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Sanford J. Fox, Editor

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With this first issue of the Newsletter, the Society launches a vehicle for communication with the hope that it can be of service to its members. At this early stage in life, there are a number of problems which the Newsletter must solve, such as duplication with other publications, locating all the people who might be interested in news of the Society, or have news for it, etc. But the major challenge is one that must be met by present readers of the Newsletter. The Newsletter needs news! Whether it is a meeting you know of, unusual publication that you have come across, original source material you are aware of, or information that you are seeking, letting the Editor know of it will insure dissemination. Communications in the nature of suggestions and criticisms for the general content and format of the Newsletter will also be welcome. Happy Holidays! The Editor  
President's Message

My first year as president of the American Society for Legal History has demonstrated to me how much the future of the society depends upon the interest and enthusiastic support of each member. In 1970 our membership has shown a gratifying increase, but at the same time our need for active participation has been expanded by the various new programs upon which we have embarked for the encouragement of legal history studies. For this reason I urge all of our members, new or old, to take a personal concern in the business of the society and to volunteer their services as their time and circumstances will permit.

Initially I would appreciate having your suggestions concerning topics currently being researched which might form the subject of papers at a future annual meeting of the society. We have a responsibility to the profession to provide a forum for the delivery of papers on legal history within the program of the American Society for Legal History, and I hope that an annual meeting can be planned for late 1971 or early 1972. In addition to your thoughts concerning papers and commentators, I would welcome your advice in regard to members who would be willing to serve upon the program committee.

There are at least two other ways in which we can help to advance the study of legal history and the work of the society. One is in the area of book reviewing; the new book review editor of the American Journal of Legal History is actively seeking competent reviewers in all fields. If you are interest in such assignments



would you please write Mr. Alfred S. Konefsky at Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138. The second way in which each member can contribute to the society is by recommending friends and colleagues for membership. A simple note to Professor Milton M. Klein, chairman of the society committee on new members, at the Department of History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37916, will provide your nominees with an informational brochure and application for membership.

Finally, I would like to call the attention of the membership to a circular letter that will shortly be mailed to each member, providing a detailed report of our activities in the past year and some of our plans for the future. I hope that you will find that letter helpful, and look forward to your continued support in 1971. George L. Haskins

#### Meetings

The American Historical Association meets at Boston's Sheraton Hotel, December 28-30, 1970. Sessions of interest to legal historians include Civil Rights and the Negro Farmer, Law and Politics in Seventeenth Century England, Early American Reform, The Police and Crime in the City, Problems of the Young Republic, and Education in the Forming of American Society. For details and program write AHA headquarters, 400 A Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

Travelers in Europe early this summer may want to take in the meeting of the Société d'Histoire du Droit, to be held June 3-5 at the University of Freiburg, West Germany. Details of the meeting can be obtained from the Secretary of the Société, Professor J. Ph. Lévy, 98 rue Boileau, 75-Paris (16<sup>e</sup>). But, keep your schedule flexible; a more complete list of foreign legal history meetings will be published in the Spring issue of the Newsletter.

A national conference on "Present Day Implications of the History of Violence and Other Crime" will be held April 22 through 25, 1971 at the State University of New York College at Brockport (19 miles west of Rochester). It will be co-sponsored by the American Society for Legal History and the American Society of Criminology. Professor Albert G. Hess, formerly of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, and now on the Brockport faculty, is organizing the meeting. Further information is available from the Office of Continuing Education, State University College at Brockport, Brockport, N.Y. 14420.

#### Publications

*note* The Seldon Society's 1969 volume is the second part of the Eyre of London, 1321, by H. Cam. The 1970 volume is Early Registers of Writs, edited by E. de Haas and G.D.G. Hall. In May, 1971, the Society expects to publish the seventh volume of G.O. Sayles, Select Cases in the Court of the King's Bench, a work which commenced with volume one in 1936. Also in 1971, there will appear volume three of S.E. Thorne's edition of Bracton, On the Laws and Customs of England.



The first two volumes of a five volume work appeared in 1969.

The London Record Society will shortly publish The London Eyre of 1244, edited by H.M. Chew and M. Weinbaum. Miss Chew has also recently edited London Possessory Assizes for the Society.

Volume V of the Perspectives in American History series published by Harvard's Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History will appear in 1971 and be devoted to essays on law in American history. It will include the breakdown of legal systems, patterns of violence, and shifts in responses to authority, as well as the history of law itself, and the role of the judiciary and legal institutions in American history.

The Patterson Smith Publishing Corp. has a reprint series in Criminology, Law Enforcement, and Social Problems made up of titles that are out of print and difficult to obtain; many are of great value to historical analysis. An illustrated catalogue can be obtained from the publisher at 23 Prospect Terrace, Montclair, N.J. 07042.

The Connecticut Valley Historical Museum, 194 State Street, Springfield, Massachusetts, 01103, has available on microfilm the Probate Records for Hampshire County, Massachusetts, 1660-1820. The 12 reel set may be purchased from the Museum.

#### Grants

The American Bar Foundation is again offering Fellowships in Legal History. The deadline for applications is February 15, 1971. Correspondence should be addressed to Project in Legal History, American Bar Foundation, 1155 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the U.S. Department of Justice, has a Visiting Fellowship program for a year of study that includes work of historical interest. Deadline in April 15. Write Mr. Henry S. Ruth, Director, National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, Center for Special Projects, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530.

#### Solicitations

Professor Jack M. Holl, Visiting Fellow at the National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530 is searching for archival and manuscript collections relating to English and American prison reform. Under the auspices of the Institute, Mr. Holl is preparing a guide to archives and manuscripts of correction history and prison reform. It will include descriptions of state archives, university and historical society collections, materials held by the Federal government, and private collections. Mr. Holl would appreciate assistance in locating materials.

The Seldon Society, founded in 1887 by F.W. Maitland "to encourage the study and advance the knowledge of the history of English law" is currently seeking new members from among those with a serious interest in the subject. Membership applications may be obtained from Miss Edith Henderson, Secretary-Treasurer for the U.S.A., Langdell Hall, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138. The dues (\$10) brings the well-known annual volumes of source material published by the Society.