

NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

International Communism

The Department of History and Archaeology at the University of Exeter holds regular symposia in commemoration of the work of Professor W.N. Medlicott, who was Professor of History at the then University College of the South West of England between 1946 and 1953. The Third Medlicott symposium will take place 23–25 July 1995. Its subject will be “International Communism and the Communist International, 1919–1943”. There will be papers on the Comintern itself; on relations between Comintern and Communist parties in particular countries or regions; and on various aspects of Comintern policy. Anyone wishing to receive details should contact Dr Andrew Thorpe and Dr Tim Rees, Medlicott Symposium, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Exeter, Exeter, EX4 4QH, United Kingdom; Tel. 44-392-26 42 97; Fax 44-392-26 43 77.

Friedrich Engels

An international symposium will be held at the University of Wuppertal (9–13 October 1995) on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Friedrich Engels's death. The symposium will be devoted to the following main topics: epistemology, dialectics, historical materialism, nature; economy, politics and theory of history; Engels, the revolutionary: 1848, the First International and after, the Second International. Those interested should contact: Professor Theodor Bergmann, Im Asemwald 26/6215, 70599 Stuttgart, Germany; Tel. 49-711-726 18 11. Or Dr Joost Kircz, Institute for Critical Research, Willemsparkweg 202, 1011 HW Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel. 31-20-671 72 63; Fax 31-20-673 21 06.

Culture and Community in Working-Class History

The theme of the Seventeenth Annual North American Labor History Conference (Detroit, 19–21 October 1995) is “Culture and Community in Working Class History”. The Program Committee invites proposals for panels and single papers.

The organizers are interested in sessions and/or papers which explore issues of culture and community across a broad range of working-class history, including those that substantively and methodologically examine shopfloor, union, ethnic, class, popular, and political cultures; the dialectic of community and workplace organization; the creation, maintenance and deterioration of working-class communities; the importance of place and space and the uses of anthropology and discourse analysis in working-class history; and the concepts of “class”, “culture”, and “community” as they have been employed in labour and working-class history. Case studies, historiographic, methodological, and theoretical papers, as well as broad synthetic sessions are welcomed.

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Panel and paper proposals (including a 1–2 page paper abstracts and curriculae vitae for all participants) should be submitted by 1 March 1995 to Dr Elizabeth Faue, Department of History, 3094 Faculty Administration Building, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202, USA; Tel. 1-313-577 25 25.

The Social History of Work

The British Social History Society is preparing a conference on the historical definition and meaning of work, particularly relating to issues of gender, ethnicity, skill, health and class (Glasgow, 4–6 January 1996). Papers might address one or more of the following themes (though this is not a definitive list): the meaning and definition of work; the labour process; labour relations in the workplace; work outside formal organizational structures; the role of the state in regulating work and labour markets; work and health; sources and methods.

Proposals for papers should be sent by 1 May 1995 to Dr Arthur McIvor, Department of History, University of Strathclyde, McCance Building, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow, G1 1XQ, United Kingdom; Tel. 44-41-638 22 50. Or to Dr Eleanor Gordon, Department of Economic and Social History, University of Glasgow, University Gardens, Glasgow, G12 8QQ, United Kingdom; Tel. 44-41-339 88 55.

Labour and Empire

The International Institute of Social History (Amsterdam) and the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History invite the submission of papers from Dutch and Australian labour historians on the general theme of “labour and empire”. Historians from other countries interested in the theme are also invited to respond. The object of the conference is to study the effects of the imperial setting on labour history in the metropolises and the white settler countries in the era of European expansion/invasion. The organizers have selected three areas for special attention:

1. The form of the labour movement: suggested topics include the characteristics of trade-union development in the colonies; the colonial policies of trade unions in the core countries; role of trade unions in the colonial policy of the metropolitan governments; European models and labour movement formation in the colonies; the different state forms and roles in the core and periphery and a comparison of their effects on the labour movement; comparison of specific aspects of industrial relations (arbitration; “political unionism”, etc.) with reference to core and peripheral roles in the imperial system.

2. Indigenous workers and the working class: suggested topics include Aborigines as waged and non-waged workers; Aboriginal struggles as labour struggles; culture, race and ethnicity in the formation of the working class; the labour movement and indigenous workers in the white settler societies; the impact of sexual relations on solidarity between indigenous and non-indigenous workers; alliances of gender, work and marriage amongst indigenous and non-indigenous people; Aboriginal historians and labour history.

3. Labour culture: the place of imperial and national sentiments in both the informal cultural pursuits of the working class and in labour’s formal institutions.

Was industrial and political mobilization enhanced or retarded by the tension between imperial and national sentiments in the working class? Was the role of labour's formal institutions in sustaining a distinct working-class culture and providing access to middle-class culture strengthened or weakened by this tension?

The conference will be held in Amsterdam, 7–8 May 1996. Those interested should contact Dr Terry Irving, Faculty of Economics, University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia; Tel. 6102-692 37 86; Fax 61-2-692 47 29. Or Dr Marcel van der Linden, IISG, Cruquiusweg 31, 1019 AT Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Tel. 31-20-668 58 66; Fax 31-20-665 41 81.

European Social Science History Conference

The International Institute for Social History (Amsterdam) will organize the first European Social Science History Conference, Noordwijkerhout, 9–11 May 1996. Modelled on the conferences of the American Social Science History Association (and in good cooperation with this association), the conference aims at bringing together biannually scholars interested in explaining historical phenomena using the methods of the social sciences. The conference will be characterized by a lively exchange in many small groups, rather than by formal plenary sessions. The program will consist of invited lectures and submitted papers, informal workshop sessions, discussions and poster sessions. Topics will include: criminal justice, culture, economics, education, family/demography, geography, labour, methods/theory, (im)migration, nations and nation building, political movements, political systems, race/ethnicity, religion, rural, states and societies, technology, urban, women/gender.

Those interested should contact Dr Lex Heerma van Voss, IISG, Cruquiusweg 31, 1019 AT Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Tel. 31-20-668 58 66; Fax 31-20-665 41 81.

Communicating Experience

The general theme of the Ninth International Oral History Conference (Göteborg, 13–16 June 1996) is "Communicating Experience". The organizers invite papers that analyse communication of experience not only through language but also through other means, such as stereotypes, both of "us" and "the others". They also anticipate papers regarding the disruption of communication, due to differences in class, gender and generation.

Complete papers should be finished by 1 December 1995. The address of the conference organizers Professor Sven B. Ek and Dr Birgitta Skarin Frykman is: Department of Ethnology, University of Göteborg, Västra Hamngatan 3, 41117 Göteborg, Sweden; Tel. 46-31-773 19 71; Fax 46-31-13 80 30.