

H I S T O R Í A

Newsletter of the UCSB History Associates * Volume 10, Number 3 * January 1997

ALL THAT JAZZ !

Get ready to hear some cool (or maybe hot) sounds on Sunday, February 2, when the History Associates present "Jazzin' History," a talk by Douglas Daniels to help celebrate the start of Black History month and to honor the memory of Dick Cook founding president of the Associates and jazz fan. A Professor in the History and Black Studies Departments at UCSB, Daniels researches the history of jazz as it relates to American history in general, particularly African American history. He teaches classes in the history of jazz and in African-American history.

Professor Daniels will look back at African music traditions and their influence on New World music forms which in turn have led to much of the popular music of the West. Musical examples from such diverse artists as the bluesman Robert Johnson, jazz giant Dave Brubeck, and the new jazz singer Cassandra Wilson, whose debut album has been a best-seller, will be used to illustrate the talk.

The talk will take place at SoHo, a popular restaurant and nightclub in Santa Barbara. The time is 4 PM. There will be a no-host bar, and the talk will be followed at 5 by a reception with music by our own Frank Frost (see below). SoHo is at 1221 State Street, upstairs in the Victoria Court. See you there!

JAZZ AND ME

by Frank Frost

My first gig was at the Palo Alto Community Center at the age of 15. The four of us shared \$5, which was OK because we only knew five tunes, three of them boogie woogie. I practiced every day (which my mother claimed I would never do once I gave up "real" music for pops and jazz), and when I was in the last year of my Army service in D.C. in 1953 I gigged around various clubs in the area.

I joined the musicians' union when I moved to Santa Barbara in October 1953, and started working whenever I could. Worked all the way through grad school, and when I started teaching at UC Riverside in 1959 I figured I could quit. But I wandered into a club one night when the piano player was sick, sat in, started getting calls for gigs, and by 1962 I was playing seven nights a week (plus teaching four courses).

Since then, I've never gone very long without a gig of some kind, but I now limit myself to jobs I want to play: no bad pianos, no bad sidemen, no out-of-tune, out-of-time singers. I prefer playing jazz, but I also like solo background piano when I can do all the great Broadway songs. *Où sont les aires d'antan?*

Never really learned to read music (I can write music just about as fast) because it's always been so easy to learn a tune by ear. My influences have been Art Tatum (the greatest musician of this century on any instrument), Nat Cole, George Shearing, Oscar Peterson, and naturally, Bill Evans for harmony and improv; and Shirley Horn, who proves you can swing at any tempo. First and last commandment of jazz: If you can swing you can play jazz. If you can't, you'd better keep the daytime gig.

[Ed. Note: Frank Frost will play piano, accompanied by Hank Allen on bass, after Douglas Daniels's talk on February 2. He plays occasionally at SoHo and other Santa Barbara venues.]

So That's What Public History Is All About?

By Josh Fogel

[Ed. note: Professor Josh Fogel, who teaches East Asian history, is spending the year in Japan. According to Toshi Hasegawa, the NHK is the Japanese equivalent of the BBC -- the national television network, in other words.]

I was minding my own business one beautiful afternoon this past October when my office phone here in Kyoto rang. It was a young woman director calling from the Akita (northeastern Japan) office of NHK. They were producing a show, she told me, on the great Japanese historian, Naitō Konan (1866-1934), the very man about whom I wrote my first book. That book was translated into Japanese and published here in 1989. She wanted to interview me. So, for the next 2 1/2 hours we spoke over the phone long distance, covering all the historiographical bases and numerous personal ones as well—e.g., did I have my notes from when I was a graduate student researching this topic?. It was an odd interview, but NHK has an excellent reputation, and she was interviewing many others, so my fears were allayed.

Soon thereafter, she called again, asked me questions for another 30 minutes or so, and then said that her producer would be coming to Kyoto to check on locations and wanted to talk to me further. This was mid-November when the tree leaves were changing, and everyone throughout Japan rushes to Kyoto. We spoke for about two hours in my favorite coffee shop—“Re Korudon Burū” (Le Cordon Bleu)—and I went over his scenario for the show in great detail. It looked okay but I was beginning to see something that made me ill at ease. The thrust of the show seemed to be that Naitō had argued nearly a century ago that East Asian countries could not rely on Western definitions of modernity to understand their own historical development. That was fine, but the way it was being put began to have vague overtones of “The Japan That Can Say No,” that rightwing bestseller of several years ago, one of whose author’s subsequently denied the Nanjing Massacre of December 1937.

Time passed. Ms. Director called several times with a seemingly endless series of questions. Then she came to Kyoto with a camera crew. This is where Naito taught and where he is most famous. It was at that point that I learned the Japanese expression “rokechū” (“on location”). This time they filmed me at work, reading a book, explaining the new research I’m doing, and then discoursing at length on two of Naitō’s most famous theses: on the periodization of Chinese history



The star playing the famous Japanese game of basu-boru

(dating the modern period from the Song dynasty 1000 years ago), and on the movement of the center of Chinese culture. We then went to Naitō’s grave, and they filmed Joan and me walking around the Buddhist temple next to it and the grave itself.

This was late November, and my parents were due to arrive for a visit—their first—to Japan at the very beginning of December. Ms. Director called again to ask me this time to fly to Akita and film the show itself. I told her that I couldn’t because my parents were going to be here and I had to stay and show them around. She called back ten minutes later and said NHK would fly all four of us to Akita. So, we spent two days there.

My worst fears about the show itself proved unwarranted. The NHK people were only looking for a tag to communicate the main points of the show to the Japanese populace. Bottom line—lowest common denominator. I was interviewed on the air for about 20 minutes together with the translator of my book, Inoue Hiromasa, who also happens to be a close friend. We spent six hours in the studio, going over everything, having make-up applied, taking and retaking segments, and talking incessantly. That part was exhausting but very interesting.

The next week the show aired. To my consternation and horror, they had cut what were the best or, at least, most important parts, including the lengthy interview in my office. My parents liked it, but they, of course, can’t understand a word of Japanese. Almost everyone I’ve run into since saw the show, though I mentioned it to very few. They’ve promised me a video—they also promised to pay me—but neither has, as yet, been forthcoming. Now, I think I know what public history is all about.

Ed. note: The show aired on NHK December 11. A video will no doubt be available on Josh’s return next summer.

Historians of Science Meet at Berkeley

by Michael A. Osborne

The weekend of January 17-19 found UCSB history of science graduate students Evan Widders, Ben Zulueta and Theresa Neumann in Berkeley attending a UC system-wide workshop in the history of science, technology and medicine. They were joined by Professors Michael Osborne and Lawrence Badash, and post-doctoral researchers Zuoyue Wang and Joann Eisberg.

Ninety students and faculty attended the workshop which examined such topics as "science wars," the social construction of scientific knowledge, and the history of science and early modern history. Zuoyue Wang, who took a Ph.D. with Badash, contributed to a session on the "science wars." Theresa Neumann joined in a session co-organized by Professor Anita Guerrini and commented on a paper by Robert Westman (UCSD) which reviewed recent scholarship on the scientific revolution. Professor Guerrini could not attend in the flesh but contributed a review of recent work in the sociology of early modern science to the same session.

Other UCSB students participating in the panels included Patrick Sharp of the UCSB Department of English. Patrick, who has been working with Professor Lawrence Badash for the history portion of his dissertation, spoke on "Representation of Environmental Racism in American Literature" in a session on history of science and the environment to which Osborne also contributed.

This was the first in what is hoped will be a series of such workshops, reflecting the new emphasis of the UC administration on system-wide cooperation. Other areas of history have also taken part in inter-campus cooperation; for example, this spring UCSB students can participate in a seminar on the history of the British family offered via interactive teleconferencing by Professor John Phillips of UC-Riverside.

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HISTORÍA

Editor: Anita Guerrini

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BLOOPERS

The winning blooper this month was from Christie McCann, who sent this entry from 114A (History of Christianity to 800 A.D.):

"Leoba was the only woman allowed to prey [sic] at the monks' monastery. . ."

Definitely a Freudian slip when you consider medieval clerics' fears of women.

Sears McGee contributed this new take on anatomy:

In his talk during the Tyndale Colloquium at the Huntington Library, David Kastan told of a student who, commenting on the story of the expulsion of Adam and Eve from paradise, wrote that they gathered fig leaves in order to cover their "genial parts."

The ever-observant Tim Savage sent these two gems from the 17C final, both showing a fine grasp of that elusive entity known as chronology:

"Truman dropped the Atomic Bomb to end the Vietnam War." And,

"The United States entered World War I to stop the spread of communism in Russia. Russian submarines had been attacking neutral ships. . ."

Finally, Ken Osgood came across these gnomish observations:

In answer to a question on the title of Nancy Cott's book *The Bonds of Womanhood*, one student replied:

"Bonds of womanhood are about the ties between women. Its what makes them different from men and similar to each other."

Asked to write about the limitations of Stanley Elkins's famous work on slavery, another student commented,

"One limit that could be put on Elkins interpretation of slavery in the south is that he wasn't alive at this period of time."

If that's the case, Ken points out, we're all doomed.

Baby Logevall Arrives

On December 6, Fred and Danielle Logevall welcomed baby Joseph Fredrik. Big sister Emma is adapting well, and Fred looks remarkably awake (we don't know about Danielle).

New Publications in Native American History

The new issue of *The Public Historian*, a scholarly journal edited by Otis L. Graham, Jr. and produced by Lindsey Reed and her team at the History Department, is a special issue entitled "Representing Native American History." It is guest-edited by Assistant Professor Ann Marie Plane and Clara Sue Kidwell of the University of Oklahoma. The fat issue includes a substantial introduction by the editors and six articles on a wide range of topics, including the only horse to survive Little Big Horn, the repatriation of Native American remains, and two articles on national parks. It is a fascinating introduction to a new (to this historian, anyway) and exciting branch of history which combines methods and approaches from several disciplines, such as anthropology, geography, and literary studies.

Co-editor Ann Plane commented, "It was a great issue to put together and I think that it will make a tremendous contribution to advancing the field of Native American public history, as well as bringing the concerns of that community of historians about oral history, community responsibility, and writing history in a highly charged political climate (where each representation has policy implications) to the attention of the wider community of public historians."

Single copies of this issue (volume 18, number 4) are available for \$12. Write to:

The Public Historian
University of California Press
Berkeley, CA 94720

Ann Plane also reports that Professor Emeritus Wilbur R. Jacobs has published a new collection of essays entitled *The Fatal Confrontation: Historical Studies of Indians, Environment, and Historians*. Issued by the University of New Mexico Press, this collection "confronts the untold story of Indians, whites, and the environmental turmoil and flux that changed the American West." The book includes discussion of Indian environmental stewardship, the changing ecology of the West, and the frontier historians who created our understanding of these dramatic changes. UCSB alumni and friends will be especially interested in the collection's introduction, a discussion of Jacobs's contributions penned by UCSB Ph.D. and noted California historian Albert L. Hurtado of Arizona State University.

Professor Jacobs, now a research scholar at the Huntington Library in San Marino, recently spoke at a Barnes and Noble booksigning in Pasadena, and remains an active presence in early American and frontier history in southern California.

Faculty and Graduate News



Beth Digeser (Drake '96) was one of eight finalists for the national Lancaster Award competition (administered by the Council of Graduate Schools) for her dissertation. The Council of Graduate schools noted that the number of finalists this year was large because of the exceptionally fine quality of the top eight entries.

Walter Grunden (Roberts) has taken a position with Santa Barbara's own PHR Environmental Consultants.

Joshua Fogel and Yamamuro Shin'ichi of Kyoto University jointly received a 4 million yen grant from the Toyota Foundation for a conference on "Ethnic Interactions in East Asia (1600-present), Representation and Misrepresentation," which will be held at Kyoto University in late June 1997.

Warren Hollister and 3 UCSB medieval history Ph.D.s: **Joe Leedom** (Hollins College), **Marc A. Meyer** (Berry College), and **David Spear** (Furman University) have seen through the press the third edition of their textbook *Medieval Europe: A Short Sourcebook* (McGraw-Hill, 1997).

Alice O'Connor led a UCSB General Affiliates' Symposium on "Making Sense of Welfare Reform," downtown at the University Club on January 13th. She also has recently presented a couple of papers: "The Ford Foundation and the Rise of Strategic Philanthropy" at a conference on the history of philanthropy at NYU, and "Swimming Against the Tide: A History of Federal Policy in Poor Communities" at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.



Carol Lansing commented on a session at the American Historical Association meeting and will comment on another at the Renaissance Society of America meeting this spring.

Faculty and Graduate News cont'd. on next page.

Sarah Cline has been elected to a two-year term on the General Committee of the Conference on Latin American History, the professional organization of Latin American historians.

Mary Furner and **Fred Logevall** received intercampus cooperation grants from the UC Office of the President.

The Interdisciplinary Humanities Center has awarded fellowship support to four faculty members and one graduate student. **Anita Guerrini's** project entitled "Animal and Public Anatomy in Early Modern Europe", was awarded \$1,000 and **Carol Lansing's** on "Concubinage, Prostitution and State Formation: Judicial Inquests in Medieval Bologna" received \$1,500 in travel and research expenses. **Ken Moure** and **John Majewski** received \$2,000 in conference support for the All-UC Economic History meeting, to be held at UCSB for the first time in 10 years. Graduate student **Erik Ching** (Rock) received a \$4,000 predoctoral fellowship to enable him to finish his dissertation on the labor movement in 20th-century El Salvador. **Scopas Poggo** (Collins) is on the alternate list for a predoctoral fellowship.

Gaston Espinosa (Garcia) received a Summer Dissertation Fellowship of \$5000 from the Pew Program in Religion and American History. The Pew Program, run from Yale University, awarded only six Summer Fellowships nationwide from over ninety applications.

Peter McDermott (McGee/Guerrini) has had an article accepted by the journal *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*. The article, titled "Pierre Teilhard de Chardin: Being, Critical Thresholds and Evolutionary Thought," originated in a paper written for Professor Michael Osborne's history of science seminar. Pete (who in a former life was an anesthesiologist) has also been appointed to the Archives Committee of the Wood Library-Museum in Park Ridge, Illinois (which is, he points out, the hometown of Hillary Rodham Clinton). The library is mainly dedicated to the history of anesthesia.

Compiled by Luke Roberts and Anita Guerrini from dispatches



Why is Paul Sonnino wearing a cowboy hat? Get the full story in the next issue of HISTORIA.

Ledesma Memorial Planned

Dr. Irene Ledesma, assistant professor in the Department of History and Philosophy, University of Texas - Pan American, Edinburg, Texas, died January 19, 1997, at the age of 46. Dr. Ledesma taught Latin American History at UCSB in the early 1990s.

Dr. Ledesma earned her bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Texas - Pan American. She earned her Ph.D. in History at The Ohio State University in 1992. In the Fall of 1992, after teaching at UCSB, she joined the faculty at the University of Texas - Pan American, where she taught U.S. and Latin American history.

In 1996, Dr. Ledesma was awarded the Jenson-Miller Award for best article in a scholarly journal for 1995. The article, entitled "Texas Newspapers and Chicano Workers' Activism, 1919-1974," was published in *Western Historical Quarterly*, Autumn, 1995.

A scholarship fund has been established and contributions can be forwarded in her honor to the University of Texas - Pan American.

The Dr. Irene Ledesma Memorial Scholarship Fund
c/o Department of History and Philosophy
University of Texas - Pan American
1201 W. University Dr.
Edinburg, Texas 78539

CAN WE MEET THE CHALLENGE?

The Van Gelderen challenge, that is ... Don and JoBeth will match your contribution dollar for dollar.

Here's \$ _____ for the _____ *History Associates Fellowship Fund*

_____ *Dick Cook Scholarship Fund*

Name _____

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HISTORIA

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