



PHS News

The Newsletter of the Peace History Society

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"Michigan Seems Like a Dream to Me Now":

A Report on the 2003 Peace History Society Conference

by Robbie Lieberman

More than 70 people attended the April 24-27 conference at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant. People came from all over the United States as well as from Canada, France, Israel, Sweden, Switzerland, and Australia. The conference was dedicated to the memory of Scott Bills, and at the introductory session Tim Smith announced the creation of a prize in Scott's honor to be given biannually for the best dissertation or first book in peace history.

There were a record number of panels—we ran two concurrently for the first time—and the papers were generally of high quality. One person noted that there were two major themes at this conference, "the Vietnam War and . . . everything else." It was not surprising to hear a lot about Vietnam, since its echoes seem to be everywhere these days. The "everything else" included a roundtable on teaching peace; transnational perspectives on 20th century peace activism; the peace movement, civil rights, and race in the 20th century United States; peace and human rights in Latin America; gender and pacifism; and art, music, and peace movements. The latter panel included the work of Vancouver artist Sima Elizabeth Shefrin's "Middle East Peace Quilt," an international art project, sections of which were on display during the conference.

John D'Emilio's keynote speech on Bayard Rustin was fantastic, and the film "The Good War and Those Who Refused to Fight It" coupled with Larry Gara's visit was another highlight of the conference. Our lunch-time discussion about activism at our own campuses and communities was interrupted by a fire alarm, but in spite of the disruption, conference attendees managed to exchange quite a bit of information about their own activities and scholarly work. The creation of H-Peace will facilitate further networking and discussion of peace history.

Some decisions made at the board and business (membership) meetings included: splitting the secretary-treasurer position into two offices, paying more attention to membership (either by adding a membership director to the board or making this part of the vice president's duties), and approving a procedure for PHS endorsements that includes votes by the board and the membership.

PHS plans to hold an annual conference from now on, although next year's efforts will focus on the PHS presence at the American Historical Association meeting in January, for which the theme is "War and Peace." We will have several panels at the AHA, a reception, and a board meeting, and we already have tentative sites for our 2005 and 2006 conferences. Please contact PHS officers if you would like to get involved in planning future conferences.

Contents

Report on PHS Conference 1

A New Web Site 2

Announcements/
Meetings/Recent
Publications 2

Historians Against
the War 3

Executive Board
Minutes 4

Minutes of the PHS
General Meeting 4

Renewing your
membership 5

PHS Prizes 5



ANNOUNCING A NEW WEB SITE:**"Conscientious Objection in America: Primary Sources for Research"**

In order to meet the growing demand from scholars and other researchers for information about conscientious objection to war, Swarthmore College Peace Collection archivist Anne Yoder has created a web site filled with information that will provide basic facts on the subject as well as point to opportunities for in-depth research. Enhanced by photographs and other images, the site includes a brief historical outline of conscientious objection in America from the Revolutionary War to the present, stories and accounts of conscientious objectors, a listing of over 175 archival sources from over 30 U.S. institutions, and links to non-archival sources. The primary sources range from personal papers of men (and women) who declared themselves to be objectors to war, to records of organizations that worked on their behalf. New sources are being added as they become known. The site may be accessed at: <http://www.swarthmore.edu/Library/peace/conscientiousobjection/co%20website/default.html>.

Never before has such a comprehensive listing of archival sources on conscientious objection been made available to the public. Please help us to advertise this web site to your constituency and contact us if you know of sources that should be added to the site.

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Announcements and Meetings

****AHA Annual Meeting, January 8-11, 2004**

Theme: "War and Peace: History and the Dynamics of Human Conflict and Cooperation"

Where: Washington, DC

Information: <http://www.theaha.org/annual/2004/cfp2004.htm>

—PHS will have a welcome table in the lobby of the conference hotel on the first day of the conference from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. If you are interested in staffing the table, contact

Tim Smith at esmith@mail.barry.edu

—PHS will host (with Historians Against the War) a reception at the AHA on Saturday, January 10, 2004 from 5-7 pm in the Ambassador Ballroom of the Omni Shoreham Hotel. There will be a cash bar and will feature the Solidarity Singers (which includes Larry Wittner).

Recent Publications by PHS Members

****Peter van den Dugen and Lawrence Wittner have co-edited a special issue of the Journal of Peace Research (July 2003) which is devoted to peace history and titled "Grassroots and Elite Approaches to Peacemaking" and will include articles by members Irene Andersson, Scott Bennett, Mary Montgomery, Klaus Schlichtmann, Gunter Wernicke, and Lawrence Wittner.**

****Massimo Rubboli (Universita di Genova), authored *Dio sta marciando* (God is Marching on), (Molfetta, Italy: La Meridiana, 2003) on pacifism, patriotism, the American churches and the Iraq war.**

****Lawrence Wittner authored *Toward Nuclear Abolition*, the third volume in his trilogy, *The Struggle Against the Bomb* (Stanford University Press, 2003).**

****Howard N. Meyer authored *The World Court in Action* (Roland and Littlefield, 2002) and wrote "Will We Turn the U.N. Charter into a 'Scrap of Paper?'" for the History News Service.**

****Scott H. Bennett authored *Radical Pacifism: The War Resisters League and Gandhian Nonviolence in America, 1915-1963* (Syracuse University Press, 2003). The book will be available in December.**

Historians Against the War

by Andor Skotnes, Co-Chair HAW

With war drums pounding in DC and protests proliferating across the globe, Historians Against the War (HAW) was organized at the 117th Annual Conference of the American Historical Association (AHA) in Chicago in early January 2003. At a meeting initiated by the Radical History Review Collective, over a hundred historians from more than 40 universities, colleges, and high schools discussed how we, as intellectuals, teachers, activists, and world citizens, could help to stop the Bush administration from launching a unilateral attack on Iraq.

In the wake of this meeting, HAW circulated the following statement: "We historians call for a halt to the march towards war against Iraq. We are deeply concerned about the needless destruction of human life, the undermining of constitutional government in the U.S., the egregious curtailment of civil liberties and human rights at home and abroad, and the obstruction of world peace for the indefinite future."

Eventually over 2200 historians of all types signed the statement.

On February 15, HAW mounted two contingents of over 2000 marchers at the national antiwar mobilization in New York. In early April, after the invasion of Iraq began, HAW called for a National Teach-In Project, and HAW supporters either initiated or involved themselves in over 40 antiwar teach-ins across the country. Also in early April, HAW sponsored a resolution at the business meeting of the Organization of American historians that affirmed "the centrality of dissent in American history, the sanctity of the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment, and the necessity for open debate of public policy issues, including United States foreign policy, in order to maintain the health of this democracy." It passed unanimously.

Over the last few months, we in HAW have been reorienting ourselves and discussing directions for our fledgling organization in this era of permanent war on "terrorism" at home and abroad. And we have been networking. We sent two delegates to the United For Peace and Justice conference in June, and one of our delegates was elected to the UfPJ steering committee. We have been working with the Radical Caucus of the Modern Language Association to build an

"Alliance for Radical Academic/Intellectual Organizations." Also, we are honored to be co-sponsoring a reception with the Peace History Society at the PHS's invitation, at the 2004 AHA conference.

In the next few weeks we will broadly circulate a new statement of opposition to the US government's policies of war and repression, and we plan to introduce new projects to involve more historians, historically-minded social scientists, teachers, and activists in the struggle for peace. For more information on HAW, please consult our web site at:

<http://www.historiansagainstawar.org>

H-Peace News

Scott Bennett, H-Peace book review co-editor, wishes to announce that the first H-Peace reviews have been submitted to H-Net for copy editing. The reviews should be posted soon on H-Peace. In addition, H-Peace has organized two forthcoming H-Peace forums. Each forum will include six reviewers, an author reply, and—it is hoped—comments by H-Peace subscribers (like you). One forum is on Lawrence Wittner's trilogy on the world nuclear disarmament movement, *The Struggle Against the Bomb* (1993-2003). The other forum is on *Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin* (2003) by John D'Emilio. If you wish to organize an H-Peace forum, please contact Scott Bennett at: bennetts@georgian.edu.

Minutes of the Peace History Society Executive Board Meeting—April 24, 2003

Members Present: Wendy Chiemelewski, Joyce Blackwell-Johnson, Michael Foley, Christy Snider, Tim Smith, Lynne Dunn, Scott Bennett, Marian Mollin, Ian Lekus, Robbie Lieberman, Mitch Hall, Irwin Abrams

I. **By-Laws and Changes:** Wendy asked if the Secretary/Treasurer position could be divided into two separate positions. She felt that the change was necessary because one person could no longer perform the responsibilities for both positions. The board agreed to the change.

II. **Treasurer's Report and Budget:** Mike Foley gave the Treasurer's report. The current treasury is \$13,803.49. Stated that we had received only two invoices from Blackwell over the last two years for services rendered. Deposits for membership renewals over the last two years have been \$10,575. Mike asked Wendy to send membership renewal forms or a letter to members urging them to pay dues and become active. Mike spoke to Malcolm Crystal, PHS' representative at Blackwell's, about handling membership for PHS instead of having the organization responsible for doing so. Wendy mentioned that another publisher had contacted her and shown interest in "taking on" *Peace and Change*. Blackwell is in the process of trying to buy out Peace and Social Justice Association because the organization is so far behind in its bills owed to Blackwell. Scott Bills Prize account is \$1250. Mike asked members to offer fundraising suggestions.

III. **PHS Newsletter:** Tim Smith encouraged members to send information for the next edition of the newsletter.

IV. **Web site:** Christy Snider is responsible for maintaining Peace history Society's website. Send all information for the website to Christy.

V. **Nomination Committee:** Wendy asked for volunteers to serve on the Nomination Committee that will be charged with coming up with a slate of board officers.

VI. **Bills Prize:** Scott Bennett and Tim Smith suggested that people should be encouraged to make submissions. This award is given biannually to "an outstanding English language dissertation or first book by a junior (untenured) scholar." (see p. 5)

VII. **De Benedetti Prize:** No report. (see p. 5)

VIII. **Conferences:** 2003 Report—Ian Lekus, Robbie Lieberman, and Mitch Hall shared problems encountered as well as successful experiences with this year's conference. There was some discussion about the 2004 annual conference that will be held during the American Historical Association's annual conference. Scott suggested that the PHS have its own table and room. Discussion occurred about the kinds of activities the PHS should have at the AHA conference. 2005 Conference: Joyce Blackwell-Johnson, Site Coordinator. 2006 Conference: Scott Bennett, Site Coordinator. Peace and Justice Studies Association wants to have a joint conference in the future with PHS.

IX. **H-Peace Network Update:** Ian, Marian, Christy, and Scott reported that the network was "up and running" and has been for some months.

X. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Joyce Blackwell-Johnson, Ph.D., PHS Secretary

Minutes of the PHS General Meeting— April 26, 2003

President Wendy Chiemelewski called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. She then introduced the officers: Mitch Hall, Vice President; Joyce Blackwell-

Johnson, Secretary; Mike Foley, Treasurer; Tim Smith, Newsletter Editor; and Christy Snider, Website Editor.

Several issues were discussed:

1. **Changes to By-Laws:** In the past the position of Secretary/Treasurer has been combined. No longer can one person fulfill all of the responsibilities of both positions. Therefore, a need exists to separate the two positions. However, in order to do so officially, the membership must agree. Before presenting this issue at the general meeting, the Executive Board needed to vote on whether to separate the two positions. Ian Lekus made a motion to have the position of Secretary/Treasurer divided into two different positions. Marian Mollin seconded his motion. A vote was taken and board members agreed to separate the two positions.
2. **State of PHS:** The PHS is in good financial condition. Its expenses are fairly low. Its largest expense is to Blackwell for *Peace and Change*. The greatest problem is getting members to pay their dues. In the past, the journal *Peace and Change* was sent to nonmembers. The PHS can no longer afford to do so. Those who want to continue getting the journal must pay their dues in a timely manner.
3. **Future Conference:** The Conference in January 2004 will be a part of the AHA's annual conference scheduled to meet in Washington, D.C. Several peace historians will present at the conference. Therefore, the PHS will have high visibility at the Conference. An attempt will be made to have annual conferences. The 2005 PHS conference will be held at Meredith College. Program Chairs are needed for this conference. The site coordinator is Joyce Blackwell-Johnson. The 2006 PHS conference will be held at Georgian Court College in New Jersey. Scott Bennett is site coordinator. Program chairs will decide on the theme for each conference and send out a call for papers. Volunteers are needed.
4. **Update on H-Peace Network:** Marian Mollin stated that the goal of H-Peace was to use the network as a resource to facilitate discussion among historians and scholars on issues pertaining to peace studies and peace research. The website has over 200 members. Syllabi will be placed on the website. Marian further added that people were needed for the following: to subscribe to H-Peace Network; to participate by posting queries, questions, etc.; as List-Serv Editors—such persons will be required to undergo training (if interested please contact Marian Mollin, Scott Bennett, Amy Schneidhorst, or Ian Lekus); and to review books on peace studies.
5. **PHS Journal Update:** Mitch Hall is the current editor of the PHS's journal, *Peace and Change*. Don Whisnant and Kathleen Kennedy will be the new editors. A number of papers presented at the 2003 annual conference will be published in a special edition of *Peace and Change*.
6. **Endorsements Issue:** Should the PHS endorse various peace and antiwar actions? What should be the PHS's public persona outside of peace history? The PHS executive board proposed that before the society endorses an issue the members should be informed by email and given a chance to respond. Further action, if any, should be taken only if the membership thinks so (based on the responses). Marc Becker then presented a statement for endorsement, which was a resolution that would be made available to all members. The endorsement issue was further discussed after Marc's reading of the proposal. The membership concluded that endorsements should be addressed on an individual basis. However, in each case, membership should be informed of the endorsement and given an opportunity to respond. Membership will make the final decision about endorsement issues. The membership decided to revisit Marc's resolution. Scott Bennett asked if the executive board could approve the resolution before it was given to the membership. Marc added that it should go to the board first for consideration since the executive board is legally liable. Mitch Hall made a motion to vote on whether the resolution about endorsements should first go to the executive board for approval. A vote was taken and the membership agreed to send the resolution first to the executive board for approval before sending it to the membership.

(continued on p. 5)



General Meeting Minutes (cont)

7. **Other Comments, Questions, etc.:** Kevin Callahan agreed to serve as program co-chair for either the 2005 or 2006 annual PHS conference. Jean-Francois Berdah suggested that the 2008 annual conference be held in France. Marc Becker asked if the following information could be placed in H-Peace: a. annotated bibliographies; b. maps, video lists, etc. to be used in classrooms; c. military contracts in universities; d. civil liberties issues; and, e. suggestions on how to talk about war, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Joyce Blackwell-Johnson, Ph.D., PHS Secretary

The Bills Memorial Prize

The Peace History Society will award the Scott Bills Memorial Prize bi-annually (in odd years) for an outstanding English-language work in the field of Peace History. The Prize will be awarded for an outstanding dissertation or an outstanding first book by a faculty member or independent scholar. dissertations defended and books published during 2002-2005 are eligible for the first award. The Prize carried a cash award of \$500. Please submit nominations and two copies of the dissertation or book to E. Timothy Smith, Department of History and Political Science, Barry University, Miami Shores, FL 33161.

PHS hopes to make the Bills Prize a self-perpetuating endowment. PHS needs your help to make this prize succeed. If you would like to make a donation to this fund in memory of Scott, send your contributions to Michael Foley, Department of History, College of Staten Island, City University of NY, 2800 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10214. Checks should be made payable to the PHS, but clearly indicate that it is for the Bills Prize fund.

DeBenedetti Prize in Peace History

Since 1987-88, PHS has been awarding the Charles DeBenedetti Prize every other year to the author or authors of an outstanding journal article (published in English) on peace history. Articles submitted may focus on the history of peace movements, the response of individuals to peace and war issues, the relationship between peace and other reform movements, gender issues in warfare and peacemaking, comparative analyses, and quantitative studies.

Those interested in the prize should submit four copies of a journal article published in 2001-2002 by October 1, 2003 to Kathleen Kennedy, chair of the DeBenedetti Prize Committee, at History Department, Western Washington University, 516 High St., Bellingham, WA 98223, USA.

Renew Your Membership Online!

Over the last year, the PHS has had a very difficult time getting our members to renew their memberships. As a result, many members have been "carried," and continue to receive the journal and newsletter for free. We can no longer afford to do this, but in order to make the membership renewal process easier, we have taken advantage of the services of a company called Acteva, which sets up Internet payment sites for non-profit organizations. Therefore, members (and prospective members) may continue to access membership information at the PHS website, www.berry.edu/phs/, but they will now see a button that will bring them to an online registration page, where one can renew with a credit card. Please note that cost increases at Blackwell, the publisher of *Peace and Change*, have caused us to raise membership rates for the first time in many years, but the individual rate is still a modest \$40, and students and retirees can renew or join at only \$25. Members who decide to register on line will pay a small credit card fee (roughly \$2.60 for a regular membership), but we think the convenience is worth it. In the meantime, members may still send checks or money orders in US dollars to me at the address below. If you have not registered for 2003, please do so as soon as possible. We need the dues to cover the journal's costs. If you are not sure if you have paid for 2003, please contact me at the email address below.

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