

EDITOR'S REMARKS

Egypt and Spain

What is the most useful conceptual framework for understanding the history of workers in the Third World? In what ways can historians of the working class in the first industrial states and those who study the colonial and semi-colonial portions of the globe learn from each other? In this issue ILWCH begins a series of essays on the historiography of working-class life and movements in the Third World. Zachary Lockman reviews the literature on the workers of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Egypt, offers a critical analysis of the conceptual frameworks found in that literature, and suggests problems for future research. In doing so he highlights the special importance of foreign domination in the industrial sectors of the economy, the all-pervasive role of the state and of political struggles, the co-existence of railroads and factories with a huge artisanal economy, and the importance of European immigrants in the formative years of Egypt's working class. Although some of these topics will reappear in essays on workers in China, Argentina, and the African mining regions, which will appear in forthcoming issues of ILWCH, others will seem to be distinctively Egyptian. Our hope is that these essays will not only serve to acquaint readers of ILWCH with the general outlines of the history and historiography of labor in parts of the world other than those which they study themselves, but will also provide a basis for a meaningful comparative analysis of workers' movements around the world. The reports on the Soviet-American colloquium and the second Paris History and Anthropology Roundtable are also designed to contribute toward this end.

Robert G. Colodny's review of Burnett Bolloten, *The Spanish Revolution* in ILWCH no. 16 (Fall, 1979) evoked a number of interesting responses. In this issue we have reproduced two of them, a letter from Burnett Bolloten himself, and an essay by Joan Connelly Ullman, along with a reply by Colodny. Although ILWCH cannot undertake to print all the responses to its reviews and essays which might be submitted, the points raised in this exchange deal with some of the most fundamental controversies in the historiography of the Spanish Civil War.

The newly established coordinating Committee of the Study Group on International Labor and Working Class History has contributed significantly to this issue. Special thanks are due Dale Newman, John Laslett, Gary Fink, and Sean Wilentz for the reports they have filed from around the United States.

D.M.