



Charles T. Morrissey, Editor
Samuel Hand, Associate Editor

Editorial Office located at the
Vermont Historical Society in
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

NEWSLETTER

Volume II, Number 2, April, 1968

UCLA Receives Federal Funds for July Oral History Institute

THE UCLA ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM has received a federal grant under the Higher Education Act of 1965, Title IIB, to sponsor an oral history institute from July 8 to July 19, 1968. The institute will consist of both lecture and laboratory sessions, during which participants will actually conduct interviews and be responsible for transcribing and editing them.

The program is designed to prepare its participants "to assume responsibility for organizing and developing an oral history program in a library or archives situation."

Staff for the institute will consist of James V. Mink, director; Elizabeth I. Dixon, principal instructor; and Donald J. Schippers and Adelaide Tusler, lecturers. Douglass Adair, Professor of History at Claremont Graduate School, will be a visiting lecturer, and Allan Nevins will attend a luncheon session to meet and talk with all participants.

Enrollment is limited to 20 participants. Their expenses, except for travel, will be paid by the federal government under the terms of the grant. Applications must be received by May 1, and notices of acceptance will be mailed by May 15. Inquiries should be directed to Mr. Michael Baird, University of California Extension, UCLA, Los Angeles 90024.

Enrollees will be chosen among applicants who are beginning to develop or will soon be assigned the responsibility

for developing oral history programs in libraries or archival institutions. Criteria for eligibility includes a post-baccalaureate degree in library science or one of the social sciences or the equivalent, and the apparent competence of the applicant to profit by the somewhat intensive training offered by the institute.

Lectures, "lab work," discussion periods, and field trips will allow each participant to gain first-hand knowledge of all steps and problems involved in oral history research.

NEXT ORAL HISTORY COLLOQUIUM IS SCHEDULED FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA IN NOVEMBER

The Third National Colloquium on Oral History will meet at the Nebraska Center, the University of Nebraska's new conference facility in Lincoln, from Friday, November 22 to Monday, November 25. Philip A. Crowl, chairman of the University's History Department, will be host.

The Executive Council of the Oral History Association accepted Professor Crowl's invitation with enthusiasm when it met at the Center over the weekend of February 24. "Having convened on both coasts, it is appropriate that we go to the midlands," Louis M. Starr, President of the Association, said after the decision. "This is what many of those at Arden House hoped we would do, and we found that the Nebraska Center, close to the geographic center of the country, is ideally equipped and staffed to meet our needs."

Plenary sessions will be held in an auditorium known as "the Little General Assembly," a beautiful replica in miniature of the United Nations' celebrated amphitheatre. Rooms for smaller meetings abound, and up to 200 can be accommodated in residence.

Details of the program are being worked out by the Council in collaboration with Professor Crowl, and will be announced in June. They decided to include sessions on state and local history, institutional history, administration, equipment, interviewing techniques, and oral history's

place in the liberal arts college. Several of the nation's outstanding scholars will address plenary sessions, and a panel will explore new directions in oral history.

Reservations will not be accepted until the program mailing, when the "first come, first served" rule will prevail. Members of the Oral History Association, however, will receive their invitations a few days before a general mailing goes out, probably in June. Local participation will be welcome, but limited to those sufficiently interested to join the Oral History Association.

"We at Nebraska can promise you a memorable meeting," Professor Crowl said. Social amenities, he intimated, would not be overlooked.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ARDEN HOUSE COLLOQUIUM WILL BE PUBLISHED

Proceedings of the Second National Colloquium on Oral History will be published in the near future, according to word from the Oral History Research Office at Columbia University. As was the case with "Oral History at Arrowhead," the account of the First Colloquium, the new volume will be published and copyrighted in the name of the Oral History Association, and copies will be sent free to all participants at Arden House, as well as to all members of the association in good standing.

The format follows closely that of UCLA's Arrowhead volume, and the book runs to about the same length. Members may want to call this volume to the attention of library acquisition departments.

EISENHOWER AND STEVENSON PROJECTS AT COLUMBIA RECEIVE A DECREASE IN FUNDING, BUT THE CARNEGIE CORPORATION EXTENDS ITS ONE-YEAR PROJECT TO TWO

The Oral History Research Office at Columbia University reports two project renewals—one a disappointment and the other a pleasant surprise.

The National Endowment for the Humanities, in support of what was to be a three-year project on the Dwight D. Eisenhower Administration, combined with a two-year project on the life of Adlai E. Stevenson, granted Columbia \$10,000 to continue this work. Last year the Endowment granted \$40,000 for these two projects.

The reduction is due to the severe shrinkage of the Endowment's appropriation from Congress. "We will either find matching grants from other sources," said Louis M. Starr, Director of the Columbia office, "or we will reduce our pace in hopes of getting the job done in five or six years instead of three."

Starr reports that about 12,000 pages of transcript were produced under the grant during the first year.

More cheerful news came from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which originally contemplated a one-year project on its own history. Its trustees have voted to extend the life of the project for another year with a supplementary grant of \$15,000 to Columbia's Oral History Office. \$5,000 of this sum is earmarked for a comprehensive subject index.

The Carnegie project covers the work of this foundation since its inception in 1911.

TRUMAN LIBRARY: 39 INTERVIEWS DONE; 17 UNDERWAY

The Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Missouri, reports that 39 oral history interviews have been accessioned as of mid-March, 1968. The latest two, accessioned since the printing of the HSTL Institute Newsletter of January, 1968, are with Harry Easley of Webb City, Missouri, covering Truman's senatorial campaigns, and with Gould Lincoln of Washington, D.C., relating to his recollections of Mr. Truman as Senator, as Roosevelt's running-mate, and to dealings with White House press officers during the Truman Presidency.

The Truman Library Oral History Project has 17 interviews in various stages of process. It is hoped that some 100 to 125 additional persons will be interviewed before the Project is terminated.

The transcripts of interviews already completed vary in length from fewer than 20 pages to nearly 400 pages. Four of those accessioned are temporarily closed to research by the interviewees' stipulation.

PENN STATE: ORAL HISTORY & THE STEELWORKERS

The United Steelworkers of America (USWA) have announced that Union records and other historical documents will be deposited at the Pennsylvania State University for use by scholars in chronicling the history of the American labor movement. At the same time the USWA and the University disclosed plans for a far-reaching oral history program (already underway—see below) to collect and preserve personal recollections of the early days of the Steelworkers.

The oral history project is under the direction of the University's Department of Labor Studies and Mrs. Alice Hoffman, labor archivist at the University. With the help of personnel from the USWA, members of the Labor Studies Department will travel throughout the country to tape interviews with key figures and rank-and-filers in the organization and development of the Union.

Penn State has already collected and transcribed interviews with about 30 individuals who were observers or

participants in the organization of workers in the early 1930's in Pennsylvania.

Last summer at Penn State a seminar in oral history techniques was given by Mrs. Hoffman and Gerald Eggert of the History Department. Four graduate students read and discussed published material about oral history and then conducted interviews with USWA members. Each interview was criticized by other students in the seminar. The tapes, with critical comments about them, were placed in the Labor Archives. Students and seminar leaders report that the exercise was successful.

UCLA: A NEW PROJECT ON THE MOVIE INDUSTRY

The UCLA Oral History Program, in cooperation with the UCLA Department of Theatre Arts, is planning a special project on the history of the American Motion Picture.

Initial funding for this continuing project is \$40,000, which will be provided by the American Film Institute and the Humanities Division of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities.

The official title of this project is: American Film Institute—UCLA Oral History of the Motion Picture In America. The Co-Principal Investigators in charge of the project are Professor Howard Zuber of the UCLA Department of Theatre Arts, and James V. Mink, University Archivist and Director of the UCLA Oral History Program.

MASSACHUSETTS: LABOR HISTORY

At the University of Massachusetts the Labor Relations and Research Center, under the direction of Benjamin B. Seligman, is beginning a series of interviews concerning labor in the Bay State. The chief topic at this time is the famous Boston Police Strike of 1919. Miss Julia Blodgett, Research Associate at the Center, will conduct the interviews.

TEXAS: A CENTER FOR FOLKLORE & ORAL HISTORY

The University of Texas at Austin announces the establishment of a Center For Intercultural Studies In Folklore and Oral History. The Center has main offices in the English Building on the UT campus.

The Center's function is to serve as a focus for teaching and research in folklore and related fields; it is intended to be both interdisciplinary and international in character. It will make available to researchers a small specialized library, archives of manuscripts and sound recordings, and equipment for their use.

Director of the Center is Americo Paredes. Associate Directors are Mody C. Boatright and Roger D. Abrahams, and Thomas Stanford will be Head of the Sound Archives.

A 15-member Board of Faculty Consultants, representing several departments of the University, will serve the Center.

BRUCE STAVE: A FULBRIGHT TO INDIA

The Director of the Oral History Research Project at the University of Bridgeport in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Bruce Stave, has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to India. From July, 1968, to March, 1969, he will make tape recordings of Indian attitudes toward American politics and foreign policy, past and present, with the '68 presidential contest and the conflict in Viet Nam serving as a focus.

TEACHING ORAL HISTORY: Three colleges in Southern California will offer courses this fall in the training and techniques of oral history. They are California State College at Fullerton, Cal State—San Fernando, and Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles.

COLUMBIA: AN EXHIBIT OF 20 YEARS OF ORAL HISTORY

"Oral History: The First Twenty Years" is the title of an exhibit running from February 20 through May 20 in the main exhibition cases of Butler Library, Columbia's central library. It marks the 20th anniversary of the launching of Columbia's oral history effort.

Along with pictures of Allan Nevins interviewing Herbert Lehman and Dean Albertson interviewing James P. Warburg in the early years, the exhibit includes the first page of Albertson's handwritten notes of the first interview—conducted with George McAneny, a New York civic leader, on May 18, 1948. Also shown is the first page of transcript taken from a recording: the words are those of Judge Learned Hand, and the date was January 21, 1949. A Webster wire-recorder was used for that interview.

One case illustrates the growth of the Columbia operation by showing its catalogues, beginning with a 1952 compilation that was not even mimeographed (it was kept in the office in the event any visitor expressed interest). Shown also are the first publications of the Oral History Association ("Oral History At Arrowhead"), the bibliography, the NEWSLETTER, and the program for last fall's meeting at Arden House.

Pulitzer and Bancroft winners who have used Oral History fill a case with their books, and a larger case displays books published in 1967 that drew upon the Columbia Collection.

An introduction to the exhibit makes the point that despite years of comparative obscurity and hardship, Oral History has built what is now the largest and most utilized collection at the University.

A BROCHURE FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

At its November meeting in Lincoln the O.H.A. Executive Council authorized Willa Baum to prepare a brief brochure about the Association to serve as a mailing piece for the many who inquire about the functions and purposes of the O.H.A. This brochure will serve to stimulate interest in oral history and should engender an increase in O.H.A. membership.

O.H.A. MEMBERSHIP: A NEW POLICY

The fiscal year and the membership year of the Oral History Association should conform with the calendar year, the Association's Council decided at its first meeting. A by-law to this effect was unanimously adopted by the Council.

This imposes a small sacrifice upon those who joined late in 1967, the Council recognized, but the advantages of establishing uniformity—and also, not incidentally, of fortifying the Association's treasury—appeared to outweigh this one drawback.

The point was made, moreover, that every member of the seven-man Council made a round-trip in excess of 3,200 miles in order to attend the special meeting at Lincoln, Nebraska, at his own expense—a demonstration of good faith which, it was felt, those who joined the Association late in 1967 would not mind emulating on a modest scale.

Once the Treasurer's office is geared to handle memberships (as yet, stationery is un-delivered), April 30 of each year will be the dues deadline for members to remain in good standing.

Knox Mellon, treasurer, indicated this deadline might be extended this year, depending upon how soon he is able to mail reminders. Members can help him by responding at once: dues for 1968 are \$7.50 for individuals, and a minimum of \$25 for institutions.

The Council also voted to accept applications for life membership from individuals who contributed substantial sums to the Association in its formative period, providing their total contribution through 1968 equals the \$150 fee specified in the by-laws. This was deemed an appropriate recognition of their faith and help.

O.H.A. IS PLANNING MEETINGS FOR NEXT 5-10 YEARS

The Oral History Association is looking for places at which to hold its annual colloquia for the next five to ten years. Locations should preferably have the charm and convenience of the accommodations at Lake Arrowhead in California and Arden House in New York.

Ideal places should be able to bed and board 150 to 300 persons. They should be isolated from big-city distractions but accessible by air, train, and bus in November, and near one or more oral history offices which would be willing to host meetings.

Suggestions should be submitted to Council Member Willa Baum, Regional Oral History Office, Room 486, Library, University of California, Berkeley 94720.

FORUM: A CODE OF ETHICS FOR ORAL HISTORIANS?

(The previous issue of this Newsletter announced the creation of a Forum—a section reserved for letters from O.H.A. members concerning various problems of mutual concern—legal intricacies, archival problems, procedural inefficiencies, production hold-ups, ethical considerations, definitions, terminology, standards, and the like. Your contributions are invited. This letter comes from Willa Baum of the Regional Oral History Office at U.C., Berkeley:)

Dear Editor:

One of the subjects I would like to throw out for consideration of the O.H.A. membership is whether or not we should adopt a code of ethics, now, to prevent closing the barn door after the horse gets out; it helps, too, to have the support of the organization when questions come up regarding what is fair to us and to the interviewee, especially involving the use of the material. I suggested a minimum code of ethics to one group of oral historians, and they felt that we should not attempt it now, simply because the very consideration of such a code seems to imply that we think someone may be unethical.

On the other hand, controversy over the Manchester book has stirred up questions about what is wrong and right to do under the name of oral history; the general public had very strong feelings one way or the other during the controversy.

I therefore propose that we discuss in the Forum, and also in the next Colloquium the following proposition:

1. The oral history office will make clear to the narrator in advance what the process will involve. i.e. Whether he may
 - a. Check over the interview after it has been completed.
 - b. Request changes, deletions, or additions to the final product.
 - c. Place material under control such as to be seen only with his permission, quoted only with his permission, placed under time seal, etc.
2. The oral history office will adhere to the agreement, whatever it is.
3. The interviewer will not exploit his relationship to the narrator nor knowledge of the interview material to the detriment of the narrator.
4. The relationship between the narrator and the interviewer will be considered a fiduciary one if the narrator so requests, and no material resulting therefrom will be made available to any person until the narrator has released the material.

NEW EDITOR FOR THE ORAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Charles Morrissey, Director of the Vermont Historical Society was named Editor of the Oral History Association by the organization's Executive Council during its meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska, on February 24. Morrissey succeeds Elwood Maunder, Director of the Forest History Society at Yale University, who resigned with regret because of new responsibilities.

The Council passed a resolution thanking Dr. Maunder and his staff for their contributions to the Oral History Association during its critical formative period.

Morrissey served as Chief of the John F. Kennedy Library Oral History Project for two years prior to taking his present post. Before that, he served the Harry S. Truman Library as an oral historian. At present he is conducting interviews for the Herbert Hoover Oral History Project in New England.

News for the Oral History Newsletter should be addressed to Morrissey at the Vermont Historical Society in Montpelier, Vermont 05602.

Working with Morrissey as Associate Editor is Professor Samuel Hand, an O.H.A. member who teaches American history at the University of Vermont.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll as a member of the Oral History Association. Enclosed find a check in payment of the OHA membership dues for the current year, 1968-69.

Check one: Individual membership.....(\$ 7.50 Minimum)
Institutional/Associational membership.....(\$25.00 Minimum)
Send all OHA publications and communications to the address below:

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Signed: **Date:**
Checks should be made payable to: The Oral History Association, Inc., and forwarded with the above information to: Knox Mellon, Treasurer, Oral History Association, Immaculate Heart College, 2021 North Western Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90027.

2nd EDITION OF ORAL HISTORY GUIDE IS PLANNED

A new edition of **A Bibliography Of Oral History** will be published soon by the Oral History Association. Compilers will be Adelaide Tusler and Donald Schippers of UCLA, who put together the first edition.

Knox Mellon, Treasurer of the Oral History Association, reports that very few copies of the first edition are still available. The new edition will be sent free to new members who pay their dues to Mr. Mellon by the time of publication, and to others who join subsequently. Additional copies may be ordered from him at \$1.00 each, postpaid.

INTERVIEWING: ART OR SCIENCE?

A satire on the persistent question of how to conduct oral history interviews was published in the January, 1968, issue of the **Journal of Library History**. Written by Amelia Fry, an experienced interviewer for the Regional Oral History Office at the University of California at Berkeley, the article is in the form of an interview and makes the point that oral history interviewing is an art, not a science, and depends largely upon the skill and flexibility of the interviewer rather than on a formalized set of "how to do it" rules.

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**BEAR IN MIND: THE THIRD ANNUAL
COLLOQUIUM OF THE ORAL HISTORY
ASSOCIATION IS SCHEDULED FOR
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, NOVEMBER 22
TO NOVEMBER 25, 1968.**

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