



# NEWSLETTER

## Philadelphia Meeting Breaks Records

A record-breaking 673 persons registered for the 30th annual Oral History Association meeting in Philadelphia Oct. 10-13, 1996. With the theme of "Oral History, Memory and the Sense of Place," the conference attracted oral historians from around the world and offered a wide array of panels, featured speakers, films, cultural events and off-site tours in one of America's most culturally diverse and historically rich cities. In addition, 139 persons attended workshops covering topics

such as basic techniques and using oral history in the classroom.

Featured at the conference were winners of the 1996 awards for outstanding scholarly article, postsecondary teaching and oral history project. The winners were:

+ Article Award: "Exploring Myths in Women's Narratives: Italian and German Immigrant Women in Vancouver, 1947-1961," by Alexander Freund and Laura Quilici, appearing in the Spring/Summer 1996 issue of "BC Studies." Their essay

was based on interviews conducted in German and Italian with women who emigrated to Canada and worked as domestic servants and boarding house keepers.

+ Postsecondary Teaching Award: Walter Bennett of the University of North Carolina Law School, for his "Oral History of Lawyers and Judges" project, in which law students interview long-time lawyers and judges to learn about the practical realities, ethical dilemmas and moral (Continued on page 3)

## OHA Committee Takes Long View

Oral History Association President Richard Candida Smith has appointed an Ad Hoc Committee on Long Range Planning to review OHA business and activities during the past decade and to formulate goals for the future.

The committee's work will include looking at how officers, council and committees function. It will consider procedures of comparable professional organizations. And it will recommend specific proposals for future development.

The committee will focus on several specific areas: annual meetings, publications, finances, membership development and the organization's administrative structure. They welcome your thoughts on any related matters.

Do you have suggestions for developing OHA's membership base?

Are there new committees that should be established? Do OHA's publications meet the needs of oral historians like yourself? What new directions would you like to see the organization take?

The committee is eager to hear from members and welcomes your ideas, comments and input. Please contact one of the following committee members, whose addresses and telephone or e-mail numbers can be found in the OHA **Directory**:

Anne Ritchie (Chair)  
Terry Birdwhistell  
Tom Charlton  
Cullom Davis  
Lila Johnson Goff  
Tom King  
Kim Lady Smith  
Alva Moore Stevenson  
Dale Treleven

### Editor's Note

By Mary Kay Quinlan

Many thanks to Oral History Association members, committee chairs and state and regional representatives who routinely submit items for the **Newsletter**. While not everything could be used in this issue, it remains in my files for future issues. The copy deadline for the spring issue is April 1. Please share news from state and regional meetings if possible.

Send your copy to my new address: 7145 Beaver Creek Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516. You also can fax your materials to: 402-420-2893.





## From Your President

By Richard Cándida Smith  
OHA President

Our record-breaking annual meeting in Philadelphia demonstrated once again that our meetings are so good because our members make them work, with their enthusiasm, their sense of humor and the time they volunteer to make all tasks big and little get done as effortlessly as the sun rising in the morning. We congratulate Linda Shopes and Howard Green for the great job they did organizing the 1996 meeting.

This year we convene Sept. 25 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel on Bourbon Street, right in the middle of New Orleans' French Quarter. The program committee, headed by Alphine Jefferson and Steven Novak, and the local arrangements committee, headed by Pamela Dean and Beatrice Rodriguez Owsley have some surprises in store, which upcoming issues of this **Newsletter** will reveal.

The Council approved two major initiatives for 1997. It has created an

Ad Hoc Long-Range Planning Committee, described on page 1 of this **Newsletter**. It will present its findings to the Council and the membership next Aug. 1. Their report will be discussed at the New Orleans meeting so the Council can have the input of our members before deciding if and how to implement the recommendations. The committee members have agreed to make this a major priority for this year. They are going to put in a lot of time and a lot of thought. Their work will move on to another level if all of us who have had some observations about OHA take a few minutes, write them down and send them to a committee member.

The second major initiative for this year concerns the future of the **Oral History Review**. OHA has been successful because it has balanced the needs of different types of members. We are one of the few places where academic, community and public history perspectives are shared, and the **Review** reflects that synergy. When I ran for vice president/president-elect in 1995, I said future growth would come from our publication programs because they highlight the intellectual and practical benefits of participating in OHA's

activities. Several academic publishers have approached us with proposals to co-publish the **Review**. This kind of arrangement opens up some very exciting possibilities. A professional organization would take over producing, distributing and marketing the **Review**, while our editors could concentrate on soliciting articles and continuing to improve the content. The executive committee is evaluating the proposals we've received, and I hope to have more concrete details to report in the next **Newsletter**.

Finally, some thank yous. We all owe Linda Shopes, Barbara Allen Bogart, Suellen Cheng, Gwendolyn Etter-Lewis, Art Hansen, Richard Lochhead and Marjorie McLellan a big thanks for their work on the awards program, which has now gone through two successful years. I also want to recognize Andor Skotnes, Karen Hirsch and Rebecca Sharpless for their efforts on the Ad Hoc Committee on Scholarships. They set guidelines for awarding scholarship funds for attending OHA annual meetings and supervised the first round last year. Both these committees helped OHA reach out to new communities and bring new people into our midst.

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## Executive Secretary's Report

By Rebecca Sharpless

The 1996 OHA annual meeting was a great success by any measure. I give my personal thanks to the many, many people who made it truly a collaborative effort, including President Anne Ritchie, program co-chairs Linda Shopes and Howard Green and their committee, local arrangements co-chairs Pamela Cassidy and Mary Bear Shannon and their committee and executive assistant Carol Crawford Holcomb.

Planning each annual meeting takes more than a year. The program for the September 1997 meeting in New Orleans is already taking shape. And the committees are also coming together for the October 1998 meeting

in Buffalo, N.Y. The new constitutional structure, approved by members in October 1995, gives joint oversight of the meeting to Linda Shopes as vice president/president-elect and Howard Green as first vice president. They have chosen as program co-chairs Debra Bernhardt and Cliff Kuhn.

At its mid-winter meeting, the OHA Council will choose a site in the Pacific Northwest for the 1999 meeting, and then we will turn our attention to the Ohio valley and Great Lakes region (Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio) for 2000.

If you have not already donated to Project 30, the OHA endowment fund drive, you should have received a letter from the Endowment Committee asking you to do so. The endowment serves both as the association's hedge

against hard times and also creates funds for special emphases within the association. Many of you have given generously. I hope that each of you will give your gift serious thought.

We are very proud to announce the launching of the OHA's home page on the World Wide Web, constructed by OHA executive assistant Carol Crawford Holcomb. To access it, enter:  
<http://www.baylor.edu/~OHA>. We welcome your suggestions for improvements to the Web page. Please send your comments and questions to:  
[OHA\\_Support@Baylor.edu](mailto:OHA_Support@Baylor.edu).

As always, we appreciate the support of OHA's membership as we go about the daily business of the association. Please let us know how we can continue to serve you better.



# Philadelphia Breaks Records

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complexities of the law.

+ Project Award: "Behind the Veil: Documenting African American Life in the Jim Crow South," a project of the Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies. More than 1,200 interviews have been conducted, and the project represents extensive collaboration among a variety of institutions, communities and interviewers.

Conference-goers also paid tribute to Michael Frisch, retiring after 10 years as editor of the **Oral History Review**.

And they were challenged by thought-provoking presentations by two featured speakers:

+ Spencer R. Crew, director of the National Museum of American History, and recipient of the Forrest C.

Pogue Award, presented by Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (see page 8); and

+ Robin D. G. Kelley, award-winning author and New York University professor, who described the role of oral history in uncovering the story of the African Americans in the radical left movement of the 1960s.

The conference presented a wide array of sessions, ranging from theoretical discussions about the frontiers of memory studies to concrete experiences of rural people facing pressures of urbanization.

At the annual business meeting that ended the conference, Rebecca Sharpless, executive secretary, reported that OHA has applied for membership in the American Council of Learned Societies. Also, the OHA soon will accept Mastercard and Visa for membership dues and publications.

Publications Committee Chair Elly Shodell reported that a Spanish

translation of the OHA "Evaluation Guidelines" pamphlet is underway.

State and Regional Committee Chair Lois Myers reported her committee is exploring ways to help interested oral historians start new state or regional organizations.

## April 1 Deadline Set For 1997 OHA Awards

The Oral History Association invites nominations for its 1997 awards for outstanding book, precollegiate teaching and use of oral history in a non-print format. The awards were first presented in 1995.

For all three awards, work produced or published between Jan. 1, 1996 and Mar. 31, 1997, are eligible for consideration.

For detailed criteria and information on submitting nominations, contact the OHA Executive Secretary, Baylor University, P.O. Box 97234, Waco, TX 78798.

## Special Thanks

The Oral History Association relies on the volunteer hours donated by its members to accomplish most of its work. In addition to acknowledging such valuable contributions of time and energy, the OHA also gratefully acknowledges the following organizations and institutions for their financial and in-kind support for the 1996 conference program and local arrangements, assistance for featured speakers, refreshments for the conference and for advancing international participation. They are:

CoreStates Bank, Hershey Community Archives, Kentucky Oral History Commission, Moore College of Art and Design, National Gallery of Art, New Jersey Historical Commission, Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR), Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Pennsylvania Humanities Council, Techni-Type and University Products.

The OHA Endowment Fund

also is richer by \$1,167.50, thanks to donors to the silent auction and the bidders who opened their checkbooks. Silent auction donors were: The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Terry Birdwhistell, Bradley Broadcast, Carlson Publishing, Robert Connor, Frances A. Copeland, Mary Doyle, Michael Frisch, Julie Green, Ron Grele, Vicki Haas, Hershey Community Archives, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Barb Jardee, Ron Marcello, Franklin C. Muse, John Neuenschwander, Oxford University Press, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Rancocas Golf Club, Liz Roach, Don Ross, Kim Lady Smith, Somerton Springs Golf Shoppes and Temple University Press. The Endowment Fund also continues to benefit from generous contributions to the Project 30 endowment drive. Project 30 donors since the last issue of the **Newsletter** (through Dec. 10, 1996) are: Anne J. Aby; Alysa B. Chadow; Thomas L. Charlton; Ora L. Cooks; Cullom Davis, in honor of Anne Ritchie; Pamela Dean; Mary Jo Deering, in memory of Betty

McKeever Key; Ronald E. Doel; Enid H. Douglass, in memory of Betty McKeever Key; Ellen R. Epstein, in honor of Willa Baum; Amelia Fry; David Gerwin, in honor of Ronald Grele; Michael A. Gordon, in memory of Herbert Gutman; Arthur A. Hansen; Karen S. Harper, in honor of Sherna Gluck; Sally Hyer; Alphine Jefferson; Lu Ann Jones; Rhoda G. Lewin; Albert S. Lyons, in honor of James V. Mink; Ronald E. Marcello; Elizabeth B. Mason, in memory of Louis M. Starr; John A. Neuenschwander; Steven J. Novak; Barbara Holly Ornstein; Sam Proctor; Karim T. Rand; Dorothy G. Schlesinger; William S. Schneider; Shirley Stephenson, in memory of Richard Voelkel; Eleanor H. Stoddard and Valorie Tracy Young, in honor of Charlie Morrissey.

We regret that Amelia Fry's name was omitted from the list of donors in a recent mailing to potential contributors. We also failed to acknowledge that Bernard Galm's gift was in memory of Peter Olch and Donald J. Schippers.



# Oral History and the Law: An Update



*Editor's note: The following is adapted from a presentation at the 1996 Oral History Association conference in Philadelphia. The author, a past OHA president, is a history professor and municipal judge in Kenosha, Wis., and wrote the OHA pamphlet "Oral History and the Law."*

**By John A. Neuenschwander**  
Carthage College

Fortunately little of what I will discuss here involves oral history per se. Rather, the cases and situations outlined here involve legal issues that potentially could affect oral historians. I would like to think that the relative absence of cases involving oral historians flows directly from sound legal planning and common sense.

None of this discussion, however, should be taken as specific legal advice to anyone. Since law is always fact driven, the unique circumstances of each situation dictate whether and how the law will apply. Also, while copyright law is entirely federal in nature, the laws of defamation, contract, discovery, etc. differ considerably among the 50 states. If my outline raises concern about your current practices or future plans, I suggest you consult a local attorney.

## Defamation

This area of the law continues to be one of the most potentially troublesome for oral historians. While the U.S. Supreme Court has provided some national standards to

protect the media and others from being handcuffed by an endless stream of lawsuits, there is still considerable variation among the states as to how the law of defamation is applied. Also, as some of the following material will attest, even a seemingly minor statement or reference can prompt someone to file suit.

## Recent Cases

The types of cases that receive media attention usually involve the rich and famous. Not surprisingly, many more suits are filed by individuals who are neither particularly rich nor famous.

A pending case points this up. Hickey v. St. Martin's Press, a case awaiting trial before a federal district judge in Baltimore, has distinctive historical roots. In 1992 St. Martin's published a book entitled "Mortal Error," by Bonar Menninger. The central tenet of the book is that the second bullet that struck John F. Kennedy on that fateful day in Dallas was not fired by either Lee Harvey Oswald or some unknown fellow conspirator. Rather, the bullet came from the AR-15 assault rifle of one of the president's own Secret Service agents, George Hickey. According to Menninger, Hickey, who was riding in a trailing Cadillac, lost his balance as he sought to respond to the first two shots and in doing so discharged his weapon. The bullet from his gun then struck Kennedy in the neck. Menninger also maintains that Hickey later became actively involved in a cover-up of his negligence.

## Defamation and the Internet

Like most other legal issues involving the Internet, there is a lot of speculation but little in the way of case law. My purpose in addressing this topic is not to add to the volume of speculation but to try to offer a few thoughts about what oral historians who are creating Web sites and placing interviews on the Internet should be aware of.

1. Contractual issues. Web sites are not free. Every on-line system

operator who hopes to stay in business includes a limitation of liability clause in the basic contract with subscribers. This clause generally states that subscribers are responsible for their actions on line. Thus, if an interview contains information that defames another person, this clause shields the system operator from liability. This type of clause is usually accompanied by an indemnity clause by which the subscriber agrees to make whole the system operator for any costs incurred in defending against a lawsuit resulting from something the subscriber did. This clause includes damage indemnification as well.

2. Wider Exposure. An interview placed on a Web site has a very good chance of being read by far more individuals than those reposing in the archives of individual programs or collections. This expanded audience may not necessarily result in any heightened liability but certainly more eyes are watching.

3. Same law so far. The basic principles of defamation law are still being used by courts to determine whether someone has been defamed. These basic principles include: the private versus public figure burden of proof, truth as an absolute defense and the right to express an opinion that is critical, if it is not fact laden.

## Sealing Interviews

I am unaware of any firm data on how widespread the practice of sealing interviews is. Certainly from anecdotal evidence it appears that the practice is fairly common where interviews involve either public figures or individuals who fear retaliation or retribution if their accounts are made available too soon.

While the case I'll outline here is about tobacco studies, it nevertheless points up once again that there is no such thing as an archival or scholar's privilege that will prevent an attorney armed with a subpoena from gaining access to sealed oral history materials that are somehow related to a lawsuit in progress.



Burka v. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [87 F. 3d 508, (D.C. Cir. 1996)] is a complex case that involved the plaintiff's persistent attempts to gain copies of data tapes and questionnaires from a multi-year study of smoking habits and attitudes conducted by the National Cancer Institute.

One of the defenses raised by HHS was that the data Burka sought was "confidential research data" and that premature disclosure would adversely affect the publication prospects of the researchers involved. After thoroughly reviewing all of the federal and state cases in which the so-called scholar privilege had been considered, the court determined there was no well-settled precedent. In the few cases where courts had shielded data or research from discovery, other factors were at work. The D.C. Circuit Court could not find one case where a court had sought to advance the "scholar's privilege" as a broad precedent.

### **Copyright Fair Use**

One of the most persistent questions involves the "fair use" of material drawn from interviews and historical articles or books. In other words, how much can one borrow or lift from a historical work without infringing on the author's copyright? For many years the pat answer has been 10 percent. Unfortunately this layman's rule of thumb is not supported by case law.

A recent case provides some guidance on where courts draw the "fair use" line when it comes to factual works. Robinson v. Random House, [377 F. Supp. 830, (S.D. N.Y., 1995)] goes back to 1980 when Random House published a book entitled "American Saga: Juan Trippe and his Pan Am Empire." The book was properly registered at the Copyright Office. In 1992 McGraw-Hill entered into a contract with Jack Robinson for the publication of his manuscript on Juan Trippe and Pan American Airlines. Some months later, however, McGraw-Hill cancelled the contract over concerns about copyright infringement.

Robinson then filed this lawsuit to

have the court declare that his manuscript did not infringe on the copyright that Random House held in "American Saga." By his own admission, Robinson had either borrowed directly or closely paraphrased 25 to 30 percent of his work from "American Saga." In finding that this was indeed a clear case of copyright infringement of a nonfiction work, the district court noted that although there is no benchmark percentage that one can borrow from a copyrighted nonfiction work, 25 to 30 percent exceeded anything that could be found in the case law. In a series of cases mentioned by the court, unfair takings ranged from 13 percent to one percent.

### **Government-Created Works Cannot be Copyrighted**

Federal law provides that copyright protection is not available for any work of the U.S. government. The Copyright Act of 1976 defines such a work as "...prepared by an officer or employee of the United States Government as part of that person's official duties." Perhaps because this prohibition is so obvious, there has been little case law concerning it.

A recent case involving a work of history that was prepared for the Central Intelligence Agency, however, deserves some consideration. Pfeiffer v. CIA [60 F. 3d 861 (D.C. Cir. 1995)] involves a long-time employee of the Agency and his attempt to publish some historical reports he had helped prepare on the handling of the Bay of Pigs operation. After 30 years of service, Pfeiffer retired and surreptitiously took with him a single copy of those reports. All of his attempts to have them declassified were denied, and this lawsuit was filed to try to overturn the CIA's refusal.

One of the major legal arguments he raised was that the Copyright Act of 1976 effectively prevented the CIA as a government agency from claiming any proprietary interest in the reports. In rejecting Pfeiffer's claim, the D.C. Circuit Court noted the difference between a copyright and a possessory interest in the reports

at issue. While the government generally cannot prevent the reproduction of its works, classified works that are not subject to Freedom of Information Act requests continue to be owned by the government in a manner separate from copyright. As the Court opined, "Pfeiffer has no more legal right to the copy of the report that he took from the Agency than he has to a book from the bookstore of the Government Printing Office without paying for it."

### **Joint Authorship**

One of the more potentially troubling issues is the question of whether oral history interviewers are in fact joint authors of any tape or transcript that results from an interview they conduct. In the latest edition of the OHA pamphlet "Oral History and the Law," I suggested that there is a good chance that if a test case were to arise, the court would hold that an interviewer was in fact a joint author. This in turn led to the strong recommendation that interviewers who were not full-time employees be asked to sign copyright releases prior to conducting any interviews.

Although there is still no court ruling on this question, the "Compendium II of Copyright Practices," the internal working manual of the Copyright Office, lends strong support to this position. Section 317 provides:

"A work consisting of an interview often contains copyrightable authorship by the person interviewed and the interviewer. Each has the right to claim copyright in his or her own expression in the absence of a valid agreement to the contrary. Where an application for such a work names only the interviewee or the interviewer as author and claimant, and where the nature of the authorship is described as 'entire text,' it is unclear whether the claim actually extends to the entire work, or only to the text by the interviewee or the interviewer. In any case where the extent of the claim is not clear, the Copyright Office must communicate with the applicant for clarification."

### **Works Made for Hire**

This is a copyright doctrine that  
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seeks to remove an ambiguity regarding the ownership of a work following its creation. This is particularly important where considerable reliance is placed on part-time interviewers, independent contractors or volunteers. To avoid unintended results regarding copyright ownership, an agreement of some kind should be executed before an independent contractor or part-time employee undertakes any interviews, as the following case demonstrates.

Hi-Tech Video Productions Inc. v. Capital Cities/ABC, Inc., [58 F. 3d1093 (6th Cir. 1995)], arose out of the unauthorized use of some video footage created by Hi-Tech. Although Hi-Tech prevailed at the district court level, the verdict was reversed on appeal because Hi-Tech failed to properly utilize the "works made for hire" doctrine.

In other words, there were no agreements between Hi-Tech and the independent contractors who helped shoot the scenes. As a result, Hi-Tech was found not to own the copyright and hence could not prevail in an infringement action against the producers of "Good Morning America." An extended treatment of this case appears in the Spring 1996 issue of the OHA Newsletter.

### **Legal Release Agreements**

Since the practice of using a legal release agreement is as elementary as wearing a seatbelt when riding in a motor vehicle, I had not initially planned to mention anything about this topic. The results of a recent survey sent out to state humanities councils suggests, however, that the seatbelt analogy is a double-edged one. The upside is that it is the cheapest and most effective form of protection one can have. But the downside is that signing up and buckling up apparently are too much bother for a substantial minority.

One question on the survey asked: "Does your council require a legal release for interviews?" Thirteen of the state humanities councils answered yes while 20 said no. Although it may well be that most projects funded by the councils that do not require

legal releases actually do employ such agreements, this is still troubling. Given the usually rigorous requirements humanities councils impose before any grant is awarded, it is disconcerting to think that 65 percent of these agencies are not informed enough about oral history to require something so basic as a legal release.

After years of proselytizing on this issue, I honestly thought that most oral historians had indeed been converted. This survey suggests that this may well not be the case.

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### **Letter to the Editor**

I'd like to thank the Oral History Association for selecting me for a scholarship to attend the recent conference...in Philadelphia. I'd also like to thank the committee members...for selecting me as one of the recipients of this scholarship.

I immensely enjoyed attending the various panel presentations, surveying books published and meeting key players and future researchers in the field. The experience so inspired me, that I recently submitted a proposal to present at the upcoming SOHA conference in April 1997 in Pasadena, Calif. I'm also making plans to attend next year's conference in New Orleans and am inviting others to attend as well.

I especially enjoyed the energy and dynamism exhibited at the Multicultural Committee meeting. Multicultural groups, including people with disabilities and gays and lesbians, can only become more visible through the continued work and efforts of this committee. It must be the role of those of us lucky enough to [attend] an OHA conference to increase.. participation from our communities. Further, I invite OHA members to contribute to the scholarship fund which makes it possible for community scholars like myself [to attend]. In closing, I would also like to offer my hometown, the border city of El Paso, Texas, on the U.S./ Mexican border, as a feasible site for a future conference.

Sinceramente, Miguel Juarez  
E-mail: ar827@rgfn.epcc.edu

## **Education Committee Seeks Information**

**By Tracy E. K'Meyer**  
University of Louisville

The Oral History Association's Education Committee wants to find out how people teach or use oral history in college classes. As a first step, we are conducting an informal survey. If you teach or use oral history in college, please take a few minutes to answer these questions and return it to me at the address below.

Your name:

Institution/department:

E-mail/phone:

May we contact you? yes/no

**Oral history courses:**

- name and level of the course?
- typical number of students?
- main issues/ themes

emphasized?

- readings you have used successfully?

- examples of assignments?
- most and least successful elements of the course?
- any other comments?

**Oral history in other courses:**

- name and level of the course?
- typical number of students?
- nature of the oral history assignment?
- goals for the assignment?
- how the assignment is incorporated with the rest of the class?
- most and least successful elements of using this assignment?
- any other comments?

Please feel free to include any syllabi, assignment sheets or anything else that might be helpful and send to:

Tracy E. K'Meyer  
Department of History  
University of Louisville  
Louisville, KY 40292

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### **New Area Code Coming**

The Oral History Association office at Baylor University will change area codes in late spring. The new area code will be 254.



# Remembering Forrest Pogue

By Donald A. Ritchie, Associate Historian, U. S. Senate Historical Office

During one of their last interviews in 1957 Gen. George C. Marshall asked his biographer, Forrest Pogue, how he could be sure if what Marshall was recalling about his role in the Second World War didn't reflect something he had only thought about recently. Pogue replied, "About every tenth question I give you is on something which I already know the answer," from reading Marshall's testimony and letters from the 1940s. The exchange demonstrated Pogue's scrupulous approach to interviewing for historical research that earned him respect as a scholar and helped oral history gain its earliest professional credibility. When Forrest Carlisle Pogue died at 84 on Oct. 6, 1996, oral historians lost a pioneering practitioner, a distinguished colleague and a wise mentor.

Born in Eddyville, Ky., on Sept. 17, 1912, Pogue graduated from Murray State College (now University). He went to the University of Kentucky for his master's degree and conducted his first interviews for a thesis on Kentucky's colorful senator Ollie M. James. He returned to teach history at Murray in 1933 while working on his Ph.D. from Clark University, which he received in 1939.

For a year he studied international relations and diplomacy at the University of Paris and briefly considered a career in the foreign service. Drafted into the Army in 1942, he was digging a foxhole at Fort McClellan, Ala., when orders came for him to report to the Second Army headquarters to assist the historian Bell I. Wiley in writing a training history of the Second Army. Wiley then recommended Pogue to be part of a small group of combat historians to interview soldiers about their experiences during the D-Day invasion of Europe.

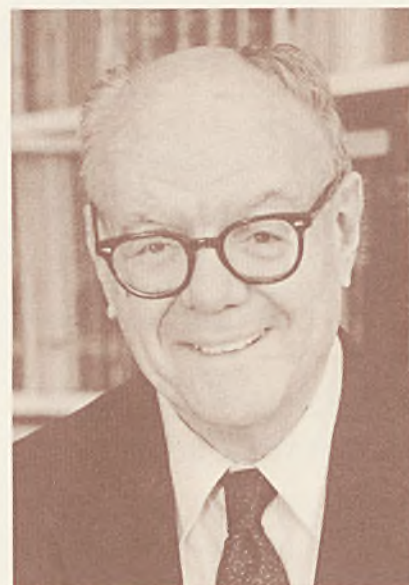
On June 6, 1944, Pogue waited on board a hospital ship to interview the wounded right after they were evacuated from Normandy Beach. He

did not go ashore until June 8, out of concern that his bulky wire recorder might attract sniper fire. As he observed: "The Army wanted a live history and live historians."

With his spiral notebook and wire recorder Pogue followed U.S. troops into combat, seeking to record soldiers' recollections within three to five days after combat. Before interviewing, Pogue familiarized himself with all available plans, orders, communications and after-action reports. His research enabled him to ask the right questions and gave him a "sense whether the interviewee was a phony."

By the summer of 1944 Pogue was stationed in Paris to edit the interviews coming in from the front. Later he followed American troops into Germany, crossing the Rhine on a pontoon bridge on April 1, 1945. Soon after he was part of the first meeting of American and Russian soldiers at the Elbe River. Pogue was decorated with the Bronze Star and the French Croix de Guerre for "front line interviewing."

At the war's end the Army discharged Pogue as a sergeant and immediately hired him back as a civilian historian for the Office of the Chief of Military History, with the equivalent rank of lieutenant colonel. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower directed Pogue to write a definitive history of the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEP). Eisenhower opened his files to Pogue and answered his questions. Pogue went on to interview British and French commanders, from Montgomery to De Gaulle. The result was his first book, "The Supreme Command" (1954). From 1942 to 1954 Pogue joined the Operations Research Office, which was run by Johns Hopkins University and based in Heidelberg, Germany. There he met a former student from Murray, Christine Brown, visiting Europe on an art history study tour. They were



**Forrest C. Pogue (1912-1996)**

*Photo: George C. Marshall Foundation Library*

married soon after returning to the United States in 1954.

While in Europe Pogue had traveled to Oslo to see Gen. George C. Marshall accept the Nobel Peace Prize. Since Marshall had sworn never to write his memoirs, Pogue wrote to suggest that he instead allow someone to tape his recollections, offering his own services. Marshall turned him down, but in 1956 the George C. Marshall Foundation in Lexington, Va., chose Pogue to direct its research library, specifically to collect Marshall's papers and write a biography. The reluctant general finally agreed to be interviewed, recording some 40 hours of reminiscences. "The interviews were rather difficult at first because Marshall was never one to volunteer information," Pogue recalled. "But once he became used to me and the tape recorder, he really opened up."

These interviews, together with hundreds of others and copious manuscript citations, produced Pogue's magisterial four-volume biography: "George C. Marshall: Education of a General" (1963), "Ordeal and Hope" (1966), "Organizer of Victory" (1973) and "Statesman" (1987). The Marshall Research Foundation later published

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## STATE AND REGIONAL REPORT



### Spencer Crew Honored By OHMAR at OHA

Spencer R. Crew, director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, was named recipient of the 1996 Forrest C. Pogue Award at a luncheon in Crew's honor at the OHA annual meeting in Philadelphia.

Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region annually honors someone who has made a significant contribution to oral history, and the 1996 honoree was also a featured speaker for OHA.

Crew challenged his luncheon audience to recognize that museum visitors "come with a set of assumptions and expectations shaped by their own lives and educational experiences."

Crew called it "a tremendous challenge for public scholars and historians" to deal with the fact that museum visitors want a celebration of their history and a reinforcement of their beliefs as they were taught, not necessarily as they were. The challenge, he said, is for museums to "craft public presentations that will

engage, but not enrage" visitors.

"There has to be agreement that it's okay to have different points of view," he said, noting that museums should strive to show visitors there can be several levels of interpretation of the same events or artifacts and that varying points of view are acceptable.

OHMAR also paid tribute to the late Betty McKeever Key, a past president and founding member of OHMAR, who died last year. Martha Ross, past OHMAR and OHA president, called Mrs. Key "an adventurous pioneer in oral history" and an advocate of collegial relationships between OHA and state and regional organizations. "She was a model for us all," Ross said.

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the interview transcripts as "George C. Marshall Interviews and Reminiscences for Forrest C. Pogue" (1991). A documentary, "George C. Marshall and the American Century" (1993) has further used Pogue's tapes to make Marshall one of the film's narrators.

After directing the Marshall research library from 1956 to 1974, Pogue headed the Dwight D. Eisenhower Center at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History from 1974 to 1984. During those years, he also taught at the Virginia Military Institute, George Washington University and the military service academies.

At the 1958 meeting of the Southern Historical Association in Nashville, Tenn., Pogue and Louis Starr of the Columbia Oral History Research Office participated in the first historical association session devoted to oral history. Speaking on "History While It's Hot," Pogue concluded his remarks: "We say there are many weaknesses of oral history, but that if you have talked to one who'd fought in a battle, who'd attended a great conference or participated in some great event, you have felt the hot breath of history on

your neck."

When the OHA was founded in 1967, Pogue spoke at its national colloquium at Arden House, in Harriman, N.Y., and served as its president from 1970 to 1971, presiding over the colloquium held at Indiana University in Bloomington in October 1971. He and Peter Olch, his predecessor as OHA president, edited the last volume of proceedings of the annual colloquia and paved the way for publication of the **Oral History Review**. Pogue used his prestigious connections to bring many prominent speakers to those first oral history meetings, and, as a natural raconteur, he enjoyed reminiscing about the OHA's formative years.

Generous with his time and his advice, Forrest Pogue tirelessly promoted both oral history and public history. He served on numerous advisory committees and was a founding member of the Kentucky Oral History Commission. He was also a founding member of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR). In 1979 OHMAR established the Forrest C. Pogue Award for distinguished contributions to oral history and made him its first recipient. In the following years he often personally presented the award.

As a dedicated supporter of the OHA he encouraged new members and took special pleasure whenever someone from his native Kentucky won office.

He and Christine retired to Murray in 1993. There the university had named the Forrest C. Pogue Special Collections Library in his honor. In 1994, the Marshall Foundation also dedicated the Forrest C. Pogue Center for Research Publications at Virginia Military Institute.

Pogue enjoyed recounting to students and colleagues his wartime experiences, reflecting that his combat interviews gave him "an understanding of the type of people who took part in the war, the way they looked at it, and the kind of experiences they came out of. What we were doing, in a very limited way, was preserving memories. These were people who hadn't shaved in a long time. They hadn't changed clothes; they hadn't bathed. They were sick and weary. They could scarcely lift a cup of coffee. And they were standing up because it was too muddy to sit down." Such a rich blend of humanity and professionalism earned Forrest Pogue a lasting place in the collective memory of the Oral History Association.



## Pasadena, Calif., Site For SOHA Spring Meet

"The Art and Craft of Oral History" is the theme of the Southwest Oral History Association annual meeting, set for April 25-27 at the Doubletree Hotel in Pasadena, Calif.

SOHA reports its membership stands at 320, believed to be the highest in SOHA's history.

## Varied Topics Planned For Chicago Sessions

The Chicago Oral History Roundtable, which meets monthly in the Chicago metropolitan area, has scheduled programs through June with topics ranging from the aftermath of the Gulf War and an oral history of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War to a study of the Chicago Ukranian community and a look at interviews with gangsters.

For information, call Vicki Haas at 708-681-3696 or Warren Albert at 312-471-5643.

## State Folk Festival Features Oral History

Volunteers from the Oral History Association of Minnesota (OHAM) staffed the "Minnesota Memory Minute" booth at last summer's Minnesota Folk Festival, which included oral history as one of the featured folk arts. Carol Halvorson and Kathy Magrew asked people to comment about memories of family vacations. Comments from the interviewees, who ranged from pre-schoolers to senior citizens, were collected for possible use in an exhibit or pamphlet to be produced by the Minnesota Historical Society.

OHAM also reports that with about 75 members, it is launching a membership campaign by contacting the state's local and county historical and genealogy societies, high school and college teachers and members of organizations like the Minnesota Independent Scholars' Forum. OHAM also plans to recruit interested

oral historians from western Wisconsin.

OHAM's annual meeting will be held April 5 in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area and will focus on institutional oral histories.

## Texas Oral Historians To Meet In Austin

The Texas Oral History Association will meet jointly with the Texas State Historical Association March 5-7 in Austin. The program will focus on using oral histories to document the history of medicine in Texas.

TOHA also has accepted the invitation of the Southwest Oral History Association for a joint meeting in 1998 in Albuquerque, N.M., in addition to its regular 1998 joint meeting with the Texas State Historical Association.

The TOHA board also approved a five-year plan, whose goals include establishing an endowment fund, publishing a directory of oral history collections in Texas, increased involvement with schools and local or county history activities and boosting membership 10 percent a year.

## NOHA Session Set For Tacoma, Wash.

The Northwest Oral History Association will meet in conjunction with the Pacific Northwest History Conference on April 24-26 in Tacoma, Wash. Theme of the conference is "After 50 Years: Taking Stock of Pacific Northwest History."

## SOHO, OHMAR Look At Civil Rights History

In a first for both groups, the Southern Oral History Organization (SOHO) and Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR) will meet jointly at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., on April 19.

Sessions will include a panel of four white women who were involved in the civil rights movement but whose experiences have largely been ignored. Also on the program will be documentarian George King, who will offer samples from the upcoming radio series "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" as part of a session on civil rights and the media.



OHA officers and council gather for a final farewell after the annual business meeting that closed the 1996 OHA conference in Philadelphia. Pictured, left to right in the back row are: Linda Shopes, vice president/president-elect; Howard Green, first vice president; Richard Candida Smith, president. In the front row, left to right, are: Pamela Dean, Cliff Kuhn and Kim Lacy Rogers, council members; Rebecca Sharpless, executive secretary. Not pictured is council member Rose Diaz.

OHA members also elected to the nominating committee: Linda Morton-Keithley, William Schneider and Elly Shodell. *Photo by Tom Charlton.*



# BULLETIN BOARD

## Meetings

### 1997 OHA in New Orleans

Mark your calendars for Sept. 25-28 for the 1997 Oral History Association annual meeting in New Orleans. Theme of the meeting is "Looking In, Looking Out: Retelling the Past, Envisioning the Future." Look for more details in upcoming issues of the Newsletter.

## Calls for Papers

### New Zealand Meeting

Jan. 31 is the deadline for proposals for the 1997 oral history conference sponsored by the National Oral History Association of New Zealand and the University of Waikato, set for May 31-June 1 in Hamilton, New Zealand. Theme of the conference is "To live is to remember: making sense of the past."

For information, call or write to:

Dr. Anna Green, Department of History, University of Waikato, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton, New Zealand, or e-mail: [agreen@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:agreen@waikato.ac.nz).

Or to: Megan Hutching, NOHANZ, Box 3819, Postal Centre, Wellington, New Zealand, or e-mail: [Megan.Hutching@dia.govt.nz](mailto:Megan.Hutching@dia.govt.nz).

### Australian Conference

The Oral History Association of Australia welcomes proposals for its 10th biennial conference set for Sept. 4-7 in Alice Springs, Northern Territory. Held for the first time in the Northern Territory, the conference will focus on oral history projects that cross cultural, ethical or technological borders or any other imaginative interpretations of the "crossing borders" theme.

Deadline for proposals is Jan 31.

For information, write to: Beth Robertson, Convenor, Oral History Association of Australia (SA Branch) Inc., Institute Building, 122 Kintore Ave., Adelaide, S. Australia, 5000.

### Mid-America History Conference

Proposals in all areas of history are welcome for the 19th Mid-America Conference on History, set for Sept. 18-20 in Stillwater, Okla. The deadline is April 22.

Contact: Jim Huston, History Department, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078-3054 or e-mail to: [hus0645@okway.okstate.edu](mailto:hus0645@okway.okstate.edu).

## Opportunities

### New Jersey History Grants

The New Jersey Historical Commission is offering grants of up to \$8,000 to assist projects dealing with New Jersey History. Many types of projects, including oral history, are eligible, but the commission is especially encouraging projects about the Underground Railroad and the development of electronic educational tools about New Jersey history.

The deadline is Feb. 1. For information, contact: Grants and Prizes, N.J. Historical Commission, CN305, Trenton, NJ 08625-0305. Telephone: 609-292-6062. Fax: 609-633-8168.

The commission also offers minigrants of up to \$1,000 for smaller-scale projects. Applications for minigrants to assist public events are due at least 60 days before the event. There is no deadline for other minigrant applications.

### Pennsylvania Scholars Program

Jan. 17 is the deadline for the 1997-1998 scholars in residence program sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to support full-time study and research at any of the commission's facilities. Stipends total \$1,200 a month for a period of four to 12 consecutive weeks between May 1, 1997, and April 30, 1998.

For information, write to: Scholars in Residence Program, Division of History, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission,

P.O. Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA, 17108. Telephone: 717-787-3034.

## Announcements

### Oral History Workshop Planned

Charles T. Morrissey, past Oral History Association president, will present a three-day intensive oral history workshop for experienced practitioners March 14-16 at the Fort Mason Center in San Francisco. For information, call Gail Kurtz at 510-525-7050 or Elizabeth Wright at 415-928-3417.

### Search for Navy Interviews

Does your oral history project have any Navy-related interviews? Any interviews with former Navy civilian or military personnel? Interviews dealing with the impact of the Navy on local communities?

If so, contact Dave Winkler, Navy oral historian, at 301-984-1629 or e-mail: [dw2049a@american.edu](mailto:dw2049a@american.edu).

### Public Radio Ideas Sought

Peabody Award-winning public radio producer and author David Isay is looking for oral history projects involving people living on the edges of U.S. society that might lend themselves to National Public Radio documentaries.

Write to: Dave Isay, Sound Portraits Productions, 230 E. 12th St., #9H, New York, NY 10003 or e-mail: [soundports@aol.com](mailto:soundports@aol.com).

### Port Washington Grant

The New York State Council on the Arts Folk Arts Program has granted \$8,782 to the Port Washington Public Library for an exhibit entitled "Flight Patterns: Long Island's Aviation Traditions."

Relying heavily on oral history interviews, the exhibit, opening in April, will feature the model-builders, airplane restorers and airplane enthusiasts who have worked in the field throughout their lives. Elly Shodell is curator and project director.



## An Invitation

to join the

# International Oral History Association

Oral historians around the world are invited to join the new International Oral History Association. It was formed in Goteborg, Sweden, in June 1996 at the IXth International Oral History Conference and aims to foster international communication and cooperation and a better understanding of the nature and value of oral history.

Any individual or institution supporting those objectives is welcome to join. The Association is governed by a Council elected at a General Meeting held at the biennial international oral history conference.

President of the International Oral History Association is Mercedes Vilanova of Spain. Current Council members come from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, England, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Sweden, Turkey, the United States of America and Zimbabwe.

Here's what your membership offers:

- + discounted rates for the biennial international oral history conferences;
- + the Association's new journal, containing articles, commentary, national and international oral history news, conference details, letters and lists of articles in other oral history journals (initially available in English, Spanish and Portuguese, published three times in the two-year membership period);
- + access to a proposed new electronic network for international oral historians;
- + voting rights at the Association's General Meetings and Council elections;
- + active participation in the international community of oral historians.

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### Yes, I am joining the International Oral History Association.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check made out to the International Oral History Association for DM\_\_\_\_ for an individual/student/institutional membership. (Please circle the appropriate category.) OR

Please charge my membership fee of DM\_\_\_\_ to my American Express/Visa/Mastercard/Diners Club credit card. (Please circle one card.)

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive the Association's publications in English/Spanish/Portuguese. (Circle one.)

1997-98 membership fees:

Individual            90 DM (Deutschmark)

Student                45 DM

Institutional        180 DM

(Fees must be paid in Deutschmark. For information only, 90 DM is about US\$60.)

Mail this completed membership form to:

Alexander Von Plato  
Secretary, International Oral History Association  
c/o Institut für Geschichte und Biographie der  
Fernuniversität Hagen  
Leibnizstr. 11  
D-58511 Ludenscheid, Germany

For membership questions, e-mail:  
Alexander.vonPlato@Fernuni-Hagen.de



# International Group Invites Papers for 1998 Rio Meeting

The new International Oral History Association (IOHA), in collaboration with the Brazilian Oral History Association, has issued a call for papers for the Xth International Oral History Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, scheduled for June 14-18, 1998.

The conference theme is "Oral History: Challenges for the 21st Century." Sub-themes are: violence and silence; memory and identity; globalization; crossroads of disciplines; new techniques, new technologies; theory, method and politics.

Conference organizers welcome proposals from around the world for papers, workshop sessions or thematic panels. Each single-page proposal should include the proposal title and the name, affiliation and short vitae, mail address and phone and fax

numbers for each presenter. Proposals must be postmarked by July 1, 1997, with the conference committee confirming acceptance or rejection by Sept. 1, 1997.

Final papers, of no more than 15 double-spaced pages, must reach conference organizers by Jan. 30, 1998, for publication in the Conference Proceedings. Papers will be written in English (with an abstract in Spanish or Portuguese) or in Spanish or Portuguese (with an abstract in English).

Send proposals to:  
Organizing Committee,  
Xth International Oral History Conference,  
c/o Marieta de Moraes Ferreira,  
Getulio Vargas Foundation - CPDOC,  
Setor De Historia Oral,  
Praia de Botafogo 190/1107,

22253-900 Rio de Janeiro,  
RJ, Brazil  
Tel: 00-5521-5369265; fax:00-5521-5512649; e-mail: ohistory@fgvrj.br.

## *OHA Needs You!*

To help the Oral History Association meet future needs and to ensure that we can continue to provide the highest level of services, OHA invites members and friends to support the endowment fund.

The OHA Endowment Fund is a special account, based on but not limited to life memberships, that accumulates a balance so that earnings may be used for special projects or for emergency needs.

For information or to contribute to the fund, write to: Rebecca Sharpless, Executive Secretary, Oral History Association, P.O. Box 97234, Baylor University, Waco, Texas 76798-7234

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