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NEWSLETTER of the American Society for Legal History

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NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

Newsletter Moves West

Starting with the first issue of volume three, this Newsletter will take up a more westerly domicile. The Society is extremely fortunate to have as the new Editor, Professor Stanley Katz of the University of Chicago Law School. Material for volume three should be sent to him at the school - 1111 E. 60th St., Chicago, Illinois 60637 - by the first week in September. Professor Katz plans to publish one issue at the beginning of the school year, and another at mid-winter.

Annual Meeting - Correction

Please note that the annual meeting will be held on November 3 and 4, 1972, instead of November 17-19 as previously announced. Inquiries concerning local arrangements may be directed to Charles T. Cullen, Post Office Box 220, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185.

Student Membership

The Society has now established a student membership at half the regular dues rate, i.e., \$5.00, for students enrolled in law schools, colleges and universities. Student members receive the Journal, the Newsletter and all other benefits of membership. The Membership Committee would be grateful if members, especially those who teach, would call this opportunity to the attention of their students. Students may secure applications for membership from Professor Milton M. Klein, Department of History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville 37916.

Officers of the Society for 1972-1973

Professor Milton M. Klein, as chairman of the nominating committee, has certified the election of the following officers and directors of the American Society for Legal History:

- President - George Lee Haskins
- Vice President - Herbert A. Johnson
- Treasurer - Joseph H. Smith
- Secretary - William F. Schulz, Jr.

Directors for a term 1972-1975:

John D. Cushing, 1143 Boylston St., Boston

Joseph W. McKnight, Southern Methodist Univ. School of Law, Dallas

Covey T. Oliver, Univ. of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia

Kathryn T. Preyer, Dept. of History, Wellesley College, Wellesley

Directors whose terms are continuing are the following:

Brendan F. Brown, Loyola University School of Law, New Orleans, La

Morris D. Forkosch, Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Jerome Hall, Hastings College of the Law, San Francisco, Calif.

Lawrence A. Harper, Dept. of History, Univ. of California, Berkeley

Leonard W. Levy, Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, Calif.

Richard C. Maxwell, Univ. of Calif. Law School, Los Angeles

Daniel J. Meador, Univ. of Virginia School of Law, Charlottesville

Erwin C. Surrency, Temple Univ. School of Law, Philadelphia

Milton M. Klein, Dept. of History, Univ of Tennessee, Knoxville

Michael G. Kammen, Dept. of History, Cornell Univ., Ithaca

Arthur A. Maass, Dept. of History, Harvard Univ., Cambridge

At the time these election were made public, Professor Haskins also announced that he has appointed as Executive Assistant to the President, Robert M. Ireland, Associate Professor of History at the University of Kentucky. Professor Ireland is the author of *The County Courts in Antebellum Kentucky*, to be published this Spring by the University of Kentucky Press. One of the priorities of the Society during the next two years, Haskins stressed, will be to intensify its continuing campaign to curtail the widespread and often wanton destruction of invaluable state and local judicial records, a crisis which threatens the future of research in American legal history. He also emphasized the Society's encouragement of the study of all types of legal history, national and foreign, primitive as well as classical and modern. He further stated that the Society hopes to expand its present publications program which includes sponsorship of the American Journal of Legal History; "Studies in Legal History," a monograph series in conjunction with Harvard University Press, and "Sources in Legal History," a document series in conjunction with Irish University Press.

Milton Klein and John Cushing continue to serve as Chairmen of the Membership and Publications committees respectively. In addition, Barthelomew Cox has been designated as Chairman of the Documents Preservation Committee.

Society Financial Condition

The report of John P. Reid, Treasurer of the Society 1970-71 concerning the financial status of the Society reveals that for the year 1971 expenses exceeded income by nearly \$5,000. It was possible for the Society to end the year in the black nonetheless, because sufficient funds had accumulated during the Society's relatively inactive period, a stage in the Society's development that has clearly passed. Professor Reid pointed out that "[i]t must be doubted if this pace of spending can be maintained for very much longer without incurring deficits. It must be recalled, that each new regular membership brings to the Society only \$4.50, as \$5.50 of each \$10.00 collected in dues must be paid to the Journal of Legal History."

American Revolution Bicentennial Issue of Journal

The American Journal of Legal History will publish an American Revolution Bicentennial issue shortly prior to the anniversary. It will be edited by Richard B. Morris, Gouverneur Morris Professor of History at Columbia University. Professor Morris would like to receive information from legal and historical scholars who are pursuing American legal research in the period from 1763 to 1789.

MEETINGS

Plea Rolls

The Society and Northeastern Illinois University will sponsor a conference devoted to the subject of research in the English plea rolls, medieval and modern, on April 13 and 14, 1973. The conference will be held in Chicago, Illinois, and Professor S.F.C. Milsom, F.B.A. will be participating.

The program committee would like to receive proposals for papers or for discussion groups. Submissions should be sent to the chairman of the program committee, Professor Sue Sheridan Walker, Department of History, Northeastern Illinois University, Bryn Mawr at St. Louis Avenues, Chicago, Illinois 60625, by October 6, 1972.

The conference will publish a check-list of scholars engaged in plea roll research. The committee would be pleased to receive statements from scholars listing their research interests and topics, and the particular kinds of rolls in which they are engaged. The chairman would appreciate the receipt of such statements by January 1, 1973.

In addition to suggestions for papers and items for the checklist of research in progress, the committee would

appreciate receiving early expressions of interest in attending the plea roll conference in order to facilitate local arrangements.

The Charters of Liberties

The International Commission for the History of Representative and Parliamentary Institutions will meet at Székesfehérvár, Hungary, August 28 to 31, 1972. The central theme of the meeting will be The Charters of Liberties. The business meetings of the conference will be held in Budapest, about 40 miles from the conference center at Székesfehérvár. Further information can be obtained from The István Király Múzeum, Székesfehérvár, Gagarin tér 3, Hungary.

Archives Conference

The National Archives Conference on the Use of Audiovisual Archives as Original Source Materials will be held November 9-10, 1972, at the Conference Center of the University of Delaware. One of the sessions will involve the use of audiovisual archives as evidence. For details, write to James W. Moore, Director, Audiovisual Archives Division, General Services Administration, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20408.

NOTES FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Audiovisual Records

Legal historians will be interested in a brief outline of the audiovisual records held in the national archives that relate to legal history. They include:

a. Sound Recordings. Stenographic recordings of the oral arguments before the Supreme Court for the 1955 through 1968 sessions. These are accessioned on a continuing basis at the end of each session, and arguments three years or more old may be reproduced with the written permission of the Marshal of the Court.

Recordings of the entire proceedings of the International Military Tribunal, Nuremberg, Nov. 20, 1945 through Oct. 1, 1946, and recordings introduced in evidence before the tribunal.

Recordings of English language programs that were broadcast by American citizens over the facilities of the German Radio Broadcasting Corporation during World War II. The recordings were seized from the Berlin studio of the Corporation immediately following the war and were introduced as evidence in treason trials of two of the persons involved.

Recordings made by the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service at monitoring stations in the United States during World War II. These are chiefly of broadcasts from Italy by Ezra Pound, from Japan by Iva Toguri D'Aquino ("Tokyo Rose"), and from Germany by Mildred Elizabeth Gillars ("Axis Sally").

stenographic recordings of cases heard by the Federal Communications Commission pertaining to telephone, telegraph, cable, and radio broadcasting companies and dealing with rates, facilities, quality of service, corporate organization, assignment of radio frequencies, and transfers of ownership, 1934-38.

b. Motion Pictures. Films used as exhibits at the trials for war crimes of Axis leaders before the International Military Tribunal, Nuremberg, 1945-46, and before the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, Tokyo, 1946-48. They consist of German films documenting the Nazi rise to power and triumphs in Europe, 1941-44; the entry of Germany into Austria, 1938; the political and industrial activities of the Krupp family and company officials, 1930-40; the construction of the No. 1 Hermann Goering steel plant, 1939-41; and the Nazi Supreme Court trial of the plotters against Hitler, 1944. Included are films of concentration camps taken by American and Russian forces as they advanced through Germany, 1945. There is also a Japanese film entitled Japan in Time of Emergency.

A large quantity of unedited motion picture footage made at the Nuremberg Trials and at the Tokyo Trials and an edited film on the Nuremberg Trials made by Pare Lorentz, then Chief of Films, Theater, and Music of the Civil Affairs Division of the War Department and assigned to the occupied countries in Europe.

c. Still Pictures. Photographs of artworks of a few Justices of the Supreme Court, 1801 on.

Photographs of the courtrooms, judges, counsel for the prosecution and for the defense, the defendants, witnesses, and prisons connected with the International Military Tribunal, Nuremberg, 1945-46; the United States Military Tribunal, Nuremberg, 1946-49; and the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, Tokyo, 1946-48.

Exhibits for the prosecution at the trials consisting of photographs of the Nazi destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto, of other Nazi activities in Poland, 1940-41, and of Nazi activities in the Krupp works, 1933-41.

Historical Records Survey

Volume 3 of Prologue, the Journal of the National Archives, contains David L. Smiley's, A Slice of Life in Depression America: The Records of the Historical Records Survey, a brief report of the work of the Survey. References are included for any who wish to pursue the history of this effort to preserve historical sources.

FELLOWSHIP AND AWARDS

Gordon Morris Bakken, Assistant Professor of History at California State College, Fullerton has received a Russell Sage Residency Fellowship in Law at the University of Wisconsin Law School. The fellowship will enable him to continue work toward a J.D. and research on the constitutional history of the Rocky Mountain States under the direction of Willard Hurst. The fellowship is for the academic year, 1971-72.

EDITORIAL PAGE

It was with much regret that I found it necessary to ask President Haskins to accept my resignation as Editor of the Newsletter. The associations developed in the past two years have been stimulating and rewarding. But with the responsibilities passing to the hands of Professor Katz, there is the assurance that the Newsletter will develop into a major feature of the Society's activities.

Somewhat surprisingly, this note is the only occupant of the space reserved for informal communications. Surely, historians must have things to say to each other in print that do not require elaborate footnotes or extensive documentation. Have we, for example, achieved such a perfect and pure organization that no words of criticism can be found for the official actions and decisions taken by the Society? Or, is the imperfection so profound that expressions of support for the Society can have no basis?