

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**The 1985 North American Labor History Conference** will be held at Wayne State University in Detroit, October 24-26. Marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), the 1985 Conference is entitled "The Era of the CIO." Proposals for papers and/or sessions are solicited. Papers need not necessarily deal explicitly with the CIO per se but should focus on the period of the CIO's two decades of separate identity (1935-1955). The Conference Committee hopes to arrange a program that will feature papers dealing with a wide range of working class and labor themes during this period. Proposals that deal with developments in Canadian and European labor history during the CIO era, legal and legislative aspects of labor history, social history themes, and changing structures of work and employment are encouraged, as well as those focusing on union development, collective bargaining, and institutional matters. The deadline for proposal submissions is March 1, 1985. Please send proposals to Professor Robert Zieger, Dept. of History, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, 48202.

**The New York State Labor History Association** offers a prize of \$100 annually for an undergraduate labor history essay. Entries for the 1984-85 academic year should be sent to Richard Strassberg, NYSLHA, 144 Ives Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. Papers must deal thematically with some aspect of labor or work history. Special consideration will be given to essays on New York state labor or worker themes. The deadline is June 14, 1985.

**The 21st International Conference of Historians of the Labour Movement (ITH)**, will be held in Linz, Austria from September 10-14, 1985. The two themes are: 1) political and social problems of the working class at the end of World War II and during the immediate postwar period; 2) methodological problems in researching worker consciousness and class consciousness considering oral history, memoirs, diaries, etc. Those interested in giving a paper, contact Helmut Gruber, 425 Riverside Drive, NY, NY 10025.

**Victorian Britain: An Encyclopedia** is currently being put together to be published by Garland Press. Contributors are sought to write signed articles (250-1500 words) for this one-volume reference work. Send name, interests, brief vita to editor-in-chief Sally Mitchell, English Department, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122.

**The New York State Labor History Association** has begun a labor history news service in 1984. This monthly press service highlights an important labor history event with a 600–700 word article written for the labor press. The Association is currently updating its list of authors. A small honorarium and byline for the article is offered. For further information about writing an article or subscribing to the service, contact Robert Wechsler, Transport Workers Union, 1918 Broadway, NY, NY 10023, or call (212) 873-6000.

**“Working Lives,”** a forthcoming radio series focusing on black working class history in Birmingham, Alabama, is being produced by the Archive of American Minority Cultures of the University of Alabama. The series will include programs on migration from the country, the industrial work place, unionism, and the church and other community institutions, and will draw on little-used archival resources as well as new materials generated by the project’s original research. The program will feature excerpts from tape-recorded interviews with over one hundred older residents of the Birmingham area, and the project staff is actively seeking Jefferson County residents who would be interested in being interviewed for the series. The staff also wishes to work with community organizations such as senior citizens’ centers, union halls, and retirees’ clubs. If you or your organization would like to be part of this project to collect and share information about the history of Birmingham’s black communities, contact project director Brenda McCallam, Archive of American Minority Cultures, the University of Alabama, P.O. Box S, University, AL 34586; (205) 348-5512. The series is expected to be ready for broadcast in February, 1985 over public radio station WBHM-FM in Birmingham. The series will also be made available to additional public radio stations, as well as to educational institutions and interested community organizations.

**The New York State Labor History Association** has started an academic seminar on labor and work history. It will meet regularly in the New York City area to hear and discuss papers of original research by graduate students and other researchers. For the schedule and suggestions on possible presentations contact Irwin Yellowitz, Dept. of History, City College/CUNY, NY, NY 10031; (212) 690-4138.

**The Hagley Program in the History of Industrial America**, sponsored by the Hagley Museum and Library in cooperation with the University of Delaware, is a two-year or four-year program leading to either an M.A. or a Ph.D. degree for students interested in careers as professionals in museums and historical agencies or as college teachers. The Hagley Program’s academic focus is on the social history of American industrialization. Hagley fellows study the context and consequences of economic and technological change wrought by industrialization, including its impact on the lives of American workers. Financial aid, consisting of full tuition and stipends, is available. Deadline for application is February 1, 1985 for the academic year 1985–86. For further information write Brian Greenberg, Coordinator, The Hagley Program in the History of Industrial America, The Hagley Museum and Library, P.O. Box 3630, Wilmington, DE 19807.

**Newly discovered Civil War era records** are available to researchers at the Connecticut State Library in Hartford, Connecticut. A 2 volume set of records, created by the State Comptroller from 1861 to 1866, entitled "Record of Returns from Towns and Payments to Soldiers and Families during the Civil War," is available for the first time to researchers in the Archives, History, and Genealogy Unit. The volumes provide information on dates of service, changes in status, and names of military units of volunteers and draftees except commissioned officers from Connecticut. The volumes give a record of payment of bounties and other remunerations authorized by the General Assembly and should be useful to historians of state finances during the Civil War. The records also provide data about the names, ages, and in many cases, dates of deaths of wives and children of servicemen. Since no name index exists, time constraints prevent staff from making individual name searches. Researchers are encouraged to contact the unit about working hours and procedures for gaining access to archival records. For further information, contact Samuel Molod, Deputy State Librarian, Connecticut State Library, 231 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106; (203) 566-4192.

Paul Buhle has launched a **Social Humor Archive** at Tamiment Library, New York University, and seeks help locating originals of U.S. and international labor/radical cartoons, reports on the character of activities by left-wing humorists and labor humorists of the past, etc. The Archive plans to cooperate in the publication of *The Labor Joke Book* (Singlejack Press, forthcoming, 1984). Send suggestions to Director, OHAL, Tamiment/Bobst Library, NYU, 70 Washington Square South, NY, NY 10012; (401) 351-3458.