

NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

The bicentenary of 1789

Issues 27 and 28 of *History Workshop Journal* (spring and autumn 1989) will feature a critical celebration of the bicentenary of the French Revolution. The editors are looking for contributions on all aspects of the revolutionary moment, as it was experienced within France and internationally. Articles, essays, work in progress and reviews will all be welcome. Proposals should be sent as soon as possible to Barbara Taylor, 43 Petherton Road, London N5 2QX, England.

Making the new Europe?

The Department of European and Modern Dutch Studies of the University of Hull will hold an international conference on the problem of European unity and the Second World War in late September 1988 (provisionally 27-30 September).

This conference, forming the second part of a three-stage enquiry into the historical development of aspirations to European unity, will have as its central focus the climacteric of the Second World War. In its concern it follows chronologically and thematically the groundwork laid in the first stage, "Problems and Perspectives in the Interwar Period" (1987), and is intended to prepare for the third and final conference, "Postwar Europe" (1989).

Contributions are solicited regarding, *inter alia*, collaboration and the search for a "third way"; resistance, democracy and the birth of a new Europe; Communists and National Fronts; governments in exile and the problems of restoration; Christian politics, the Churches and a new moral order; youth movements.

While the language of the conference will be English, it is appreciated that some participants may wish to submit their papers in advance in a European language other than English. Every effort will be made in such cases, as well as during the conference sessions themselves, to provide appropriate linguistic aid.

The proceedings of the conference will be published, being the second volume of a three-volume series on "European Unity in Context".

All enquiries and correspondence should be directed to Dr. P. M. R. Stirk, Department of European & Modern Dutch Studies, University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RX, England.

Generational Change in Working-Class History

Once every two years the British Society for the Study of Labour History and the Dutch Society for Social History together organize a British-Dutch Conference on Labour History. In 1988 the conference will probably take place in Oxford in the week of 26 September. The theme of the conference will be "Generational Change in Working-Class History". One of the central issues would be the changes wrought by the continuing succession of different generations of trade-union members, activists and labour leaders, and the implications of these changes for the development of the labour movement. Another subject would be the influence of other differences on successive generations of the working class.

The conference is open to those who want to present a paper. Suggestions and

requests for further information should be addressed to Lex Heerma van Voss, Instituut voor Geschiedenis, Postbus 80090, 3508 TB Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Utopian Thought and Communal Experience

From 18 to 21 July 1988 an international conference on "Utopian Thought and Communal Experience" will be held at New Lanark, Scotland. This theme will on the one hand be the subject of historical debate, while on the other there will be opportunities to exchange ideas about contemporary forms of communal life and work.

The conference is a sequel to that held in Israel in 1985 on "Kibbutz and Communes – Past and Present", the results of which can be found in a report which has recently been published (Y. Gorni, Y. Ove, I. Paz (Eds), *Communal Life: An International Perspective*, (Tel Aviv, New York, 1987)). During the 1985 conference the International Communal Studies Association was founded, which has joined with the National Historic Communal Societies Association (USA) to organize next year's conference.

The international conference forms an excellent opportunity to get information on recent research and practical experiences covering a wide range of interests, such as the ideological roots of Israeli kibbutzim, nineteenth-century American utopian communities, communal societies in Denmark, pedagogical questions, etc. At the end of the conference there will also be an opportunity to visit a number of interesting projects in Britain.

All those interested in the conference and wishing to present a paper or to make an audio-visual presentation are requested to make a short summary of no more than 300 words and send it to Dennis Hardy, Head of School for Geography and Planning, Middlesex Polytechnic, Queensway, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4SF, England.

IISH establishes Department for Turkey

In the light of the growing interest in Turkey, mainly due to the intensification of relations between Turkey and Western Europe, and the increased awareness of the enduring presence of millions of immigrant workers from Turkey, the International Institute of Social History has launched a new department. The Department for Turkey, which officially opens its collections to the users at the beginning of December 1987, is to be one of the focal points of the IISH.

In accordance with the tradition of the IISH this department devotes itself, primarily, to the workers' and trade-union movements of the countries of immigration. The peace movement, women's movement, student movement, environmental movement and similar left-wing currents constitute other areas of interest for the department.

The department is going to acquire all types of publications, as well as archive material, posters, caricatures, photographs and films, starting from the emergence of a multinational working class in the Ottoman Empire in the second half of the nineteenth century.

The fact that under the Ottoman Empire and later the Turkish Republic, the workers' movement has faced systematic and harsh repression for a considerable

part of its history renders the task of collecting library and archive material on the subject extremely difficult and in some cases impossible. The latest case in point is that during the years following the military coup of 1980 not only the archives and documentation of the progressive trade unions, associations and political parties, but also those of the bourgeois parties were sent to the paper mills to be pulped. This is why rescuing the remaining material that can still be unearthed, is one of the foremost aims of the department.

This new department of the IISH is preparing for publication in English a series of comprehensive bibliographies of left-wing literature (including articles, pamphlets, etc.) and planning a multi-volume history of the workers' and trade-union movement in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey.

Another project the Department for Turkey intends to realize within the coming four years – considered as the founding period of the department – is an oral-history project. As part of this project it is planned to video-tape interviews with around one hundred old-generation trade unionists and political activists.

The department, with the collaboration of a wide circle of social scientists and historians from Turkey, is also to engage in research activities in a wider area of social history. The first large-scale plan in this direction is the organization of a workshop on “Sources, Problems and Perspectives of Social History Research on 19th and 20th Century Turkey”, to take place in the spring of 1988.

In the near future it is to be hoped that the Department for Turkey of the IISH will not only attract researchers working directly on Turkey, but also students of Balkanic and Middle Eastern history as well as the history of workers' movements in Third World countries. Requests for further information should be addressed to Orhan Silier, Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Kabelweg 51, 1014 BA Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Isaac Deutscher Memorial Prize

The Isaac Deutscher Memorial Prize, first established in 1969, has been awarded for the year 1986 to Ellen Meiksins Wood for her book *The Retreat from Class*, published by Verso.

The prize, to the value of £100, is awarded each year for published work which encourages the traditions to which Isaac Deutscher was dedicated. The Jury in 1986 was composed of Tamara Deutscher, Perry Anderson, Fred Halliday, Monty Johnstone, Ralph Miliband and John Saville.

Material for consideration should be submitted c/o Lloyds Bank, 68 Warwick Square, London SW1, England.