
ASLH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR LEGAL HISTORY

Charles T. Cullen, Editor
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Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

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NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

Official Election Results

Joseph H. Smith of Columbia Law School was elected president of the society for a two year term beginning January 1, 1976. He will be assisted in the administration of the Society by Stanley N. Katz, University of Chicago Law School, who was elected vice president for the same term. Milton M. Klein, appointed secretary of the Society on January 1, 1975, was elected to a full term as secretary, and Robert M. Ireland, the incumbent treasurer, was reelected for a second term in that office.

Elizabeth A. R. Brown (Brooklyn College, City University of New York), Edward Dumbauld (Judge of the U. S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania), David H. Flaherty (University of Western Ontario), Morton J. Horwitz (Harvard Law School) and John P. Reid (New York University School of Law) were elected to three year terms as members of the Society's board of directors. A. Arthur Schiller, an honorary fellow of the Society, was elected to a two year term on the board of directors, to complete the term of Frederick Bernays Wiener, who resigned from his directorship on October 1975.

Board of Directors Meeting Briefs

At a meeting of the Board of Directors on Nov. 7, 1975, in Atlanta, Ga., the following announcements were made by Herbert A. Johnson, President, who presided: the agreement to have the Studies series published by the University of North Carolina Press has been formally inaugurated; a conference on needs and opportunities for research in legal history will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Society in Philadelphia; the Society will begin sending official representatives to public academic occasions, such as the inauguration of college and university presidents; the Society has been officially designated an affiliated society of the American Historical Association; Janet Loengard has been appointed chairman of the Committee on Membership.

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ANNUAL MEETING - OCT. 22-23, 1976 - BARCLAY HOTEL, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

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Committee reports included Arthur Hogue for Publications. Professor Hogue reported in detail on the arrangements with the University of North Carolina Press and the appointment of Morris Arnold of Indiana University as editor of the Studies in Legal History series. He also reported on a meeting of the committee and representatives of the American Journal of Legal History.

Janet Loengard reported on attempts to increase the Society's membership, and Charles Gray reported that the committee on Conferences and the Annual Meeting had planned a one-day conference at Litchfield, Conn. for May 8, 1976, and the plans for the Philadelphia annual meeting of the Society were progressing well. The Committee on Honors recommended that George Haskins be elected a fellow of the Society and Robert Feenstra of the University of Leyden, be elected a corresponding fellow. Both recommendations were approved.

Milton Klein reported that the proposed By-Laws, printed in the Oct. 1975 ASLH Newsletter had been approved by a mail ballot.

Most of the remainder of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of Arthur Hogue's report on his committee's meeting with representatives of the American Journal of Legal History. Erwin Surrency, editor of the Journal, was present and raised questions about the composition of the editorial board, and the Society's subscription payment for its members. A spirited discussion ensued resulting in two actions being taken: the Executive Committee will negotiate a new agreement with Temple University Law School regarding the composition of the editorial board of the Journal; and the Society agreed to raise its subscription per member by 75¢.

New business consisted of approval of the 1976 budget, the appointment of William Nelson to the Executive Committee to replace Daniel Meador, who resigned, and the appointment of the 1976 nominating committee, to be chaired by Sue Sheridan Walker. Discussion of the 1975 nominating committee's work and the fall election of officers followed.

Committee Appointments

President Joseph H. Smith announces the following committee appointments for 1976:

Executive Committee

Joseph H. Smith, Columbia University School of Law
 Stanley N. Katz, University of Chicago Law School
 Milton M. Klein, University of Tennessee
 Robert M. Ireland, University of Kentucky
 Arthur R. Hogue, Indiana University (Bloomington)
 Charles M. Gray, Yale University
 Kathryn T. Preyer, Wellesley College
 William E. Nelson, Yale Law School

1976 Program Committee

Paul L. Murphy, University of Minnesota, Chairman
 George Dargo, City College of the City University of New York
 Gerard W. Gawalt, The Library of Congress
 M. Paul Holsinger, Illinois State University
 William S. Thurman, University of North Carolina (Ashville)
 Stefan A. Riesenfeld, University of California Law School (Berkeley)
 Stanley N. Katz, University of Chicago Law School
 Vernon F. Snow, Syracuse University

1976 Local Arrangements Committee

Stephen B. Presser, Rutgers University School of Law (Camden),
Chairman
 Richard Gaskins, Graduate School of Social Work and Social
 Research, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania
 George L. Haskins, University of Pennsylvania Law School
 Frederick G. Kempin, Jr., Wharton School, University of
 Pennsylvania

1976 Nominating Committee

Sue Sheridan Walker, Northeastern Illinois University, Chairperson
 W. Hamilton Bryson, University of Richmond Law School
 Francis K. Decker, Jr., New York City
 Richard Helmholtz, Washington University School of Law, St. Louis,
 Missouri
 Jonathan Lurie, Rutgers University (Newark)

1977 Program Committee

Charles Donahue, Jr., University of Michigan Law School, Chairman
 Thomas A. Green, University of Michigan Law School
 Richard H. Helmholtz, Washington University School of Law, St.
 Louis, Missouri
 Sidney V. James, University of Iowa
 Charles McKirdy, University of Virginia
 John B. Owen, Idaho State University (Pocatello)
 John P. Reid, New York University School of Law
 G. Edward White, University of Virginia Law School
 William M. Wiececk, University of Missouri (Columbia)

Committee on Membership

Janet S. Loengard, Moravian College, Chairperson
 Raoul Berger, Concord, Massachusetts
 Randall Bridwell, University of South Carolina Law Center
 James W. Ely, Vanderbilt University School of Law
 Jack Etheridge, Superior Court, Atlanta, Georgia
 Wythe Holt, University of Alabama School of Law
 Richard C. Maxwell, University of California School of Law (L. A.)
 Jerome Z. Mersin, Securities and Exchange Commission
 Jon Sutherland, California State University, San Diego

Standing Committee on Conferences
and the Annual Meeting

Charles M. Gray, Yale University, Chairman
Lawrence M. Friedman, Stanford Law School
Stanley I. Kutler, University of Wisconsin
John S. Scarborough, University of Kentucky
Sue Sheridan Walker, Northeastern Illinois University
L. Kinvin Wroth, University of Maine Law School

Publications Committee

Arthur R. Hogue, Indiana University (Bloomington), Chairman
Lawrence A. Harper, University of California (Berkeley)
Stanley N. Katz, University of Chicago Law School
A. Arthur Schiller, Columbia University School of Law

Committee on Honors

John D. Cushing, Massachusetts Historical Society, Chairman
Paul A. Freund, Harvard Law School
Joseph W. McKnight, Southern Methodist University School
of Law

Committee on Documentary Preservation

Leo Hershkowitz, Queens College of the City of New York,
Chairman
H. Bartholomew Cox, National Archives
Richard B. Morris, Columbia University
Herbert T. Silsby, II, Ellsworth, Maine

Society Delegate to the
American Council of Learned Societies

George L. Haskins, University of Pennsylvania Law School

Society Appointees on the Committee on the
Littleton-Griswold Fund of the
American Historical Association

John D. Cushing, Massachusetts Historical Society
Robert M. Ireland, University of Kentucky
Joseph H. Smith, Columbia University School of Law

Studies in Legal History Series,
University of North Carolina Press

Morris S. Arnold, Indiana University School of Law (Bloomington),
Editor

ASLH Newsletter

Charles T. Cullen, Institute of Early American History
& Culture, Editor

Publications of Members

- Auerbach, Jerold S., "The Depression Decade," in Alan Reitman, ed., The Pulse of Freedom: American Liberties: 1920-1970's (New York: W. W. Norton, 1975).
- Bakken, Gordon M., "The Growth of Chattel Credit Law in Frontier California, 1850-1890," Southern California Quarterly, LVII (Summer 1975), 109-127.
- Brundage, James A., "Concubinage and Marriage in Medieval Cannon Law," Journal of Medieval History, I (Apr. 1975), 1-17.
- _____, "Christian Marriage in Thirteenth-Century Livonia," Journal of Baltic Studies, IV (1973), 313-320.
- _____, "The Ethics of the Legal Profession: Medieval Canonists and their Clients," The Jurist, XXXIII (Summer 1973), 237-248.
- _____, "The Treatment of Marriage in the Questiones Londinenses (MS Royal 9.E.VII), Manuscripta, XIX (1975), 86-97.
- Bryson, Hamilton, Dictionary of Sigla and Abbreviations to and in Law Books before 1607 (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1975).
- Cushing, John D., Comp., The Laws and Liberties of Massachusetts, 1641-1691: A Facsimile Edition containing also Council Orders and Executive Proclamations (Wilmington, Delaware: Scholarly Resources, 1976), 3 vols.
- Hogue, Lynn, "Nicholas Trott: Man of Law and Letters," South Carolina Historical Magazine, LXXVI (Jan. 1975), 25-34.
- Kraines, Oscar, The World and Ideas of Ernst Freund (University of Alabama Press, 1974).
- Langum, David J., "Pioneer Justice on the Overland Trails," The Western Historical Quarterly, V (Oct. 1974), 421-439.
- Lurie, Jonathan, "Commodities Exchanges as self-Regulating Organizations in the late 19th Century: Some Perimeters in the History of American Administrative Law," Rutgers Law Review, XXVIII (Summer 1975), 1107-1140.

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Murphy, Paul L., "Communities in Conflict," in Alan Reitman, ed., The Pulse of Freedom: American Liberties; 1920-1970's (New York: W. W. Norton, 1975).

Presser, Stephen B., "An Introduction to the Legal History of Colonial New Jersey," Rutgers-Camden Law Journal, VII (Winter 1976), 262-344.

Turner, Ralph V., "Roman Law in England Before the Time of Bracton," Journal of British Studies, (Autumn 1975), 1-25.

President's Address

Herbert A. Johnson, immediate past president of the Society, delivered the following remarks at the annual meeting in Atlanta November 8:

Each of us as members of the American Society for Legal History can find just cause for pride in our learned society. Last summer I was pleased to hear it called the fastest growing learned society in the United States. That growth has been moderated somewhat, but even with a substantial 33 1/3% increase in dues over the past year, we have maintained our membership at slightly more than 700 members. Our quarterly journal, the American Journal of Legal History, continues to attract articles and book reviews of exceptionally high quality. The Studies in Legal History series not only provides an outstanding outlet for excellent book length monographs, but it has recently passed through a change of editors and publisher to emerge still stronger as a vital component of the Society's publication program. We are all gathered at the fifth of our series of annual meetings, each of which has been marked not only by varied and stimulating programs, but also by good fellowship and a genuine interchange of ideas that has been encouraging to all.

At this point in time it is perhaps disconcerting to stop and ask, "Why do we do these things? Does the Society do what a learned society should do? What can we do better in the future?" Yet in carrying out our day-to-day business without regard to the basic purposes for which we are organized can result in a dispersion of effort and a disorientation in planning for the future. And so, after six years of working within the administrative offices of the American Society for Legal History, I would like to tender a few thoughts to you this afternoon, in the hope that they may stimulate contemplation and conversation among you concerning our Society, its mission and its future.

Our certificate of incorporation clearly states the mission of the Society to be the encouragement of the study of legal history in the United States. Legal history is very broadly defined, to encompass the history of all legal systems--both Anglo-American and foreign, modern and primitive, and all chronological periods. As every learned society, we are established and exist

to encourage academic work within our particular discipline and to provide the publication outlets and critical devices which encourage scholarly excellence. In an academic world where faculties have abandoned their jurisdiction over matters of curriculum to the students, and individual instructors passively permit grade inflation, the standards of excellence are difficult to locate. But the learned societies through their activities play a vital role at such a time--we insure that teachers and scholars do not forget that standards of excellence are applied to their work, even though they may be permissive in regard to that of their students. Possession of knowledge is not a matter of academic records or even earned university degrees; its only legitimate external recognition is by means of critical evaluation and acceptance by the colleagues in one's chosen discipline.

It is in facilitating the critical apparatus of scholarly interchange that the learned society makes its greatest contribution to the advancement of knowledge. This is done through the acceptance of articles and books for publication on the basis of merit, and by providing free forums for the delivery of scholarly papers and their submission to critical analysis. In rewarding excellence a learned society encourages scholarly efforts toward greater achievement, but in establishing scholarly meetings and conferences where papers and submissions are subjected to vigorous criticism, it performs an even greater function--that of professional education and training.

Our Society like many other learned societies in the United States and abroad, has instituted a program of honorary fellowships to give formal notice to the scholarly work of certain who have achieved excellence in our discipline. As I have said before, this recognition in itself does not add to the stature of the fellow nor give an imprimatur to his scholarly productions. It merely verifies, on behalf of the Society, the fact that the individual so honored has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of knowledge in our field. We have been most fortunate in our choice of honorary fellows and honorary corresponding fellows, and it is a particular source of satisfaction to many of us that some honorary fellows and corresponding fellows, now deceased, were so recognized by the Society at the end of long and distinguished lives dedicated to the research and teaching of legal history.

In August 1975 our Society participated in the 15th International Congress of the Historical Sciences held in San Francisco, and in connection with the gathering of the International Association for the Study of the History of Law and Its Institutions we were privileged to present a panel concerning the extension of English and European law to the American continents. Those sessions were well received, but the administrative difficulties in making program arrangements across international boundaries became glaringly obvious to me, and I assume to all who had a role in the planning for that panel session. The cumbersome nature of international

academic activities, in my opinion, is a great deterrent to the interchange of ideas across national lines. I would hope that the American Council of Learned Societies and the American Historical Association will take steps to stream line the planning for future meetings of the International Congress of the Historical Sciences. In the meantime, our Society should make every effort to enhance our relationship with the International Association for the Study of the History of Law and Its Institutions. Only by international activities can we fully participate in the very exciting and varied types of legal history research being undertaken in Continental Europe.

Situated as we are at the crossroads of law and history, our Society also has an obligation to maintain its ties to the Association of American Law Schools (and particularly the Legal History Roundtable) and the American Historical Association. Of course we have our official lines of communication through the American Council of Learned Societies, and this past year through the efforts of an A.H.A. committee headed by Richard B. Morris, there has been established a group of "affiliated societies" for historical organizations wishing to establish close informal ties to the A.H.A. We have become an "affiliated society" in accordance with this arrangement, and we hope that our communication with the other learned societies in the historical community will be enhanced through this association. More recently the chairman of the A.A.L.S. Legal History Roundtable has asked whether our periodic newsletter, the ASLH Newsletter might not be modified and its subscription list expanded to include Roundtable members. That proposal is now under consideration. Our interest in these formal and informal relationships with other societies is a result of a recognition that legal history studies carry the scholar into a number of related fields of learning, and that our Society can best serve its members by facilitating their access to the resources of other learned societies and their membership.

Legal history is characterized by being interdisciplinary and comparative in its approach to research and teaching. We have much to learn from other academic disciplines and, conversely, we have very much to give our colleagues in other fields. Last week I attended an informative session on the Philadelphia Social History Project, and I was deeply impressed by the advancement in knowledge achieved through the use of computer-oriented techniques in the field of urban history. And yet the legal history dimension was missing. The field is researched with a sharp eye toward utility--in a way it is a use of historical information to explain contemporary social problems--and yet no one has yet used the data or the results to determine how effective state legislation and municipal regulation was in ameliorating or controlling social evils created by 19th century urban development. To the extent that we believe legal history can be influenced by economic and social factors, we cannot long continue to ignore the work of social historians and demographers.

Research, writing and publication are important aspects of our scholarly life--as individuals and as a learned society. And yet the transmission of learning in the classroom is also of great significance. It educates future generations of legal historians while it provides jobs for their professors. But in a more serious vein, teaching is an extremely important aspect of our work as legal historians. This morning Mr. Rush Limbaugh in his introductory remarks referred to the continuing influence his law school professors had had upon his career at the bar, and how after sixty years he still draws upon the knowledge and skills learned from those distinguished men. He referred to the "immortality that comes from teaching," and commented upon his satisfaction in finding the members of this Society concerned with the methods of teaching legal history in the classroom. As scholars I believe most of us feel that our claim to immortality lies in what we write, and not in the impact of the oral word in the classroom--and yet perhaps the greatest influence we have is through students who remember us by our performance in the classroom.

As a society we should insure that the academic world recognizes the importance of legal history to the undergraduate, graduate and law school curriculum. Three years ago I attended a meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies where the methods of enhancing the status of a given discipline were discussed in the light of increasing the number of its teaching positions in the academic world. The Association of American Geographers presented their program which had resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of geography departments in American institutions of higher education, and a large increase in the number of geography courses being taught. Basically the program included the publication of pamphlets on geography, what its importance was in the liberal arts curriculum, how it enhanced career opportunities, and what was the scope of studies contained within the field. This was supplemented by direct assistance to institutions from a committee of the A.A.G., not only in their establishment of courses, but in recruitment of young men and women trained in the field.

Then and now, I am convinced that the American Society for Legal History should be engaged in this type of activity. Most law schools are far too involved with contemporary law to give any attention to legal history, unless and until our Society takes the time and makes the effort of demonstrating that legal history is essential to law-making, fundamental to sound jurisprudence, and invaluable in building a practitioner's understanding of the law and its institutions. Graduate schools must be shown the relevance of legal history to the fields of demography and social history. Future research scholars must gain the legal historian's skill in the use of court records and other local history sources if they are to do their work with any degree of accuracy. The history of England and the United States is

particularly a history of legal and constitutional development, for among all peoples, the Anglo-American nations have had the greatest faith that their problems and differences could be resolved by a resort to law. And of course, only a very few societal and economic problems may be so resolved--and that is the greatest contribution that legal history can make to our academic communities--it reminds us all that there are limitations to what the law can do, and that men have created as many problems by legislation and adjudication than they have solved by the same techniques.

In speaking of increasing the number and variety of legal history courses being taught, I realize that I am advocating an expansion of the demand for legal historians, and that I think is a valid objective of a learned society. On the other hand, I reject the idea that our Society or any other learned society should, either by accreditation or by establishing educational standards, attempt to limit the number of legal historians being trained in the United States. With the flood of trained Ph.D.s (and J.D.s for that matter), certain learned societies have appointed committees to investigate how the societies may limit access to the profession through the construction of graduate programs. While I agree that there are too many Ph.D.s for the number of undergraduate students to be trained in our universities over the next decade, it seems to me that learned societies have no commission to usurp the functions of the regional and national accrediting associations. Ours is a voluntary learned Society, open to all who have an interest in studying the history of law; all learned societies have held to the belief that free access to professional and learned societies is a healthy condition that should be maintained in the free society of modern America. Similarly, an individual's right to pursue his educational goals should not be hampered by learned societies; the defective degree programs will fall a victim to the same type of critical evaluation that we provide for individual scholarship.

In saying this I am not unmindful of the human hardship and suffering that is caused by the current high rate of unemployment of the fields of history, and to a lesser degree, of law. While the crisis does not seem to have appeared in our Society at the present time, I do not doubt that within the next decade, we shall have an excessive number of legal historians and there will be pressures to restrict the number of degree programs in the field, and even perhaps efforts to have society accreditation of certain degree programs. Such an activity would, in my opinion, be unwise and not in keeping with our purposes as a learned society.

Additionally, as a small learned society, we must learn to live with our limitations as well as our advantages. We are blessed with a situation in which the so-called "professional" concerns of our members are handled by the larger learned societies to which they belong. This makes it unnecessary for us to have a

register of women historians, a Committee on the Rights of Historians, a Committee of Gay Historians, or any of a number of other special interest committees which occupy the time of the A.H.A. and obtain substantial allocations of its funds. Our members can use the Employment Information Bulletin of the A.H.A., or the placement register of the A.A.L.S. in searching for appointments, relieving us of the impossible burden of providing those membership services that are so expensive in time and money.

Our officers, directors and committee men and women serve without compensation, and bring with them substantial additional resources in terms of institutional support and administrative assistance. Without a professional staff our Society is utterly dependent upon the voluntary participation of its membership in all of the administrative activities necessary to run a learned society. It is a gratifying but time consuming operation, to be an officer of the American Society for Legal History, but over the course of the past six years the president's task has been made easier by the large number of volunteers who have come forward, or who have been drafted, to carry on the work of the Society. The strength of the Society is in the sharing of work; its potential weakness is in the danger of clique-ishness that can undermine the administration of any voluntary association such as ours. Just as access to membership must be open to all, so appointment to committees and election to office must be based upon merit. Offices and committee appointments should be rotated throughout the membership without regard to race, sex, field of study, or occupation. Our board of directors should reflect the tri-partite constituency of our membership--(1) academic scholars in the liberal arts, (2) law professors and (3) practicing attorneys and judges. Each of these groups bring special strengths to our Society, and each makes membership in the Society a very special privilege for a legal historian.

This is my last opportunity to speak to the Society as its president, and I would be remiss if I did not tell you how very much it has meant to me to serve in this capacity for the past two years. It has taken time and energy and at times I have found my patience tried and my strength diminished. Yet I have gained a very large number of friends, and I have seen the Society continue to prosper. In the long run I have asked more from this Society and its members and you have done infinitely more for me than I have done for you, and for that I am most grateful.

Conferences Announced

May 8, 1976

There will be a New England Regional Conference at the Litchfield Historical Society, Litchfield, Connecticut, on Saturday, May 8. The program will include a panel on legal education in

America (principal discussants, Maxwell Bloomfield and Gerard Gawalt) and a paper by J.R. Scafidel ("Litchfield in Retrospect: Its Place in the Legal, Political, Religious, and Literary Careers of A.B. Longstreet"). There will also be a luncheon and an opportunity to see the historical memorabilia at Litchfield. Members in the New England - New York area will be notified by mail, but of course everyone is welcome. For further information, please write to Charles Gray (35 Hillhouse Ave., New Haven, Conn., 06511)

October 21, 1976, Conference on Legal History of the Era of the American Revolution, 1763-1790

The Society and the Institute of Early American History and Culture will co-sponsor a conference on the legal history of the American Revolution, to be held at the Barclay Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on October 21, 1976. The meeting will feature two major papers. William E. Nelson of Yale Law School will speak on "The Revolutionary Conception of History--Its Utility for Legal Historians Today," and Hugh F. Bell of the University of Massachusetts History Department will speak on "Legal History of the American Revolution: A Historiographical and Bibliographical Survey."

The Society's 1976 annual meeting will follow (Oct. 22, 23).

Teaching Legal History

For the second year, one part of the annual ASLH meeting has been devoted to a discussion concerning problems common to teaching legal history. During the Atlanta meeting, a number of members conducted an informal session devoted to the teaching of legal history and the Western legal tradition. From the lively discussion at this meeting came a proposal to collect and collate various readings, lists and course syllabi, the plan being to make the results available at a session on teaching legal history to be held during the forthcoming annual meetings in November at Philadelphia.

All members of the society teaching courses either in college or law school in American legal history, legal history in general, or related subjects, please send copies of your course reading lists and syllabi to Dr. Jonathan Lurie, History Department, Rutgers University, Newark, N. J. 07102.

Rice University Adopts Legal History Program

Rice University recently adopted a legal history program for undergraduates. Students will be required to take prescribed courses in economics, history, philosophy, and political science. One of the members of the committee that drew up the proposal, Professor Harold Hyman, may be contacted for copies of the program outline and detailed description. His address is Department of History, Rice University, Houston, Texas 77001.

Membership Lists Available

A typed list of the members of the Society for 1975, with their addresses, is available upon request to the Secretary, Milton M. Klein, Department of History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37916. There will be a nominal charge of \$1.00 to cover the cost of reproduction. Please enclose a check made out to ASLH with your request.

Littleton-Griswold Fund Committee

At its December 1975 meeting the American Historical Association Council appointed Herbert A. Johnson to a six-year term on the Joint AHA-ASLH Committee. Other AHA representatives are Stanley Katz, University of Chicago Law School, chairman, and Hiller B. Zobel, Brown, Rudnick, Freed & Gesner, Boston.

Society representatives are printed under Committee Appointments, above.

Back Issues Needed

If anyone has copies of the ASLH Newsletter, vols. 1-5, and you would be willing to give them up, please send them to the editor. We have a serious need to complete our files to back copies and most of these issues are missing.

Plan Ahead for 1977

The 1977 meeting of the Society has been scheduled for the Sheraton-Boston Hotel on November 4 and 5, 1977.

NEWS NOTESIRS and University Professors

Proposed legislation would eliminate the deduction which university professors have been permitted to take on the maintenance of an office or study at home in which they perform research or writing of an income producing nature. AAUP and other national organizations have protested, but the change has already passed the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives. The most effective way of making your voice heard on this matter is through an individual letter to your Congressman and Senator.

National Enquiry into the Production and Dissemination of Scholarly Knowledge

The American Council of Learned Societies will begin, in January 1976, a comprehensive study of the generation and

dissemination of American scholarly knowledge. The study will include the publication of books and of scholarly journals, and will cover such matters as what motivates such publication, how quality is controlled, how scholarly works are disseminated and used, the economics of publication, problems of preservation and access to the information contained in books and journals, and technological options in production and bibliographical access.

The study arises from a realization of the enormous problems created by the proliferation of scholarly journals--in the field of language and literature, for example, they have escalated from some 54 to 215 within ten years--and the rate of publication of books, estimated at about 40,000 annually. Among other things, the study will consider kinds of coordination possible among research laboratories; new methods of describing, analyzing, and locating recorded information; and the role of computer technology in scholarly communication. The first phase of the study will cover two subjects: "Academic Standards and Economic Factors in Book Publication" and "The Functioning of Scholarly Journals in the Knowledge System."

The ACLS study is being supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Ford, Mellon, and Rockefeller Foundations.

AHA Notices

The American Historical Association has accepted with thanks the very generous offer by Mrs. Ida Gershoy to establish a biennial prize in honor of her late husband, Leo Gershoy. A specialist in European history, Professor Gershoy was associated with the graduate faculty of New York University for more than twenty-five years. The prize will be awarded to the author of the outstanding new book in English in any aspect of the field of 17th and 18th century European history. The biennial prize will be a sum not to exceed \$1000 and will be awarded first in 1977. In order to avoid overlapping between the Gershoy Prize and the Herbert Baxter Adams Prize, commencing in 1976 the annual Adams Prize will be changed from a three year cycle to a two year cycle: the first year, for books in ancient, medieval and early modern European history to about 1600; the second year, for books in 19th and 20th century European history.

DISSERTATION LISTS: The triennial publication of the American Historical Association's List of Doctoral Dissertations in History will cease with the publication this month of a special issue containing titles received during the period May 16, 1973 to June 30, 1975. A new semi-annual publication will take its place. The new List, in addition to recording recently registered and completed dissertations, will include a brief description of each topic.

The special issue may be purchased for \$4.00 for AHA members and ISP subscribers; \$6.00 for others. Orders may be sent to AHA, 400 A Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003. All orders must be prepaid.

The first J. Franklin Jameson Lecture will be delivered on September 20, 1976, at the Library of Congress, with joint sponsorship by the American Historical Association. The lecture honors the distinguished historian (1859-1937) who served as Chief of the Library's Manuscript Division 1928-1937 and first incumbent of its Chair of American History, and as one of the founders of the AHA in 1884 and of the American Historical Review in 1895, of which he was managing editor for nearly 30 years. As a professor of history at Brown University and the University of Chicago, and as director of the Department of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution, Jameson furthered the causes of documentary editing, preservation and description of historical sources, and the creation of a National Archives of the United States.

The Jameson lecturer will be selected jointly by the Library and the AHA. Those wishing to nominate candidates for consideration by a selection committee should send their names to the Chief of the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.

The Council of the American Historical Association has authorized the creation of an associate member category for those persons whose primary professional affiliation is in areas other than the researching, writing or teaching of history. The Council hopes that this action will encourage administrators, archivists, librarians, curators, lawyers, and specialists in other disciplines to join the Association. Associate membership is available to such persons for an annual dues of \$20.00 regardless of income level. The annual membership fee for historians is based on a graduated scale according to income. Associate members will receive five issues of the American Historical Review, nine issues of the AHA Newsletter, the Program of the Annual Meeting and the Annual Report (upon request). Applications for associate membership can be addressed to the Office of the Executive Director, American Historical Association, 400 A Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

Research in British Legal Manuscripts

Northeastern Illinois University plans to publish a second edition of The Checklist of Research in British Legal Manuscripts and invites scholars to submit information about their research in progress and plans for the future. The checklist will cover all aspects of British legal research in original manuscripts

from the medieval to the contemporary period. It will also include a bibliography of recent publications and of microfilm and microfiche holdings. Scholars should be explicit about their topics, the specific classes of manuscripts which they are using and whether they will make a total search or a sampling. In addition to listing articles and essays published in the last ten years they should also include review articles and local record editions to which they have contributed. Entries are to be sent to: Professor Sue Sheridan Walker, Department of History, Northeastern Illinois University, Bryn Mawr and St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60625, by August 31, 1976. Copies of the 1974 Checklist are still available at \$2.50 each. Checks should be made out to Northeastern Illinois University.

Third British Legal History Conference, Edinburgh 1977

The British Legal History Conference Continuation Committee has arranged for the third conference to take place at the Pollock Halls of Residence, University of Edinburgh, from Monday 11th July to Thursday 14th July 1977. The conference secretary, Mr. Alan Harding, Department of History, University of Edinburgh, William Robertson Building, George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9JY, Scotland, will be glad to receive offers of contributions of long or short papers; and also to hear from anyone who wishes to be added to the mailing list and receive conference information. The conference program and registration forms will be sent out in October 1976.

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