bookshops are dotted along the length of Connecticut Avenue, northwest of the White House. Traveling up Connecticut Avenue, away from the presidential residence, the curious bookbuyer has several DC institutions to choose from. Nearest to the Dupont Circle station on the DC Metro’s Red Line is **Kramerbooks** (1517 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036). The shop’s fine book selection is complemented by Afterwords, its full-service café, which provides breakfast, lunch, dinner, and drinks from early in the morning until late at night. A little farther north on Connecticut Avenue is another noteworthy DC institution, **Lambda Rising** (1625 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington DC 20009), which has been serving the reading interests of the District’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community since 1974. Still farther north on Connecticut Avenue is the aptly named **Politics & Prose** (5015 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008). Its book selection is quite comprehensive and not wholly political in nature, but the store is best known for the slew of author events, including signings and panel discussions, that take place there on an almost weekly basis.

For those who are interested in used, rare, or out-of-print books, **Second Story Books and Antiques** provides two locations: one in the District (2000 P Street NW, Washington, DC 20036) and one just outside it (12160 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD 20852). Browsing in either location can be slightly daunting to a first-time visitor, but the staff members are generally happy to guide you to the appropriate section of the shop or answer any questions you might have. A little farther away from the DC Metro, near Georgetown University, **Bartleby’s Books** (1132 29th Street NW, Washington, DC 20007) is another shop that caters primarily to the used, rare, and antiquarian trade, with special collections in American history and the American legal system.

The Washington, DC, area has its fair share of large chain bookstores, so it can be easy to overlook some of the smaller shops that the District and its surrounding areas have to offer. But seeing as how most of these shops are well within the reach of public transportation, they are worth a visit by casual tourist and dedicated researcher alike.

– Shannon Granville

Previous articles in this column:

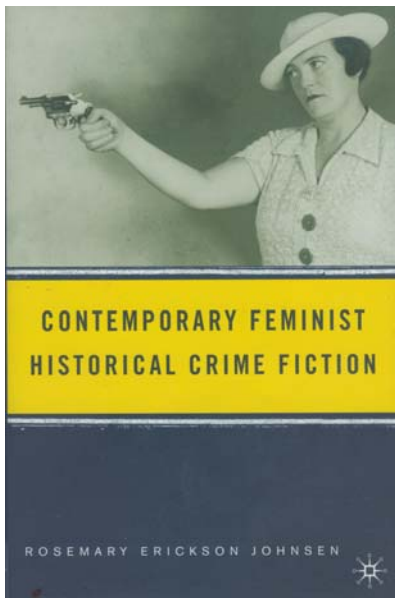
- *London – TIS Fall 2008*

Are you interested in sharing information about your favorite independent bookshops with your fellow independent scholars? *TIS* invites you to e-mail <[slgranville@gmail.com](mailto:slgranville@gmail.com)> with a short description (preferably between 250 and 500 words) with your selections for independent bookshops that you think are especially worthy of note. Be sure to provide information about the location and the contents, and explain what makes the shop stand out to you. Readers are encouraged to submit information on multiple bookshops, especially for different shops in the same town or city. Submissions will be collected and included in forthcoming *TIS* issues. ❖



## BOOK REVIEWS

*Contemporary Feminist Historical Crime Fiction* by Rosemary Erickson Johnsen (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006). Paper and hardback (ISBN-13: 978-1-4039-7278-1), xvii, 173 pp., references, index, \$65.



Rosemary Johnsen informs us in her concise book that her study is not a survey of feminist historical crime fiction, but rather an investigation of how feminist ambitions work in the writings of several contemporary women mystery writers. Indeed, she feels that the subgenre had its heyday in the 1990s, and may well be over, awaiting now a second generation of writers.

Johnsen from the very beginning informs us as to what constitutes feminist “history-mystery.” Authors are required to combine expertise in traditional genres of historical fiction and crime fiction in ways that are focused on contemporary women’s issues. Even though set in the past, the novels should have a strong commitment to a liberated future. This is done by seeing women in newer ways, and perceiving history in newer ways as well. There must be a reclamation of real women’s history in context presented via an overt or covert social criticism. Most important,

there is an emphasis on “agency:” a call for action on the part of the reader that continues beyond the immediate event of reading.

The author examines very popular seven mystery series that range in setting from Medieval France to contemporary Ireland, and other women writers are mentioned as well. Johnsen lauds the writers for the scope and accuracy of their historical research.

Fellow NCIS Member Sharan Newman receives a good deal of praise (pp. 57f) by Johnsen for her historical crime fiction series featuring the character of Catherine LeVendeur set in the Middle Ages. Solid research is able to bring to life marginalized groups and everyday existence for the reader in ways that provide “inspiration for women’s agency” (p. 58).

Rosemary Johnsen’s book, though overpriced by the publisher, is an excellent introduction to the subgenre, providing valuable references to use as jumping off points to further reading, both academic and recreational. She provides links to broader literary issues and writings to round out the picture. Her preface even provides an example of empirical research on the effects and importance of the books among young readers, an unusual feature of literary criticism. A rewarding read for those interested in popular culture, feminism, and literary analysis.

*Reviewed by David Sonenschein*

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*Daughter of Adena: Margaret Worthington’s Personal Papers, 1836–1839*, edited and introduction by Charlotte W. Wells with Laura R. Prieto and Jennifer C. Davis (Freedom, NH, Freedom Press Associates, 2005). Paperback (ISBN 13: 978-0945069225), 190 pp., appendices, notes, bibliography, index.

Margaret Worthington’s diary “was like a soul-mate to whom she could confide almost, if not

quite everything, that was uppermost in her mind and heart,” wrote Charlotte Wells in *Daughter of Adena* (p. 25). Worthington (1811–1836), from a prominent Ohio family, enjoyed writing. She kept diaries and was an ardent correspondent. Wells inherited these papers from her late husband, who was Margaret Worthington’s great grand-son. She edited and transcribed them, to provide a “readable narrative” (p. xix). This volume includes the 1836–37 diary and Margaret’s letters to her fiancé Edward Deering Mansfield during 1838–39.

In 1789, Worthington’s parents Thomas and Eleanor emigrated from Virginia to Ohio, then part of the Northwest Territory. Thomas (1773–1827) petitioned the U.S. Congress for statehood; and later became a U.S. senator from Ohio, and its sixth governor. They settled near Chillicothe, and Worthington commissioned architect Benjamin Latrobe to design the family estate. Named Adena, this graceful stone mansion still stands. Distinguished visitors included Senator Henry Clay, Shawnee chief Tecumseh, President James Monroe, New York Governor DeWitt Clinton, financier John Jacob Astor, and educator Catherine Beecher. Margaret, the seventh of ten children, was born at Adena and lived there until age 28. As the last child to leave home, she formed a great attachment to the estate.

Worthington’s writing is clear and lively. Her accounts provide insight into the activities, thoughts, and concerns of a young woman in antebellum rural Ohio. They also reveal how American women’s roles have changed since the 1800s. Worthington described picnics, parties, visits, holiday celebrations, and horseback rides with family and friends. She recounted a trip down the Ohio Canal to Cincinnati, and her fears when storms breached the canal. She wrote of the changing seasons at Adena and her love of its flowers and woods. She detailed household chores: sewing, canning, cleaning. Health was a constant concern: her own headaches, time spent nursing others, and sadness about death’s

constant presence. She struggled with her belief in God, her need to develop character, and her longing for a suitable spouse. In letters to fiancé Edward Mansfield, a Cincinnati news editor and writer, she expressed hope that she would be an adequate wife, frustrations with their relationship, and anxiety about leaving her mother and Adena.

Wells added much supplementary material to put the story in a larger context. She studied Ohio history and researched the Worthington and Mansfield families. Her numerous and carefully prepared footnotes explain places, people, historical facts, and customs of the era. Illustrations include photographs of Margaret, her parents, husband, children, and Adena. Several detailed chronologies give us overviews of family history, and Wells prepared lists of Margaret’s and Edward’s family and friends. The book contains a lengthy bibliography of primary and secondary sources on Ohio history, and a detailed index.

*Reviewed by Linda Miles Coppens*

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*Solidarity’s Secret: The Women Who Defeated Communism in Poland* by Shana Penn (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press). Paperback (\$23.95, ISBN 978-0-472-03196-2) and hardback (\$34.95, ISBN 978-0-472-11385-9).

The 1981 imposition of martial law in Poland, along with the internment of most of Solidarity’s leaders, left only a handful of prominent male members free—but free also were numerous, publicly unknown, Solidarity women. Because the absence of leaders had suspended overt action, a handful of women, determined to keep Solidarity alive in national consciousness, decided to publish a weekly known as *Tygodnik Mazowsze*.

Author Shana Penn describes the reasons that kept the publishing group’s identity hidden from the secret police. She contends that because Polish society has always been patriarchal,

women had neither gained leadership status in Solidarity, nor ever led the authorities to suspect their identity, even though the authorities had heard their names over the years. Instead, authorities attributed the publication to various Solidarity men in hiding. Penn writes,

It did not take women long to realize they could exploit to their advantage men's deeply ingrained perspective on sex roles. They proceeded to camouflage themselves and work behind a range of female stereotypes, as well as behind and under household appliances and other domestic objects.

After the fall of the Communist authority women publishers of *Tygodnik Mazowsze* did not lay claim to their activism. Why? Various explanations reveal a cultural norm whereby men do politics and women do not. In this instance women stepped up because the men could not.

This reviewer sees the same stance in the statement of a nineteenth-century woman, who following the failure of the 1830 Uprising against Russia, explained that since the men were gone (they were either exiled to Siberia, or emigrated to Western Europe) women had to become active, which they did by forming a proto-feminist group known as the Enthusiasts.

It took the author, Shana Penn, who knew no Polish or Poland's history to break Solidarity women's silence. With the help of translators and an intense study of Polish society she got the women to talk. Penn came to the topic with a feminist perspective which Polish society had ridiculed. It was not until the Solidarity men in a freely elected government backed the Catholic Church's determination to abolish abortion on demand that Polish women began to understand the meaning of feminism. But still they did not claim their historical role. It took a non-historian, new to Polish topics, to do that.

Finally, there is one more point this reviewer must make. A review in the journal of the Association for the Advanced of Slavic Studies lamented Penn's failure write a more comprehensive tome along the lines of cited Polish specialists. The obvious seems to have eluded the reviewer. Why have Polish experts failed to write this story?

Penn's book was the winner of the 2005 Heldt Book Prize for Best Book in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian Women's Studies given by the Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS) of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS).

*Reviewed by Bogna Lorence-Kot*

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Are you interested in reviewing books for *The Independent Scholar*? Or, alternately, have you published a book that you would like to see reviewed by a fellow independent scholar? Please contact *TIS* book review editor David Sonenschein at <[dsncis@gmail.com](mailto:dsncis@gmail.com)> for further information and other guidelines regarding book reviews.

Book reviews printed in forthcoming issues will include photographs of the books in question, wherever possible. ❖

Visit < <a href="http://www.ncis.org">www.ncis.org</a> > for links to our affiliate organizations and a Web-based form to contact the NCIS officers with your questions, comments, or suggestions.
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## PROFESSIONAL NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALLS FOR PAPERS

The *Historical Journal of Massachusetts (HJM)*, the only scholarly journal devoted exclusively to the history and culture of Massachusetts, is currently seeking articles about any aspect of Massachusetts history. We are also seeking people interested in writing book reviews, serving as peer reviewers, or joining our new editorial board.

*HJM* is a peer-reviewed journal published twice a year by the History Department at Westfield State College in Westfield, MA. The journal covers all fields of history from pre-colonial times through the present, including political, social, cultural, economic, labor, legal, and immigration history. It also includes studies of Massachusetts culture, literature, arts, and humanities.

*HJM* welcomes articles from novice historians as well as established scholars. The journal is also seeking book reviewers, peer reviewers, and anyone who might be interested in serving on our new editorial board, along with new subscribers. For more information, see the *HJM* Web site at <[www.wsc.mass.edu/mhj/](http://www.wsc.mass.edu/mhj/)> or e-mail <[masshistoryjournal@wsc.ma.edu](mailto:masshistoryjournal@wsc.ma.edu)>.

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*Seventy Years On: New Perspectives on the Second World War*  
August 31–September 2, 2009  
University of Calgary  
Alberta, Canada

In honor of the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War, the University of Calgary invites leading researchers and graduate students from around the world to share fresh analyses of this global conflict.

In recent years, some of the most enduring interpretations of the Second World War have been subject to revision. Indeed, military historians are using innovative and often interdisciplinary methods to answer original questions, and offer new perspectives in established debates. This conference provides an ideal forum to explore these avenues of research in an international setting. We invite researchers from history and related disciplines to share their research on the following topics:

- Turning Points Revisited
- Coalition Warfare
- Tertiary Theatres

Applicants are encouraged to submit original work on the conference themes. New perspectives may include, for example, revisiting operational history, studying the impact of culture on combat, or the relationship between the environment and warfare. Assistance with travel costs may be available.

The paper proposal deadline is **March 31, 2009**. Please send a 250-word proposal for a 20–30 minute paper, a title, and a brief CV via e-mail to <[Ranke@ucalgary.ca](mailto:Ranke@ucalgary.ca)> or by post to The New Perspectives Committee, Department of History, University of Calgary, 645 Social Sciences, 2500 University Drive NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1N4.

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### *Oral History and Photography*

We are seeking original research essays for a collection titled *Oral History and Photography*. Palgrave's *Studies in Oral History* series has expressed interest in publishing the collection and preliminary conversations with the editors of the series have been encouraging.

Oral history and its diverse practical and theoretical relationships to photography are at the center of this essay collection, which will explore the interconnections among theory, method, and politics in the two fields. The authors will consider oral history and photography as distinct but related research methods, as evidence for interpretation, and as tools for activism and social movements. The editors are also open to suggestions about other, related topics of investigation.

Papers should be based on original research, reflect practical experience with oral history and photography, and not have been previously published. The essays will be in English, should be about 6,000 words, and may include photographic images. Authors will be responsible for obtaining all rights for the publication of photographs and interviews (forms will be provided).

Deadlines:

**December 31, 2008:** Expression of interest (encouraged but not mandatory)

**January 31, 2009:** Abstracts of up to 500 words should be sent to the editors, together with a short CV including contact details and one example of previously published work in a relevant field

**June 30, 2009:** Acceptance letters sent to authors

**November 30, 2009:** Paper submission deadline

Please submit all expressions of interest and required materials to <[a.freund@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:a.freund@uwinnipeg.ca)> AND <[Alistair.Thomson@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Alistair.Thomson@arts.monash.edu.au)> with the subject line "Oral History and Photography."

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## ONLINE RESOURCES

The catalogue of Museum Meermanno (the Dutch Museum of the Book) is now online at <[www.catalogus.meermanno.nl/default.aspx](http://www.catalogus.meermanno.nl/default.aspx)>.

The catalogue provides access to a number of collections, including the following:

- Western book art since 1450: 70,000 objects
- 11,000 archives and archivalia on lettering artists, book designers and publishers, book art and typography (with the emphasis on the Netherlands) since 1850
- 330,000 bookplates and small prints, including the Beels, Schelling, Schwencke, Strens and Verster collections (245,000 of which are searchable)
- More than 10,000 coins and medals, including 9,000 from classical antiquity

In the longer term, the museum intends to add the other collections to this catalogue, including manuscripts, paintings and antiquities. The museum's general homepage is available at <[www.meermanno.nl](http://www.meermanno.nl)>.

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Europeana, the European digital library, museum and archive, is now available online at <<http://dev.europeana.eu/>>. Europeana will give users direct access to some 2 million digital objects, including film material, photos, paintings, sounds, maps, manuscripts, books, newspapers and archival papers.

The project is run by a core team based in the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the national library of the Netherlands. It builds on project management and technical expertise developed by The European Library, a service of the Conference of European National Librarians. The digital content was selected from material that was already available in Europe's museums, libraries, archives and audio-visual collections. The interface is initially available in French, English, and German, and the intention is to expand the number of languages available following the launch.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Research Grants: Sallie Bingham Center  
*Duke University*

The Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture, part of the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library at Duke University, announces the availability of Mary Lily Research Grants for research travel to its collections.

The Sallie Bingham Center documents the public and private lives of women through a wide variety of published and unpublished sources. Collections of personal papers, family papers, and organizational records complement print sources such as books and periodicals. Particular strengths of the Sallie Bingham Center are feminism in the United States, women's prescriptive literature from the 19th and 20th centuries, girls' literature, 'zines, artist's books by women, gender and sexuality, and the history and culture of women in the South.

Mary Lily Research grants are for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and independent scholars conducting research using collections held by the Sallie Bingham Center. Grant money may be used for travel, photocopying, and living expenses while pursuing research at the Rare Book, Manuscript and Special Collections Library. Applicants must live outside of a 50-mile radius from Durham, NC. The maximum award per applicant is \$1,000.

The application deadline is **January 30, 2009**, and recipients will be announced in March 2009. For more information and application forms, visit <http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/ingham/grants>.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Kelly Wooten, the Center's research services librarian, before submitting their materials: e-mail [kelly.wooten@duke.edu](mailto:kelly.wooten@duke.edu) or telephone (919) 660-5967.

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Blakemore Freeman Fellowships  
*Language Grants for Advanced Asian Language Study*

Since 1990, Blakemore Freeman Fellowships ([www.blakemorefoundation.org](http://www.blakemorefoundation.org)) have been available to fund a year of advanced study of an Asian language in Asia for American citizens and permanent residents of the United States who have a college degree and who plan to use an Asian language in their careers.

To be eligible for a grant, an applicant must:

- Be pursuing an academic, professional or business career that involves the regular use of a modern East or Southeast Asian language
- Have a college undergraduate degree
- Be at or near an advanced level in the language as defined below
- Be able to devote oneself exclusively to language study during the term of the grant; grants are not made for part-time study
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident

The "professional or business career" designation includes careers in computer science, engineering, international business, journalism, law, medicine, nongovernmental organizations, and teaching. "Advanced level" is defined as (1) a minimum of three academic years of regular language study at the college level; (2) a minimum of one academic year of full-time intensive language study at the college level; or (3) signed proof of equivalent competency as certified by a language instructor.

The next postmark deadline for applications will be **December 30, 2008**. More information about grants is available at the above Web site. ❖

## MEMBER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Have you recently changed your e-mail or postal address? Have you published a book or article, won a grant or fellowship, or have other news that you would like to share with your fellow NCIS members? Send it to [<slgranville@gmail.com>](mailto:slgranville@gmail.com) for publication in our Member News and Announcements section.

### New Members

TAMARA MURAVITSKY  
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Houston, TX 77055-6722  
[<truax@hal-pc.org>](mailto:truax@hal-pc.org)

### New Publications

Carol Miller, an anthropologist who has studied the Machvaia Roma who live along the west coast of the United States, has recently published *Lola's Luck: My Life Among the California Gypsies*. The book invites readers to explore a captivating and often misunderstood culture, as seen through the story of Lola, “expert advisor on love, business and marriage.” According to the press release: “Here is a fresh response to the stereotypes that surround Gypsies, a traditional culture trying to keep itself alive in the face of American values and capitalism. In the end, it is Lola's story, ‘The story of the world!’ that rivets us.”

Kathleen Sheldon has published an article written with Isabel P. B. Fêo Rodrigues: “Outras Vozes: Women’s Writings in Lusophone Africa,” *African and Asian Studies* 7, 4 (2008): 423–45. The article is part of the special issue “Researching African Women and Gender Studies: New Social Science Perspectives.”

#### In the Next Issue

- ❖ More independent bookshops for independent scholars
- ❖ Funding announcements, calls for papers, and more!

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