


Summer 1978

UA68/8/1 Newsletter No. 5

WKU History

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Recommended Citation

WKU History, "UA68/8/1 Newsletter No. 5" (1978). *WKU Archives Records*. Paper 3390.
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WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Department of History

NEWSLETTER



Number 5

James T. Baker, Editor

Summer 1978

WORDS FROM THE CHIEF

Well, I was wrong. And I'm glad to admit it. In the last issue of our *Newsletter* I discussed a proposed history requirement in general education pending before the Academic Council and had confessed that I was not optimistic about the outcome. Much to our surprise and delight the Council did approve a three-hour history requirement in Western Civilization. Beginning with the entering freshman class last fall, all students pursuing bachelor's degrees at Western must take either History 119 (Western Civilization to 1648) or History 120 (Western Civilization since 1648).

A change of this nature has far reaching implications for the Department. We are doing our best to make this experience as attractive and as meaningful as possible for the "captive" students who are now coming into our classes, many of whom have had no previous exposure whatsoever to our Western heritage. At registration last fall, one of the students observed that the University had a lot of nerve requiring all the students to take a course in the history of Western!

As the number of sections of Western Civ in the class schedule has ballooned, the number of sections of American history surveys has sharply declined. This means that many teachers who heretofore had taught American history classes are now teaching Western Civ instead. I am proud of the splendid attitude shown by the members of the Department who are adjusting nicely to these traumatic changes.

The past year has been another good one for the Department. Morale has been high, enrollment has increased significantly, research and publication have continued at a high level, we have strengthened our program by adding an Asian historian, the fall and spring lectures sponsored by the Department were most successful, and the fifth annual history contest drew a large number of junior and senior high school students to Western's campus. I am deeply indebted to my colleagues in the Department who give so willingly of their time and talents and whose support and encouragement are not only a delight but a never failing source of strength.

Finally, to all of you, our departmental alumni, the Department of History joins me in extending our sincere best wishes. We follow your careers with great interest and we enjoy hearing from you. Please fill out the enclosed card and return it to us so we can keep abreast of your activities. And, as always, be assured that if there is any way in which we can be of help to you, we shall be happy to try.

Richard L. Troutman

A NEW FACE

The History Department added a promising young scholar in Asian history during the past year. Dr. Dorothy V. Borei was graduated *summa cum laude* from Lycoming College (Pa.) with an undergraduate major in history and Russian. She has a masters degree in French language and literature from State University of New York at Binghamton. Last September she completed her Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania where she specialized in Chinese history. Dr. Borei taught part-time at Haverford College for six years while she was working on her doctorate. During the past year she taught upper division courses in Asian and Russian history in addition to some Western Civ surveys. If you need any help in translating something from Chinese, Japanese, Russian, or French, she will be glad to give you a hand.

VISITING LECTURERS

During the past year the History Department sponsored the visits of two distinguished historians. In November 1977 Dr. W. Allyn Rickett, Professor of Chinese Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, spoke to a meeting of Phi Alpha Theta on "Thought Reform in China." The topic of his second lecture, given to a University-wide audience, was "China After Mao." Dr. Rickett was a Fulbright Scholar in China in 1948. In 1951 he was arrested by the People's Republic and spent four years in prison. Among his publications are *Kuan-tsu, Prisoners of Liberation*, and *Legal Thought and Institutions of the People's Republic of China*.

In February 1978 Dr. Neill W. Macaulay, Professor of Latin American history at the University of Florida, came to our campus. A native of South Carolina, Dr. Macaulay was graduated from the Citadel, received a M.A. degree from the University of South Carolina and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Texas. He has written three books: *The Sandino Affair*, *The Prestes Column* and *An American Rebel in Cuba*. The latter is his memoir of his experiences while serving with Fidel Castro in the Cuban Revolution.

Dr. Macaulay's lecture was entitled "The Cuban Revolution in Historical Perspective" and presented an excellent overview of the historiography of that event. The lecture was jointly sponsored by the History Department, the Latin American Studies Department and the ROTC.

ORAL HISTORY

The oral history program continues to progress. The bulk of our work this year has been done on two projects, both funded, partially, by grants from the Kentucky Oral History Commission, with matching funds from WKU.

1. Robert Penn Warren Project (Joint program with UK). We have conducted 19 interviews with 33 persons, seeking information concerning Warren's early life and the influence of his area (Todd and Christian Counties, Ky.) upon his work.
2. Kelly Thompson Project. We hope to cover most aspects of Dr. Thompson's association with Western, from his arrival on campus as a freshman to his present position as President, College Heights Foundation. We have conducted 40 interviews with 33 persons on the Thompson project.

We have recorded in excess of 85 tapes, and have transcribed more than 1300 pages of manuscript. We expect to receive additional funding and grants for the next year, which will enable us to expand our areas of inquiry and increase our volume of work.

HISTORY CONTEST

On April 21, 1978, the History Department conducted its fifth annual contest for high school and junior high students of history. Over 420 students from forty different schools throughout Kentucky competed for the awards, consisting of first and second place trophies in three different categories plus silver and bronze medals.

First place trophies went to Tim Peter VerHey, Franklin County High School (World History); Janet M. Graham, Bowling Green Junior High School (Junior High American History); and Phillip Sasse, Ballard High School (Senior High American History). Second place trophies were awarded to Thomas J. Fisher, Franklin County High School (World History); Stuart Weldon Cobb, Owensboro Junior High School (Junior High American History); and Dennis Wayne Hopkins, Scott County High School (Senior High American History).

The department has been pleased with the apparent encouragement such a competitive event has given to the study of history, and preparations are already underway for next year's contest.

A.M. STICKLES HISTORY CLUB

The 1977-1978 academic year saw the revival of the A.M. Stickles History Club. Named in honor of the History Department's long-time chairman, the club is for all students who are interested in history. The Stickles Club was originally established at Western before World War II, but in the early 1970s its membership declined and the club disbanded. Last fall, Karen Pryor of Drakesboro took the initiative in reviving the Stickles Club because she felt that students in this department needed more opportunities to become acquainted with each other. Since holding its first meeting in January, the club has elected officers, written a constitution, and heard a lecture by Professor Lowell Harrison on A.M. Stickles.

Professor Harrison is a former student of Dr. Stickles and knew him for many years.

Although the past months have been essentially a planning period, the club intends to be very active in the coming year. The officers for 1978-79 are Karen Pryor, president; Judith Chisholm, first vice-president; Debra Brown, second vice-president; Glenda Howard, secretary-treasurer; Terri Flaughter, sergeant-at-arms. Among the projects they are considering are possible field trips to nearby historical sites and a theater production in cooperation with drama students. In short, the revived Stickles History Club promises to play an important part in the lives of Western's history students.

PHI ALPHA THETA BANQUET



Dr. Richard Marius, a prominent author and soon to be Director of Expository Writing at Harvard University, spoke on the subject of using history in writing fiction at the annual Phi Alpha Theta banquet held April 29th. Dr. Marius, presently a professor of history at the University of Tennessee in the field of Renaissance and Reformation, presented illustrations from his novels, *The Coming of Rain* (1969) and *Bound for the Promised Land*

(1976), to demonstrate the relationship of historical events and themes to literary ideas and symbolism. Marius is also the author of a biography of Martin Luther, and is researching material for a study of Sir Thomas More.

After the address, Dr. Richard Troutman, Head of the History Department, presented the A.M. Stickles Award to Denise Ruth Walker, and Dr. Charles Bussey, Phi Alpha Theta faculty sponsor, presented Alan L. Lescalleet with the Robert C. Cochran Award. The Stickles and Cochran Awards are given annually to students who have demonstrated academic excellence and show signs of promise in the history profession. Stickles was an early member of the Southern Historical Association, and head of Western's History Department from 1908-1945. Dean Robert C. Cochran, a charter member of Western's Phi Alpha Theta chapter, is remembered in the latter award.

This year's banquet was held at the Heritage House.

NEWS FROM THE FACULTY

DR. JAMES T. BAKER has just returned from Korea where he was a Fulbright lecturer in American Studies at Seoul National University. He has seen six new articles appear this year, among them "Korea Today: History's Tragic Feast" in the *Christian Century* and "Thomas

Merton on the Move" in *Commonweal*. He is author of a new book, *A Southern Baptist in the White House*, published by Westminster Press, and is co-author of an American history text for international students, *Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness*.

DR. JAMES D. BENNETT addressed The Filson Club of Louisville on "Louis Hast and the Development of Music in Louisville, 1850-1896," in January 1978.

DOROTHY V. BOREI, in addition to completing her Ph.D., chaired a panel at the Mid-Atlantic Asian Studies Conference, Princeton University, October 1977: "Cosmos and Society: Han Attempts to Formulate a Unitary World-View." She attended the Mid-West American Oriental Society meeting at Indiana University, February 1978 and the Association of Asian Studies meeting in Chicago, April 1978.

CHARLES BUSSEY co-authored a new textbook *The American Heritage in the Twentieth Century*. He also moderated a session on "Frontier Medicine" at the Duquesne Conference and was a panel member at the American Studies Conference in Chattanooga.

CAROL CROWE-CARRACO has done a number of book reviews, delivered a paper on "Mary Breckinridge and the Frontier Nursing Service" at Duquesne, and had her *Big Sandy Valley of Kentucky* approved for publication by the University Press of Kentucky.

LOWELL H. HARRISON has co-edited *A Kentucky Sampler: Essays from The Filson Club History Quarterly, 1926-1976* and had accepted for Oct. 1978 publication: "The Antislavery Movement in Kentucky," a volume in the *Kentucky Bicentennial Bookshelf*. He has written several articles including "Significant Books in Kentucky History," *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, 51 (July 1977), 276-79; "The Civil War in Kentucky: Some Persistent Questions," *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, 76 (Jan. 1978), 1-21; and "Simon Bolivar Buckner; A Profile," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, XVI (Feb. 1978), 36-45. He has reviewed books for *American History Illustrated*, *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *Journal of Southern History* and *North Carolina Historical Review*. He has attended the following meetings: The Citadel Conference on War and Diplomacy, March, 1978 where he chaired a session and commented on the papers; The Filson Club Conference, Oct. 1977; Lexington Civil War Roundtable, March, 1978, where he spoke on "General Basil W. Duke, C.S.A." He read a paper on "The Antislavery Movement in Kentucky," to a Kentucky-Tennessee American Studies Association, March, 1978; attended the Organization of American Historians meeting, New York City, April 1978; and attended the Kentucky Oral History Conference, Richmond in April, 1978.

CARLTON JACKSON received WKU's coveted annual faculty Award for Distinguished Contributions in Research and Creative Writing at the spring commencement, 1977. He hopes to see his new book, *The Great Lili*, appear before he flies off to Iran where he will spend the year teaching at Pahlavi University in Shiraz and assisting in the development of an American Studies Program.

DAVID LEE's manuscript, "Tennessee in Turmoil: Politics in the Volunteer State, 1920-1932," has been accepted for publication by Memphis State University Press.

MARION B. LUCAS has abstracted forty articles for

American Bibliographical Company from *The Georgia Review* and *The Tennessee Historical Quarterly* during 1978. He delivered a paper entitled "Forget Hell! The Burning of Columbia, 1865-1965" at the Citadel Conference on the New South in April 1978. He wrote "The Emergence of the New South" in *America's Heritage in the Twentieth Century*. St. Louis: Forum Press, 1978. He is currently writing an article, "The Civil War Career of Colonel George Washington Scott" and a book, "Kentucky Blacks, 1865-1900."

RICHARD V. SALISBURY has published the following articles:

"United States Intervention in Nicaragua: The Cost Rican Role," in *Prologue: The Journal of the National Archives*, IX (Winter, 1977-1978), 209-217.

"The Anti-Imperialist Career of Alejandro Alvarado Quiros," in *Hispanic American Historical Review*, LVII (November, 1977), 587-612.

"Costa Rica and the 1920-1921 Union Movement: A Reassessment," in *Journal of Inter-American Studies and World Affairs*, XIX (August, 1977), 393-418.

"Politica Interna y Doctrina de Relaciones Internacionales: La Postura de Costa Rica en el Reconocimiento 1923-1934," in *Anuario de Estudios Centroamericanos*, (Editorial Universidad de Costa Rica: San Jose, 1977), 267-293.

He has presented the following papers: "Domestic Politics and Isthmian Diplomacy: Costa Rica and the 1924 Honduran Crisis" presented in March 1978 at the Twenty-First Annual Missouri Valley History Conference, University of Nebraska at Omaha, and "United States Policy in Latin America during the 1920s: An Anti-Imperialist Response" presented in August 1977 at the Third National Meeting of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.

RICHARD G. STONE, JR. addressed The Filson Club in Louisville in March. Stone presented an informal talk based upon his newly published book, *A Brittle Sword: The Kentucky Militia, 1776-1912*.

JACK W. THACKER presented a paper entitled "Jacob Brown, John C. Calhoun and the Department of War, 1817-1825" to the Mid-American History Conference, September 1977 in Springfield, Missouri. He presented a paper entitled "Great Britain and the Western Front; a Lost Opportunity?" to the Conference on War and Diplomacy at the Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina in March 1978. He also attended the National Science Foundation sponsored course, "Cliometrics: New Directions in Economic History" at Miami University of Ohio in Oxford, Ohio in March, 1978. In addition he edited the *W.K.U. Faculty Research Bulletin*.

FRANCIS THOMPSON, awaiting the publication of his book on Harry Truman, contributed an article, "Hysteria in Twentieth Century America" to *America's Heritage in the Twentieth Century*.

RICHARD D. WEIGEL's article, "A Note on P. Lepidus," was published in *Classical Philology* 73 (1978). He attended the American Philological Association in Atlanta, in December 1977 and the Association of Ancient Historians at Boulder, Colorado in May 1978.

ALUMNI NOTES

Our departmental alumni are engaged in a number of fascinating jobs. Space does not permit a listing of all but a few, but the following sample shows that historians are a versatile lot:

Kirk Dollins (1928) owns and operates a farm in Benton, Illinois.

Obra E. King (1931) has retired from teaching and is now an antique dealer in Utica, Kentucky. She accumulated the King toy collection now in the Kentucky Building on Western's campus.

J. Edgar DeShazer (1934) is Kentucky Commissioner of Manpower Services.

Colonel Howard F. Stevenson (1941) is now retired from the U.S. Marine Corps.

W.J. Cannon (1947) retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1971 and is now editor, publisher, photographer and janitor of a weekly newspaper in Scottsville, Kentucky.

Charles M. Hale (1947) lives in Flushing, New York, where he is a special agent for the FBI.

Hugh M. Ayer (1948) is Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, North Texas State University, Denton, Texas.

George B. Simpson (1951) has a private practice and also serves as city attorney for Sturgis, Kentucky.

Lawton Rogers (1955) is Assistant District Manager for the Social Security Administration in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Oscar C. Page (1962) has recently been appointed Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Lander College, Greenwood, South Carolina.

Virgil K. Hall (1964) is owner of Adkins-Hall Realtors and Virgil K. Hall Builders, Inc., in Louisville, Kentucky.

Glenn Turner (1965) is General Accounting Manager for the Warsaw, Indiana, Division of R. R. Donnelley and Sons.

William Durwood Smith, Jr. (1965) owns the Indiana Chemical and Supply Co. and J. Prager Supply in Indiana, Pennsylvania.

Paul Just (1969) has recently been named Director of Sports Information at Western Kentucky University.

Ronald T. Tucker (1969) pastors the First Baptist Church, Rising Sun, Indiana.

Nicholas W. Burris (1971) is Zone Manager for the Marketing Department of Holly Farms Poultry, Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

Gary Hunton (1972) serves as an investigator for the U.S. Civil Service and resides in Kevil, Kentucky.

Clifton McKee (1975) is an environmental technician for the Peabody Coal Company in Beaver Dam, Kentucky.

7/78/1.5M/HIS—The cost of printing this publication by Western Kentucky University was paid from state funds KRS 57.375.

Western Kentucky University
Department of History
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101