Hearing Held Regarding Big Changes to the National Historic Preservation Act

On April 20 the House Subcommittee on National Parks conducted an oversight hearing on proposed amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act.

A joint letter from seven national organizations—the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, Preservation Action, the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, the American Cultural Resources Association, the Society for Historical Archeology, and the American Institute of Architects—was sent to Chairman Nunes and Ranking Member Christensen of the subcommittee that stated, "We are deeply concerned about changes to the National Historic Preservation Act proposed by the discussion draft entitled ‘National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 2005’ and urge you not to move forward with them. While we support the reauthorization of the Historic Preservation Fund and we endorse the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation reauthorization . . . we oppose any amendments that would substantially weaken current safeguards for our nation’s historic, cultural, and archeological treasures."

Although a discussion draft and not an actual bill, the proposed changes would be the biggest threat to the integrity of the National Historic Preservation Act since its enactment in 1966. The changes would limit a federal agency’s consideration of “adverse effects” resulting from one of its projects only to those properties listed on the National Register or that have been determined eligible by the Secretary. This would eliminate protection for the hundreds of thousands of structures that have been reviewed and determined eligible which are currently covered under Section 106. In addition, this would leave countless unknown historic places in jeopardy of destruction—an Indian village adjacent to the 1607 Jamestown settlement in Virginia, and the African Burial Ground in New York are examples of valuable historic resources uncovered as a part of a federal project.

This proposal would also have a significant adverse effect on tribal historic resources. Only a fraction of the traditional religious and cultural places that warrant protection are listed or been determined eligible for the National Register. The discussion draft proposal would place historic resources and sacred sites that Indian tribes most value at risk of destruction without any consideration during the federal planning process.

Lastly, changes would prohibit National Register eligibility determinations if an owner objects to listing the property on the Register. This provision could adversely affect historic districts such that when more than 50 percent of the owners within a district object to listing, every property owner would lose protection from a future federal project affecting their properties.

The seven organizations listed above are currently working to ensure that the proposed changes to the National Historic Preservation Act are not enacted. CCPH has submitted a letter to California’s delegation to the House in opposition to the proposed changes. For more information about this initiative, visit www.nationaltrust.org/issues/index.html.
On April 26 Archivist of the United States Alan Weinstein appeared before the House Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia to deliver testimony on behalf of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in support of the Bush Administration’s budget request of $313.846 million for FY 2006. This was the first hearing in some five years in which the NARA budget was addressed in a public forum. Weinstein briefly summarized the administration’s position and then responded to questions from members the subcommittee. Topics addressed ranged from the funding needs of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) and the Electronic Records Archives, to the proposed transfer of the Nixon Library from a private foundation’s control to NARA’s oversight and management.

While Representative John Oliver (D-MA), the ranking minority member, was the only democrat present, a half-dozen Republican members attended, including Representative Joseph Knollenberg (R-MI), the subcommittee chair, Representative John Culberson (R-TX), vice-chair, and members Todd Tiahrt (R-KS) and Robert Anderholt (R-AL). More importantly, full Appropriations Chair Ralph Regula (R-OH) made an appearance in which he delivered a lengthy and strong pitch in favor of providing funding for the NHPRC, funding that was zeroed out of the president’s budget proposal for NARA.

After opening comments by Subcommittee Chair Knollenberg and the members present, Archivist Weinstein testified. In his brief verbal remarks that summarized his 15-page written statement, Weinstein highlighted the needs for base-funding increases to cover the increased costs of routine operating expenses. He then highlighted several issues of special concern such as funding needs for the Electronic Records Archives, public outreach programs, security and access issues, and the Nixon Library transfer. Quite by design, only one line in his verbal remarks as well as in the entire 15-page statement addressed the NHPRC issue: “As you are aware, we have included no funding in the 2006 request for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.”

Each individual member spoke and posed several questions to Weinstein. Without exception, every member present expressed strong support for the restoration of funding for the NHPRC, and several also expressed their ongoing support for the goals and funding for the Electronic Records Archive program. When asked specifically about the NHPRC, Weinstein answered by stating that from the moment he was sworn in to office, he had gone on record “most respectfully” disagreeing with the decision of the Office of Management and Budget to zero out the NHPRC.

In terms of Weinstein’s first appearance before the House committee that has jurisdiction over his agency’s budget, the new Archivist has reason to be pleased. He demonstrated his political savvy in both properly defending and at times appropriately disagreeing with provisions in the president’s budget proposal. In terms of the impact of the hearing on potential funding for the NHPRC, the hearing also could not have gone much better. The fact that full House Appropriations Committee Chair Ralph Regula appeared and spoke in no uncertain terms in support of funding the NHPRC nearly guarantees that the House will include some money for the NHPRC, although the level of funding has yet to be determined.

**ALA Issues Alert: Depository Libraries Once Again at Risk**

The American Library Association (ALA) reports that the Government Printing Office is once again seeking to eliminate print distribution of government documents to depository libraries starting October 1, 2005. The association is urging interested parties to contact their members of Congress to protest the proposed plan using capwiz.com/ala/home.
**Archives and Libraries**

**Historians/Archivists Work to Save NHPRC**

from the National Coalition for History’s *Washington Update*

One of the news items that has attracted considerable attention recently is the funding proposed for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the grant-making arm of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The Bush administration has proposed zeroing out the program in its entirety—zero funding for grants and for programmatic support and staffing.

If Congress allows the NHPRC to be zeroed out of the federal budget, this important program, which has played an essential federal leadership role and has an outstanding success record of using a small amount of federal funds to leverage other contributions, would come to an end. This would be devastating to projects such as editing and publishing the papers of nationally significant individuals and institutions, the development of new archival programs, the promotion of the preservation and use of historical records, regional and national coordination in addressing major archival issues, and a wide range of other activities relating to America’s documentary heritage.

Only once in its history—in FY 2004—did the NHPRC receive its full authorized level of $10.0 million. In FY 2005 Congress appropriated only $5 million—after the administration proposed cutting the program to $2 million. Cuts of this magnitude threaten the integrity of the program. Given the fiscal challenges that presently confront the nation, the National Coalition for History recognizes the need for fiscal restraint in FY 2006. A total of $8 million is needed if the NHPRC is to meet its Congressionally sanctioned mandate to preserve, publish, and make accessible the documentary heritage of the United States. In addition, $2 million is needed in funding for maintaining the staffing for this program.

Three excellent webpages on the NHPRC issue provide expanded background information on how readers can take action to help save the NHPRC. They are the Council of State Historical Records Coordinators at www.coshrc.org/issues/NHPRC-NARA-06budget/index.htm; the Society of American Archivists at www.archivists.org/news/nhprc-FY2006.asp; and the Association for Documentary Editing at etext.virginia.edu/ade/advocacy/nhprc_crisis.htm.

Recent news bodes well for restoration of this funding. At an April 20 House subcommittee hearing on the National Archives and Records Administration, every representative present publicly expressed support for continued NHPRC funding. And as we go to press, a Dear Colleague letter advocating for the funding amount outlined above is circulating in the House, with signatories to be signed on by May 2.

**National Digital Newspaper Program**

from the National Coalition for History’s *Washington Update*

On March 28 the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress announced six institutions as recipients of over $1.9 million in grants from the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). Evolving from the U.S. Newspaper Program to inventory and microfilm local newspapers, this new project creates an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers published between 1836-1922 for the Library of Congress website. During the next two years, six library systems, including the University of California, will digitize their state’s historically significant newspapers from 1900-1910.

**New Toolkit Helps Librarians Navigate Environmental Protection Agency’s Web Site**

from the Institute for Museum and Library Services’ *Primary Source*

The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Web Ambassador Program is offering a new toolkit and training sessions to help educate librarians about use of its extensive web site. Comprising more than 300 areas and over one million pages of HTML text and PDF files, the EPA web site (www.epa.gov) contains a vast amount of information of value to many different audiences, from schoolchildren to doctoral-level environmental researchers. The sheer size of the website and the technical nature of much of the material, however, can be daunting or confusing for many visitors. The new toolkit includes a booklet that explains aspects of the EPA web domain that are particularly relevant to librarians and a color poster of the EPA home page that highlights some of the site’s key navigational and content features. The material complements information presented to librarians through the program’s hands-on train-the-trainer sessions. The sessions share navigational tips for finding EPA publications and databases, lesson plans for teachers, federal environmental laws, interactive environmental maps, and more. Over the past two years, EPA has conducted numerous librarian training sessions, reaching more than 300 individuals in five states. For additional information, contact Vipul Bhatt, Environmental Protection Agency, bhatt.vipul@epa.gov, 202 566-0683.
Governor Signs Bill to Create “California Museum for History, Women and the Arts”

On March 15 Governor Schwarzenegger signed legislation to change the mission of the California State History Museum (formerly the Golden State Museum) to create a new California Museum for History, Women and the Arts—an effort spearheaded by First Lady Maria Shriver. At the bill-signing ceremony, Schwarzenegger said, “This museum will showcase California’s extraordinary archives, its rich and unique history, and it will focus our attentions on the stories and the struggles and the accomplishments and triumphs of our state’s most remarkable women.” The bill was introduced by Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez and Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, among others, on February 28, and quickly passed through the Assembly (on March 7) and then the Senate (on March 10) before many people were even aware of it. Interpreting the State Constitution in just about the broadest meaning possible, the bill carried an urgency clause that has led to its taking effect immediately. The justification for the clause stated, “In order to enhance and improve the museum . . . expeditiously it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.” Prior to this bill the Secretary of State was authorized to enter into an agreement with the Golden State Museum Public Benefit Corporation, directed by a Board of Trustees, for the operation of the museum. The board of trustees included the Chairperson of the California Heritage Preservation Commission as an ex officio voting member. Now the Secretary of State is authorized to enter into an agreement with the corporation’s successor, whose board, the legislation encourages, should “conduct its meetings in an open manner, establish a board membership that is representative and reflective of California’s rich history, and work cooperatively with the Secretary of State to ensure public input, confidence, and accountability in the museum’s use of its resources and the protection of California’s priceless archives, collections, and artifacts.” The bill removes the Chairperson of the California Heritage Preservation Commission from ex officio board membership and instead makes the Director of Parks and Recreation, or his or her designee, an ex officio voting member. It now requires the Secretary of State to submit copies of the board’s annual audit to the Director of Finance, the Chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, and the Chair of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, and specifically declares that the corporation is a private nonprofit corporation prohibited from being considered a state, local, or other public body for any purpose.

Whether all this means that there will be an improvement in how the museum is managed by the board remains to be seen. And while leadership is essential for achieving excellence, we historians also know from experience that it takes funding, ultimately, to create and maintain a museum that will truly serve the people of California.

May is California Museum Month

In a continuing effort to communicate the value and importance of museums in California, the California Association of Museums (CAM) will be organizing its sixth statewide public relations and advocacy campaign on behalf of the state’s museums. California Museum Month in May 2005 will focus the attention of media, legislators, and the public on the important role that museums play in our state. For additional information, visit www.calmuseums.org/calmusmonth/index.html.

New Accreditation Standards for Museums

from the California Association for Museums’ Enews

The AAM Accreditation Commission has released a revised set of Characteristics of an Accreditable Museum, Accreditation Commission Expectations, Core Questions, and eligibility criteria. These documents are the framework of the Accreditation Program and collectively regarded as the standards for accreditation. The revised accreditation documents reflect changes in how society and the museum field regard issues such as public accountability, community engagement, and measuring achievement. The new set of characteristics replaces the version in use since 1995. The new accreditation standards, plus a full summary of the changes, are available at www.aam-us.org/museumresources/accred.

Advertising

California History Action accepts advertising for heritage-related services and products. (Bulletin Board items are listed free of charge, but may be edited for length.) Contact the CHA editor for a copy of our new Advertising Policy.
During a Senate hearing in which a proposed national heritage area in eastern Kansas—“Bleeding Kansas” National Heritage Area (S 175)—was under consideration, the National Park Service (NPS) urged Congress to defer consideration of this and other legislation authorizing any new national heritage areas until Congress establishes a uniform system of guidelines for creation, administration, and management of such areas. Among other things, the NPS witness stated that all such areas should be subjected to a test of “national significance” prior to establishment.

According to Janet Snyder Matthews, NPS associate director for cultural resources, the proposed Kansas heritage area meets criteria for national significance, but nevertheless, comprehensive legislation needs to be in place before allowing more heritage areas to be designated.

Generic legislation establishing guidelines for heritage areas have been advanced in Congress in the past but have failed to be enacted into law. Lawmakers are hesitant to enact such legislation partly because proposed guidelines place limits on the total amount of federal dollars that can be appropriated to an individual heritage area over a period of years. However, generic heritage area legislation has been introduced yet again in both the House and Senate (S 243/HR 760) with the Senate bill having already been reported out of committee (S Rept 109-38); it is currently pending action on the Senate floor (see bill summary on next page).

Since 1984 Congress has established 27 national heritage areas throughout the country. Heritage area designation brings money and other resources from the National Park Service to assist in the preservation of heritage sites often located in multiple jurisdictions. Critics charge the creation of such areas divert desperately needed funds from “crown jewel” national park units.

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Federal Funding for Angel Island Restoration Proposed

On February 2 Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduced a bill (S 262) to authorize funding for the restoration of the Angel Island Immigration Station. The funding would be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior for restoration in coordination with the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation and California State Parks. The bill also specifies funding will not be more than half the total cost of restoration and specifies a limit of $15 million. A companion bill (HR 606) was introduced the same day by Representative Lynne Woolsey (D-CA). Both bills have been referred to their respective body’s Subcommittee on National Parks. On April 28 the National Park Service told senators the administration opposes the bill because the Immigration Station is not a federal facility. Supporters say the site should be eligible for federal funds due to its national significance and the fact that it was a government-run facility.

Bill Introduced for Program on Japanese Internment Sites

A bill has been introduced that focuses on the preservation of historic confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II (HR 360). The bill would create a program within the National Park Service, and establish an advisory commission “to encourage, support, recognize, and partner with others to identify, research, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair, and acquire” internment sites. The bill also includes a stipulation for the Secretary of the Interior to give grants to assist in carrying out these duties. On February 7 it was referred to the House Subcommittee on National Parks.

May is Historic Preservation Month

The National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) has officially announced that this year May will be Historic Preservation Month. The NTHP hopes that by expanding Preservation Week into Preservation Month there will be a greater opportunity to celebrate the unique American heritage and emphasize the need to protect history. The theme for Preservation Month 2005 is “Restore America: Communities at a Crossroads.” For more information, visit www.nationaltrust.org/preservationmonth/index.asp.

CCPH thanks the National Coalition for History for many of the government news and legislative items reprinted in this newsletter. The full text of archived Washington Updates can be found online at www.h-net.msu.edu/~ncc
Preservation and Restoration of Orphan Works for Use in Scholarship and Education
On January 4 Representative John Conyers, Jr., (D-MI) introduced the “Preservation and Restoration of Orphan Works for Use in Scholarship and Education (PRO-USE) Act of 2005” (HR 24). The legislation encourages the preservation and restoration of copyrighted material for research, scholarly, or educational uses. HR 24 has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on House Administration for consideration. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary’s Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property on March 2.

National Heritage Partnership Act
This legislation, which would establish a program and criteria for National Heritage Areas, has once again been reintroduced in both the Senate and the House (S 243 and HR 760). Both bills direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a National Heritage Areas program under which the Secretary would provide technical and financial assistance to local coordinating entities to support the establishment of National Heritage Areas. The bills also describe the Secretary’s duties, including conducting studies, providing technical assistance, and submitting annual reports. On March 9 the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported S 243 to the Senate where it was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. In late February, HR 760 was referred to the House Committee on Resources’ Subcommittee on National Parks.

Freedom of Information Act Reforms
On February 16 Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) introduced legislation (S 394) seeking “to achieve meaningful reforms to federal government information laws, most notably the Freedom of Information Act of 1966 (FOIA).” Among other things the measure forces agencies to pay legal costs in more cases than has been the case in the past when faced with a lawsuit over improperly withheld records. The bill also seeks to put in place other measures to hold agencies more accountable for fulfilling public requests for documents under FOIA. The measure was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. After hearings on March 15, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security. Additional information about the bill and links to other relevant information may be found at cornyn.senate.gov/FOIA/.

Artists Contributions
On February 14 Congressman Jim Ramstad (R-MN) introduced in the House the “Artist’s Contribution to American Heritage Act of 2005” (HR 1120). Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) also introduced a complementary measure, “Artist-Museum Partnership Act” (S 372) in the Senate. The bills enable charitable contributions of certain types of literary, musical, artistic, or scholarly compositions to non-profit institutions and permit the creators of the works to receive fair market value deductions for those donations. Many museums, libraries, and archives either lack or have insufficient funds for acquisition of collections. Consequently, they often only can acquire new works through donations. Current law permits collectors to donate works to an institution and receive a fair-market tax deduction, but the work’s creators can not. Since they receive no tax benefits, artists, scholars, and others have little incentive to give their works and results of their labor (i.e., research notes and files) to institutions. This legislation permits charitable contributions of literary, musical, artistic, or scholarly compositions. The House bill was been referred to House Committee on Ways and Means for action and the Senate version was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

National Women’s History Museum
On March 3 Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and over a dozen co-sponsors (including virtually every female member of the Senate) introduced legislation (S 501) designed to provide a site for the National Women’s History Museum in the District of Columbia. According to Collins, the bill seeks to establish a site for a museum “dedicated to the legacy of women’s contributions throughout our nation’s history.” The proposed site for the museum is the vacant Pavilion Annex of the Old Post Office building in Washington D.C. While one would normally expect a bill of this type to be referred to the Senate Energy Committee for consideration, the bill has been referred to Collins’s own Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for what promises to be quick action. On April 13 that committee ordered the bill be reported favorably without amendment.

National Park Centennial Act
On March 3 Representative Mark Souder (R-IN) and his co-sponsors introduced the “National Park Centennial Act” (HR 1124) to eliminate the annual operating deficit and maintenance backlog in national parks. The measure proposes to create the “National Park Centennial Fund” where a deposit would be made of $150 million in FY 2006 with a 15 percent increase every year thereafter until 2016. Sixty percent of the money would be used to eliminate the backlog of unmet needs, 20 percent would help protect natural resources within national parks, with an equal percentage earmarked to help protect cultural resources within national parks. The bill was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks on March 10.

National Parks Institute Study Act
On March 17 Representative George Radanovich (R-CA) introduced the National Parks Institute Study Act, legislation (HR 1430) to examine the feasibility of establishing the National Parks Institute in Central California. The bill seeks to assess the need for an academic institution that promotes management, preservation, and improved stewardship for the National Park System. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Resources for consideration. On March 24 executive comment was requested from the Department of Interior.
National Trust and 21 Senators Work to Maintain Funding for Save America’s Treasures

On April 25 the National Trust for Historic Preservation announced its national campaign to maintain funding for Save America’s Treasures (SAT). According to Richard Moe, president of the Trust, “At a time when federal funds for preservation are already scarce, the Administration’s proposal to cut funding for Save America’s Treasures in half is extremely disappointing. SAT is the only major bricks-and-mortar preservation program in the nation today, and these cuts, if enacted, will be a huge blow to scores of preservation projects and will mean that more of America’s heritage almost certainly will be lost.” He continued, “This program, by leveraging millions of additional dollars from foundations, corporations and individuals, literally has saved hundreds of historic sites around the country. Maintaining SAT at the present level is one of the National Trust’s top priorities in the 109th Congress. We and our partner SAT sites, and preservationists from all over the country, are reaching out to Members of Congress to urge their continued funding of the program at the $30 million level.”

With broad bi-partisan support in Congress and the leadership of First Lady Laura Bush and former First Lady Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), SAT has provided more than $218 million in federal challenge grants to 726 historic preservation projects. Reflective of this bi-partisan support, twenty-one senators joined together in sending a letter to the leadership of the Senate’s Interior Appropriation Subcommittee expressing their support for full funding of SAT. The letter requests that the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee retain the $30 million historically provided for Save America’s Treasures, with $15 million for competitive grants and the other half for Congressional priorities.

Save America’s Treasures (SAT) is the public private partnership of the White House, the National Park Service, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation established by Executive Order in 1998 to address the substantial need to raise public awareness and new resources for nationally significant preservation projects across America. Although SAT has spurred a preservation renaissance in communities throughout the U.S., the Administration’s recent announcement of the FY2006 budget calls for drastically cutting SAT funding in half—from $30 million to $15 million.

“The Save America’s Treasures program helps ensure that our legacy from the past will remain intact so that future generations can live with it, learn from it and be inspired by it. Its benefits are clearly visible in cities, towns and rural areas all over America,” said Moe. “The National Trust urges citizens to tell their Members of Congress that this visionary initiative must be sustained.”

To learn more about Save America’s Treasures or to read the letter sent by twenty-one senators to the Senate’s Interior Appropriation Subcommittee, visit www.nationaltrust.org/advocate_better_policies/index.asp.

Senators Deliver “Make History Strong in Our Schools” Message

Using the vehicle of the 230th anniversary of the battles of Lexington and Concord that served as the catalyst for the Revolutionary War, on Patriot’s Day (April 19) the National Council for History Education (NCHE) sponsored a “Make History Strong in Our Schools Day” event in the U.S. Capitol. While the event sought to make a connection between the study of history, civics, and patriotism, the NCHE event also sought to raise concern about the “No Child Left Behind Act,” which has resulted in a “decrease of time devoted to teaching history.” The day after the press event, Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Ted Kennedy (D-MA) announced their intention to introduce legislation seeking to gather statewide information about students’ comprehension of U.S. history in an effort to assess the current state of history education in the country.

During the Patriot’s Day press event, historian Theodore Rabb set the stage for comments by Senators Robert C. Byrd (D-WV) and John Warner (R-VA) who both addressed the assembled media. Neither senator spoke specifically about the impact of the “No Child Left Behind” program on history education, rather they focused their comments on the importance of teaching history in schools.

Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA), though not in attendance, communicated their support for the NCHE effort. Historical re-enactors from Colonial Williamsburg portraying presidents George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison also each briefly addressed the group with relevant comments on the importance of history to the founding fathers. The NCHE hoped that the message being sent by a bi-partisan array of senators and the words of past presidents would send a powerful message and an evocative image to the nation’s legislators that emphasizes the need to keep history alive and strong in our public schools.

On April 20 Senators Alexander and Kennedy re-introduce legislation (a similar bill was not enacted in the 108th Congress) to amend the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization (NEAP) Act (S 860). As introduced, the bill seeks to revise clauses in the NEAP act to require assessments of history in at least ten states in geographically diverse regions beginning in 2006. If enacted, the bill will authorize up to $7 million for each of fiscal years 2006 and 2007 to carry out provisions of the act. The legislation was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Penions.

Spring 2005
Government News

NEH Preservation Assistance Grants
from the National Coalition for History's Washington Update

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is accepting applications for preservation assistance grants of up to $5,000 to promote preservation planning and activities within smaller institutions. The grants support general preservation and conservation surveys, consultations with professionals, preservation workshops, and purchase of preservation supplies. The deadline for preservation assistance grants is May 16, 2005. Applications and further guidelines are available by calling 202-606-8570 or visiting the NEH website at www.neh.gov.

Senate Launches Cultural Caucus
from the National Coalition for History's Washington Update

After a number of years in the planning, a Senate Cultural Caucus has been launched. On April 14 a letter began circulating in the Senate signed by Senators Norm Coleman (R-MN), Mike Enzi (R-WY), James Jeffords (I-VT), and Edward Kennedy (D-MA) urging their colleagues to join the caucus. The Senate Cultural Caucus seeks “to bring focus to the arts and humanities and the positive impact they have on our daily lives.” The caucus leadership hopes that it “will highlight the work that our federal cultural agencies . . . are doing in all fifty states.” The letter also notes, “There are countless examples of impressive programs that enrich lives and help enliven communities, as well as promote awareness of American history and culture.” At this point, the new caucus does not appear to have a specific position regarding appropriations related issues; rather, it primarily exists to inform senators about and highlight the work of the cultural agencies. Readers may want to urge their senators to join the caucus. For a copy of the letter that is circulating, along with the information that you would need to provide a senator’s staff on how to join the caucus, visit www3.artsusa.org/pdf/get_involved/advocacy/scc_letter.pdf.

Call for Air Force Historians

The Air Force, like several other Department of Defense agencies, is looking to hire civil service historians to replace active duty military historians. For more information about openings, email the Air Force History and Museums Civilian Career Program Manager at john.kuborn@randolph.af.mil or 210 556-4508.
Google Offers New Search Engine to Non-Profits
from the California Association for Museums’ Enews

Google, through its new Public Service Search section, is offering nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status two free search tools for use on their web sites: SiteSearch, for searching within sites, and WebSearch, enabling users to search the Internet by keyword. The new, cost-free service also offers traffic reports, unlimited queries, and allows for customization, and no banner services. For more information, visit google.com/pss_faq.html.

Historian and Teacher Nadine Hata Passes

Nadine Ishitani Hata, 63, who worked to include both sexes and all races and ethnic groups in the teaching of history, died February 25 of cancer at her home in Redondo Beach. A fourth-generation Japanese American born in Hawaii, Hata was motivated to improve history education because of “omissions and distortions that made American history irrelevant to me… At all levels of instruction, history courses and textbooks perpetuated blatantly chauvinistic, sexist and racist assumptions about every facet of public and private life in America.” The former El Camino College vice-president effected change, not only through her teaching and writing, but also in her work on a state advisory committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, as chairwoman of the State Historical Resources Commission, and as the only Asian American on the 12-member governing council of the American Historical Association. Hata got her bachelor’s degree at the University of Hawaii, master’s at the University of Michigan and doctorate at USC. She taught at Cal State Dominguez Hills and Cal State Long Beach before joining the El Camino faculty in 1970. With her husband, Donald Teruo Hata, she wrote widely on Asian American history.

Bancroft Library to Relocate During Closure for Seismic Retrofitting

From 2005 to 2007 the Bancroft Library at U.C. Berkeley will relocate to temporary quarters during a State-mandated seismic retrofitting of its building and a much-needed upgrading of its facilities. The Bancroft Library has been in its current location, the Doe Library Annex, since the 1950s. As they prepare for the move, the library’s hours have been reduced to Monday through Saturday, 1:00 to 5:00. Due to these limited hours, the reading room is quite crowded, and it’s advised you arrive early if possible. On June 1, 2005, the Bancroft will close to the public in order to move its collections. A temporary reading room will reopen tentatively in October at 2121 Allston Way (between Shattuck and Fulton), just off campus in downtown Berkeley (conveniently across the street from a public parking lot). During the closure, the library will provide limited service via email, mail and telephone, if possible. When they reopen in the temporary space in the autumn, not all materials will be available and services may be curtailed. Manuscripts and books in the non-reference collection will be stored offsite, so it will be necessary to page these items ahead of time, by phone or e-mail—it may take three to four days for the materials to arrive at the reading room. For more information and updates, visit bancroft.berkeley.edu/info/move/ or call 510 642-3781.

CCPH Treasurer Madeline Bowen and her husband Mark Bowen, also a board member, have recently welcomed a new addition to their family. Magdalena Claire Bowen was born on March 24. She weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces and was 20 inches long. A future CCPH leader in the making? Her pedigree sure seems to say so.

Eugene Itogawa, who recently retired from the California Office of Historic Preservation, was awarded the Sacramento County Historical Society’s President’s Award. Gene’s long and distinguished career in historic preservation, as well as the many projects to which he has committed his free time, make him a worthy recipient of this honor.

Laren Metzer has been appointed Assistant Chief, Archives and Museum Division, Office of the Secretary of State. Employed at the California State Archives since 1981, Metzer has served in a number of program areas. Under the direction of State Archivist Doug Stone, he will be responsible for staff supervision and general administration of the division. Metzer received his master’s degree in history from Central Washington University and a post-graduate certification in archives and records management from Western Washington University. A past president of the Society of California Archivists, Metzer also serves as Deputy Coordinator of the California Historical Records Advisory Board.

Jim Williams has ventured into the techno world in the newest way, with a new blog (short for “web log,” for those readers not quite so net-literate). Check it out at www.cal39.blogspot.com.
Other News

IMLS Announces New Web Site on African American Experience
from the California Association for Museums' Enews

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) announced its support of In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience, launched February 1, 2005, in honor of African American History Month. Through images, maps, narratives and music, the exhibition presents, chronicles, and interprets the migratory movements that have formed and transformed the African-American community and the nation in the last century. Created by New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the groundbreaking new web site makes accessible to the general public more than 16,500 pages of essays, books, articles, and manuscripts, 8,300 illustrations, 100 lesson plans, and 60 maps that will help users understand the peoples, places, and the events that have shaped African America’s migration traditions of the past four hundred years. The project is made possible in part by a $2.4 million dollar grant from IMLS with the support of the Congressional Black Caucus. Visit the web site at www.inmotionaame.org.

“Digital Resources for Cultural Heritage”
Report and Recommendations
from the Institute for Museum and Library Services’ Primary Source

IMLS is pleased to announce that the Digital Resources for Cultural Heritage Report and Recommendations is now available in PDF format at www.imls.gov/digitalcorner/index.htm#Pubs. The report and recommendations stem from a workshop of 63 specialists from 26 states representing libraries, museums, archives, higher education institutions, public broadcasting, research consortia, public and private funding organizations, and service providers to assess progress on, and plan for, the development and use of digital cultural resources. For hard copies, e-mail your request to imlsinfo@imls.gov.

AHA Statement on Standards of Professional Conduct Updated
from the National Coalition for History's Washington Update

The American Historical Association has released the most comprehensive revision of its Statement on Standards of Professional Conduct since that document was first adopted in 1987. It is available on the AHA's web site at www.historians.org/pubs/Free/ProfessionalStandards.cfm. The Statement is the historical profession’s most widely consulted authority concerning questions of ethical practice.

The revised Statement was rewritten to impose a more uniform style and voice on the whole, without sacrificing or altering any of the important statements of principle it contains. Earlier editions of the Statement have been marked by a fairly pervasive bias in which the “historians” it addresses and describes are assumed to work in academic institutions. Public historians in particular have felt understandably marginalized by the text. Last year the AHA's Task Force on Public History strongly recommended that the Statement be revised so as to remove as far as possible its academic biases. This new version is much more inclusive of the full range of professional historians working in many different institutional settings.

The Statement includes two sections that are entirely new. The first defines what is meant by “The Profession of History,” and the second seeks to describe and explain the “Shared Values of Historians.” The AHA has stated that many of the professional and ethical dilemmas historians face are best addressed by referring to the underlying values that inform historians’ work.

The document does not offer major new policy statements though there are a few minor clarifications of current policy. The primary goal of the revision was to synthesize and integrate AHA policy concerning professional conduct as it has evolved over the years. Over the last 17 years the Statement has been amended by an ever-extending string of appendices to the document. This draft eliminates the appendices by incorporating their spirit or substance at appropriate locations in the main body of the text.

The AHA hopes that the 2005 edition of the Statement will be of use not just to professional historians, but to students, journalists, employers, scholars in allied fields, and anyone interested in questions pertaining to ethical conduct in the practice of history.

Along with the new Statement, the AHA has also published new curricular materials on the subject of plagiarism, prepared by Michael Rawson of the University of Wisconsin at Madison. These are also available online at www.historians.org/governance/pd/Curriculum/plagiarism_intro.htm. The new materials are offer wise counsel to teachers seeking to help students understand and avoid plagiarism, as well as specific information and exercises for undergraduate and graduate students.
In 1998 I experienced what seemed to me a classic example of what Peter Schrag described as the paradox of direct democracy: Sacramento’s school bond ratification. A new resident of the city, I learned through the newspaper and the voter pamphlet that I needed to vote on the large bond to support the renovation and building of new schools. However, this was a special election and there was almost no broad campaign surrounding the school bond act. Fresh from the often-corrupt, but quite vibrant city politics of Providence, Rhode Island, and well-familiar with the impassioned debates about school spending in the town meetings of my hometown of Amherst, Massachusetts, I was bewildered. Here was a moment for the citizens of Sacramento to discuss, consider, and debate the needs of its school systems and instead there was near silence. Finally, a neighbor clued me in—the school bond needed two-thirds majority to pass. As a result, the goal was to keep turnout as low as possible, mobilize only the pro-school contingent, and keep the anti-spending coalitions from drawing attention to their opposition. If the only goal was to get the bond passed, this strategy worked: the bond passed with a low turnout. But where were the progressive ideals that had inspired the institutions of such votes? As Governor Hiram Johnson said in his 1911 inaugural speech, such votes indicate the “deep-rooted belief . . . in the right of the people to govern” and “their ability to govern” (quoted by Schrag, 190). Most of the people had not governed in this moment, and the supporters of the bond had deliberately avoided tapping that ability. Even in other moments such as the 2003 recall election, when voters turned out in record numbers and there was no shortage of debate about the demerits of Governor Gray Davis and the possibilities of his replacements, Schrag demonstrates the distortions in these deliberations.

Though the first two-thirds of Schrag’s book do not directly address this paradox of the “plebiscitary process,” it is the central problem for both the new preface (finished in early 2004) and the main text. In Schrag’s deliberate but engaging prose, he describes the ambitions and successes of Californians and their leaders in the 1960s and 1970s but shows the fissures developing in the polity and the politicians. California’s exemplary public education system began to fade under the pressures of suburbanization, politicized university students, and changing demographics. The investments in infrastructure by both private capitalists and the government declined as the boom times of the 1960s ran into the slowdown of the 1970s and 1990s. Then there was Proposition 13 in 1978, limiting property taxes. For Schrag, this initiative showed the dissatisfaction of the majority of Californians not just with their local governments but with state government as well. These people, often post-World War II migrants to California, no longer carried the “optimism” of their early years in the state. Instead, they feared growing property taxes might take away their only real stake in the state: their house. Moreover, for what?, the proponents of Proposition 13 asked—to support the poor, to encourage the radical university students, to give more money to Governor “Moonbeam” Jerry Brown? Schrag’s account of this crucial measure does not have the careful details of Lisa McGirr’s fascinating Suburban Warriors, but it gives readers enough to understand the emotions, practical realities, and unintended effect of the measure on the state.

Indeed, it is Proposition 13 and subsequent initiatives, most importantly term limits, that Schrag argues makes governing California almost impossible—for the people, for local officials, and state officials. Proposition 13 removed much of local control. Other initiatives have limited the ability of the state to decide how to spend its revenues, as more and more money is earmarked for specific programs. Then to add to the muddle, term limits passed in 1990 have created a constantly rotating set of state leaders. The politicians who arrive now in Sacramento are not closer to the people than their predecessors were, but rather, Schrag asserts, “long on partisanship and painfully short on both legislative experience and policy background—and, worse, seemed not much to care." They focus on the next campaign, niche issues, and what their party leaders tell them to do. For Schrag, this behavior inspired just more interest group driven initiatives and the recall.

So why should the public historian in California care about this book? For some of you, the story is so familiar there may be little to read in it; though Schrag’s insights into the social, personal, and political dynamics are educational. For us migrants to the state and for those too young to remember the optimism of the early 1960s, you will learn more about the “stress and anxiety” that seems to bedevil so much of public discourse in California (Schrag, xxv). But the reasons to read this book are also specific to those of us who try to understand the political and social framework that shaped California’s last 50 years. It will help cultural resources managers understand the highways and houses of these years. It will help museum curators design exhibits that highlight the tensions of the period. It will remind archivists of the importance of those complicated reform plans that Californians so often propose and why they so rarely fulfill all their ambitious promises.

Lucy Barber is an archivist at the California State Archives.
Parks, libraries, museums, and other cultural organizations represent a diverse array of assets and share a broad mission to serve their communities. Not everyone recognizes the roles these institutions play in supporting young people during out-of-school hours. “When School Is Out, Museums, Parks and Libraries Are In” is the ninth publication in the policy commentary series produced by the nonprofit Forum for Youth Investment. The publication explores the unique resources these groups bring to the table, featuring examples of cutting-edge practice and partnerships and highlighting current policy opportunities and challenges. By interviewing several national experts, including Marsha Semmel, Director of Strategic Partnerships at IMLS, and reviewing existing literature, the authors of this publication attempt to answer such questions as: How large a role do museums, parks, and libraries play in young people’s lives? What does it look like when these institutions work together on behalf of young people? Is out-of-school time an important part of the future identity of museums, parks, and libraries? Read the publication at www.forumforyouthinvestment.org/OSTPC9.pdf.

New Publication Explores Museum and Library Offerings for After School
from the Institute for Museum and Library Services’ *Primary Source* newsletter

Workshop: The Art of Interpretive Writing
June 14-15, 2005
Bay Model Visitor Center, Sausalito

Alan Leftridge, the executive editor of The Interpreter magazine, will guide you through an engaging and informative workshop that will sharpen your skills for connecting with your audiences. The purpose of this workshop is to introduce you to the strategies promoted by the National Association for Interpretation and the National Park Service for written interpretation. You will focus on developing tangibles, intangibles, universals, and interpretive themes in your writing, while avoiding trite expressions. These strategies and skills apply to your brochures, exhibits, public service announcements, magazine articles, and other interpretive projects. You will leave the workshop with a workbook and a product applicable to your professional situation. Sign up before June 1 to reserve placement in the training. The fee for this two-day workshop is $195. For more information about the Art of Interpretive Writing workshops, visit www.lefridge.com.

Seminar for Historical Administration
Applications Due May 20

Applications are now being accepted for the 46th Seminar for Historical Administration to be held in Indianapolis, October 29-November 19, 2005. The program is specifically targeted to full-time, paid staff of history museums, historic sites, preservation, or other history/museum organizations with three to ten years’ experience and who are in a position of administrative responsibility or are preparing for such a position. SHA employs case studies, workshops, forums, and field trips to present and engage the best practices and ideas of history organization leadership and management. The deadline for applications is May 20, 2005. The SHA application can be downloaded at www.aaslh.org/histadmin. For information about SHA or the minority scholarship, contact Karla Nicholson at 615 320-3203 or nicholson@aaslh.org.

Web Site of Interest:
www.humanitiesadvocacy.org

Check out the Action Center at the Humanities Advocacy Center website at www.humanitiesadvocacy.org, with links to contact the president and members of Congress and to locate and contact state officials, updates on hot issues and legislation, and a handy guide to the media section. There are also links to both the House and Senate calendars and to the search engine for congressional committees. There’s even an option to sign up for email notices. The Humanities Advocacy Network is a joint project of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, the National Coalition for History, and the National Humanities Alliance.
Conferences and Other Educational Opportunities

The California Garden and Landscape History Society will hold its annual conference June 11-12, 2005, in St. Helena, California. With the theme “Beyond Vineyards: Landscapes of the Napa Valley,” the conference will give participants a perspective of the Napa Valley, past and present, as well as an intimate look usually reserved for residents and will feature talks on the Valley landscape’s historic context, tours of private gardens throughout the Napa Valley, and a reception at an historic estate. For more information visit www.cglhs.org.

The 19th annual Western Archives Institute will take place July 10-22, 2005, at UC Davis. For more information, visit www.calarchivists.org/wai.html.


The American Association for State and Local History will hold its annual meeting September 21-24, 2005, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. AASLH has chosen the theme “History’s Mysteries” for this year’s meeting. For more information, visit www.aaslh.org.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation’s National Preservation Conference will take place September 27-October 2, 2005, in Portland, Oregon. With the theme, “Sustain America: Vision, Economics, and Preservation,” the conference will highlight preservation endeavors specific to the northwest, share cutting-edge ideas and tactics for adaptive use, infill, and mixed-use projects, and allow attendees to engage with peers in roundtable discussions. For more information, visit www.nthpconference.org.

This year’s Western Museums Association’s conference will take place in Pasadena and Los Angeles, September 28-October 2, 2005, with the theme “A Rose by Any Other Name: Integrity, Mission, Authenticity.” Additional information can be found at www.westmuse.org.

45th annual Western History Association conference will take place October 12-15, 2005, in Scottsdale, Arizona, with the theme, “Western Traditions and Transitions: Cultural Diversity and Demographic Change.” Unique and informative presentations and a variety of additional activities to showcase the conference location make these annual gatherings a vital experience. For more information, visit www.unm.edu/~wha.

The California Council for the Promotion of History will hold its annual conference October 27-29, 2005, in Visalia, California. With the theme “Telling the Stories: From History to Myth,” the conference will include stimulating panel sessions, a variety of tour options, and special events that are sure to please. For more information, visit www.csus.edu/org/ccph.

The Oral History Association will hold its annual meeting November 2-6, 2005, at the Providence Marriott, in Providence, Rhode Island. With the theme “Voices of Dissent, Voices of Hope,” and in keeping with the historic role of the city of Providence in welcoming religious dissenters, the annual meeting will focus special attention on oral history work with persons who have sought freedom of expression, freedom from coercion, and freedom of conscience. For more information, visit www.dickinson.edu/oha.

The 38th annual conference of the American Italian Historical Association will be held in Los Angeles, November 3-6, 2005, the first time the association has held its conference in southern California. Taking place at the Doubletree Hotel Westwood, the conference has the theme “Speaking Memory: Oral History, Oral Culture and Italians in America.” For more information, visit www.aiha.fau.edu or contact conference chair Luisa Del Giudice at 310 474-1698 or luisadg@humnet.ucla.edu.

The National Interpreter’s Workshop will take place November 8-12, 2005, in Mobile, Alabama. Coordinated by the National Association for Interpretation, the workshop will feature the slogan, “Full Speed Ahead,” and will seek to reflect the energy NAI has gained recently and the momentum it builds as it passes its 50th anniversary. More information will be forthcoming at www.interpret.com.


CAM’s 2005 Regional Workshop Series

For more information, visit store3.fmpweb.com/cam_registration.

Building a Diverse Audience for Your Museum
April 25, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Children’s Discovery Museum, San Jose
April 29, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Strategic Planning and More
June 7, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento
June 23, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm San Bernardino County Museum, San Bernardino

Identifying Risks and Protecting Your Collection from Natural Disasters
August 4, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Oakland Museum of California, Oakland
August 18, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm San Diego Museum of Natural History, San Diego

Visitor Experience Training
October 27, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm COPIA, Napa
November 10, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, Los Angeles

BONUS CAM WORKSHOP AT WMA CONFERENCE

Fundraising Strategies: A Grab-bag of Ideas and Tools
Wednesday, September 28, 2005, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Pasadena Museum of California Art, Pasadena (Registration for this workshop can be found at www.westmuse.org/.)
California History Action

The following is a list of CCPH liaisons with state and national heritage organizations. This list of representatives has been established so that liaisons can supply important information to the CCPH membership and so members will have an appropriate contact should the need arise. Are you a member of a state or national association and want to serve as a CCPH liaison? Contact us at ccph@csus.edu or 916 278-4296.

American Association of Museums (AAM)
Open
American Assoc. for State and Local History (AASLH)
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California Preservation Foundation (CPF)
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Jan Hauser Cotton, 916 644-2610
National Council on Public History (NCPH)
David Byrd, dbyrd@jsanet.com
Northwest Oral History Association (NOHA)
Alan Stein, 916 447-7073
Society for California Archaeology (SCA)
Steve Mikesell, smike@ohp.parks.ca.gov, 916 757-2521
Society of California Archivists (SCA)
Patricia Johnson, pjohnson@cityofsacramento.org
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CCPH encourages the reprinting of articles published in this newsletter. To do so, use the credit line - Reprinted from California History Action, the newsletter of the California Council for the Promotion of History. To inquire about using photographs, contact the CHA editor.

California History Action Editorial Information

California History Action is the official publication of the California Council for the Promotion of History. Its purpose is to disseminate news to the membership. The organization’s numerous committee chairs provide much of the information herein. It is the responsibility of the general membership to provide input to the newsletter. This sharing of information is critical to the well-being of the organization.

Issues will be produced quarterly in January, April, July, and October. Deadlines are the first of the month of publication. This late deadline is designed to provide information to the membership in the most timely manner. Material must be received prior to the deadline to be printed in the current issue and should be submitted directly to the editor at the address below.

It is preferred that articles and other material be submitted electronically by email (either in the text of the message or as an attachment). However, typewritten printed material is also accepted via fax or mail. Views expressed herein are solely those of their authors. Their publication does not constitute an endorsement by CCPH.

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Don’t forget CCPH awards nominations are now being accepted. The deadline is August 15, but there’s no reason you can’t turn one in before then. So be thinking about those deserving public historians out there!

CCPH Committees

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Join the California Council for the Promotion of History

All members receive issues of California History Action, the CCPH newsletter for history advocacy, notices of CCPH conferences and workshops, and other CCPH publications. Corporate and Institutional members also receive membership rates for two individuals at conferences and other events. Annual dues are due January 1; those received from new members after August 1 will be credited to the next year.

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All dues and contributions are tax-deductible. Send this form and payment to CCPH, CSU
Sacramento, Department of History, 6000 J St, Sacramento CA 95819-6059. For more information contact 916 278-4295, ccph@csus.edu, www.csus.edu/org/ccph.
Spring 2005
Welcome New Members

KCM Curry, Gardena
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Wendy Kronman, Fresno
Waverly Lowell, Berkeley
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Laura Gallegos, Sacramento
Payne Vang, North Highlands

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