

Historía

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Newsletter of the UCSB History Associates

October 1990

"God Save us from History Lessons..."

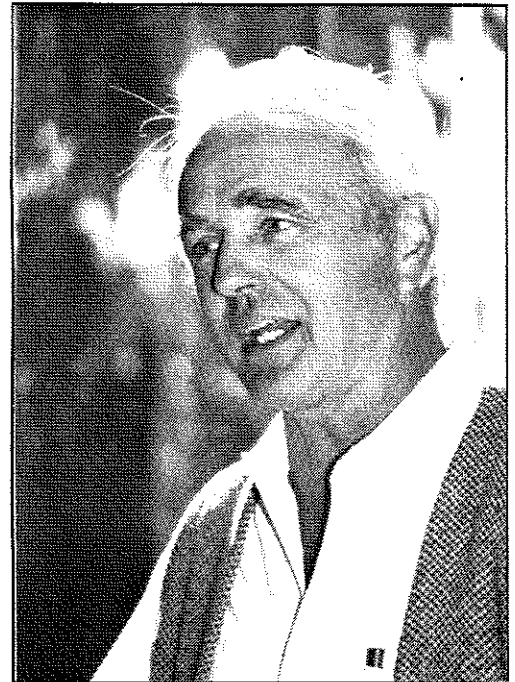
By JOE FINNIGAN

The 1990-91 season of UCSB History Associates' luncheon-lectures gets underway October 17 with Prof. Otis Graham's provocatively entitled talk, "God Save Us From History Lessons: Santayana's Curse and Case Studies of Drugs, Immigration, and American Decline." And that means, Dr. Graham said, "that every man is his own historian, and is botching the job."

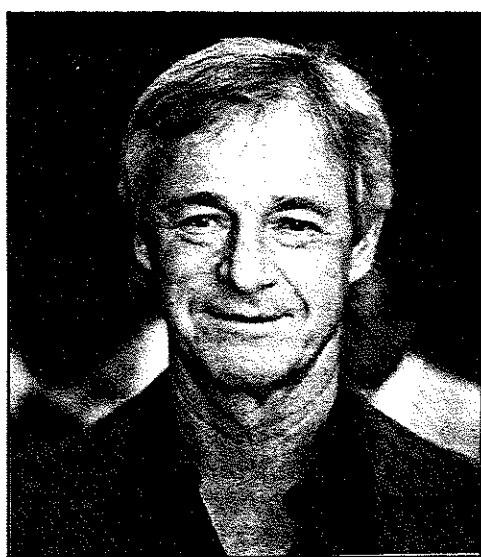
All of which may cause some to wonder where we might have gone wrong with our use of history to deal with the present and the future. It's not our use of history, according to Dr. Graham, but our misuse of it that causes the problem.

"The misuse of history is very pervasive and takes two forms," he explained. "One is basing the decision on analogy which gets the history wrong, and the second is basing decisions upon a single, simplistic analogy, even if correct." As an example of such misuse, Dr. Graham in his talk will cite the issues mentioned in the title of his speech—drugs, immigration, and America's decline.

"I'm going to take those three cases and go through them in
(Please see GRAHAM, p. 6)



DR. OTIS GRAHAM JR.
...first speaker



PROF. FRANK FROST

Frost Establishes New Graduate Fund

Frank Frost has never been one to rest on laurels—his own, or anyone else's.

Last Spring, his History colleagues took the occasion of Prof. Frost's early retirement to recognize his long-standing dedication to the cause of graduate study by establishing a Frank J. Frost Fund to help graduate students give papers at scholarly meetings.

Now Prof. Frost has gone his colleagues one better by establishing an endowment fund to support graduate students in "pre-modern European history," a field that embraces the Ancient Mediterranean World, Medieval Europe, and Early Modern Europe.

The new fund, named after his late daughter, Esmé, will be endowed with the proceeds of a charitable trust set up by Prof. Frost and his wife, Amanda, who received her PhD in medieval history from UCSB in 1975.

(Please see FROST, p. 6)

President's Report

It was with considerable reluctance that I accepted the position of President of the History Associates. The task of following the accomplishments of Dick Cook seemed to be a difficult one. With his drive, determination and experience gained from many years in the publishing industry he forged a cohesive and effective alumni history group. Almost single handedly, he guided the fledgling History Associates through the University's labyrinthine bureaucratic channels.

While Dick may be retiring as President, the organization will not be without benefit of his experience. I undertook the task solely on the understanding that I could rely upon his expertise and that he would work closely with me in guiding the group.

Your Board is working on a number of important projects this year. One of our primary goals is to increase the membership of the organization since membership is the group's primary means of support. I urge all of you to renew your membership, and to spread the good word to others you know who have an interest in history.

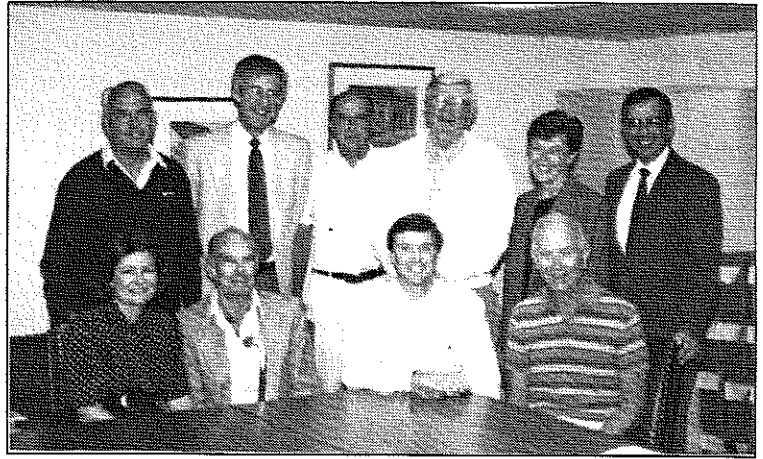
Last year through the generosity of members, the History Associates was able to award seven scholarships to History graduate students. At a time when all we hear about is budget cuts and reductions in educational funding, the efforts to provide financial assistance to graduate students, who are at the bottom of the totem pole of financial aid, is doubly important.

Our Luncheon Lecture program will again present a diversity of interesting topics ranging from the Renaissance to the present day. The series will begin with "The Lessons of History..." from Prof. Otis Graham and end with Jarell Jackman's personal experiences with the reconstruction of the Santa Barbara Presidio.

As your new President I look forward to working to promote the growth of the organization and our mutual interest in things historical.

Greg de Roulhac
President

Hail To the Chief(s)!



Historia Photo by Peter Steiner

NEW BOARD. Members of the new History Associates Board of Directors took time out from a planning meeting at the Santa Barbara Historical Society to pose for a group photo. Bristling with ideas are, seated l. to r., Shauna Mika, membership committee chair; outgoing President Dick Cook, President Greg DeRoulhac, and Treasurer Al Clarke; standing, l. to r., George Frakes, Sears McGee, Dick Oglesby, Joe Finnigan, Kathy Rudolph, and Hal Drake. Also serving on this year's board are Jerry Jackman and Mary Louise Days who were unable to attend.

Grad Students Reap Harvest of Honors

The old adage "last, but not least" proved true for a number of History graduate students last Spring, with the end of the term bringing word of a number of prestigious awards.

Topping the list—at least monetarily—was Kazuto Oshio, a student in the History of Public Policy working with Prof. Robert Kelley who won a two-year, \$45,000 grant from the UC-wide Water Resources Center based at UC Riverside. The grant will support research for Oshio's dissertation, a study of Southern California's Metropolitan Water District.

Katherine Siegel, a student of Prof. Alexander DeConde, was awarded a dissertation year fellowship from the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, based at UC San Diego. The fellowship—one of only 12 awarded—provides a stipend of \$12,000, with an additional \$5,000 for research and travel expenses.

Gail Evans, another History of Public Policy student working with Prof. Kelley, received more than \$6,000 in awards from various agencies to support her dissertation study of Niagara energy development from 1815-1940. Her awards include grants from the American Historical Association, the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library, and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library.

Evans was also one of three History grad students to receive fellowships from the UCSB Affiliates. Also recognized with a grant of \$1,000 and a certificate of achievement were Michael Burger (Hollister) and David Toye (Frost).

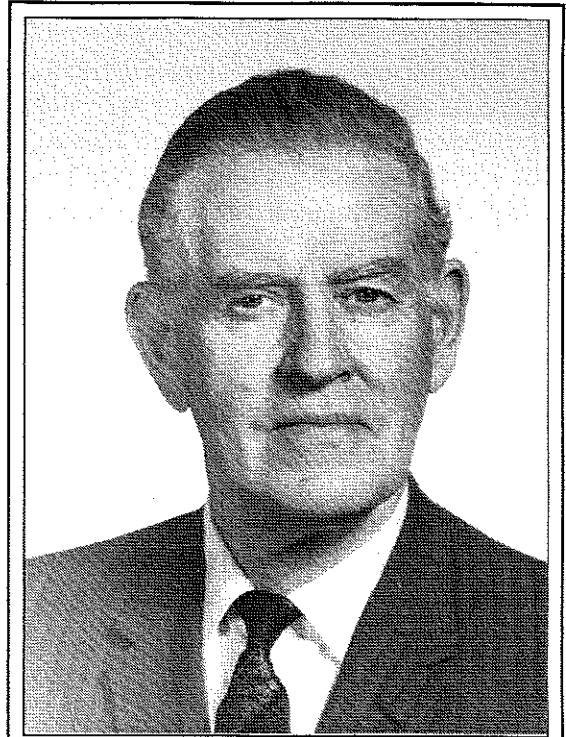
Memorial Honors Lawrence Kinnaird

A memorial to Prof. Lawrence Kinnaird, one of this century's leading historians of the American West, has been established at the Carmel Foundation in Carmel-By-The-Sea.

Prof. Kinnaird, who trained a generation of Western historians on the Berkeley campus from 1937-60, taught at UCSB from 1960-65. The memorial was established by his wife, Dr. Lucia Kinnaird, a political scientist. Established in 1950, the Carmel Foundation is a non-profit, multipurpose senior activities center that provides a wide range of services, programs and activities to some 4,000 members residing on the Monterey Peninsula.

A pilot in the First World War, Prof. Kinnaird stayed in France after the war to study at the University of Grenoble (he had earned a BA from Michigan in 1915). Moving to California, he took his PhD at Berkeley in 1927, studying under the legendary Herbert Bolton.

It was to Bolton's position that he succeeded a decade later. Except for a stint as cultural attaché to the U.S. Embassy in Santiago



PROF. LAWRENCE KINNAIRD
... favorite remembered

From the Chair

When I was asked about whether I would be willing to serve as chairman of this Department, my first thought was that that was something I shouldn't have to do until I became a grownup. Since, however, Hal Drake isn't a grownup either, I realized that the job didn't require such attainment.

I continued to be reluctant for a number of reasons, not the least of which was that Hal's would be a tough act to follow. For three years, he led us with boundless energy, dauntless courage and fierce commitment. He produced fireworks when fireworks were needed, and his "totally awesome" sense of humor never gave out. He also worked tirelessly in committees and elsewhere to build consensus on difficult issues and to see that the countless individual needs that arise were met.

On top of all that, he innovated. No previous chairperson brought cookies to the Department meetings!

I have now served in this office since July 1, and I have already learned more about the meaning of bureaucracy than I did in 20 years of teaching about the rise of the nation-state in early modern Europe. A new crisis arises at least every week and sometimes every day, even though as I write this the start of classes is still 10 days away.

I have also learned that, since I can count on generous help from my colleagues and dedication from our staff, the job also brings pleasure and satisfaction. I look forward to communicating with you in this space, and I am most grateful for your interest in and support of our work.

J. Sears McGee, Chair

during World War II, he taught at Berkeley for the next 23 years, establishing a seminar that eventually produced 128 master's theses and 35 doctoral dissertations. UCSB's Alexander Callow was his last PhD student.

In a tribute to Prof. Kinnaird on the occasion of his retirement from Berkeley in 1960, the journal "Arizona and the West" wrote:

"The key to Lawrence Kinnaird's success at Berkeley has been his vigilant attention to the professional problems of a large number of graduate students. Few directors of historical research in American universities have been more conspicuous than he in technical competence, in kindly counsel, or in generosity with their time."

Prof. Kinnaird's books include "Spain in the Mississippi Valley" (1946), "The Frontiers of New Spain" (1958), and "History of the Greater San Francisco Bay Region" (1966).

At the time of his death in 1985 at the age of 92, Prof. Kinnaird was working on a new book in collaboration with his wife.

Inquiries regarding the Kinnaird Memorial may be directed to the Foundation's Executive Director, Mr. John Freitas, P.O. Box 1050, Carmel-By-The-Sea, CA 93921.

Harrowing Escape Recalled

[Editor's note: Prof. Alexander Callow, UCSB's popular historian of crime and urban culture, was one of two Department members who lost their homes in the fierce Painted Cave fire last June. Like the other victim, Warren Hollister, his has been a life of slow recovery and rebuilding. This story for Historia, he says, is "the most painful thing I have ever written."]

By ALEXANDER CALLOW

You have two things on this planet: your life and your house. We lost one and nearly lost the other. My family and I were victims of the Painted Cave Fire—firestorm is the better word—that devoured a large hunk of Santa Barbara on June 27, 1990. We lost a house we had lived in and raised a family in for 24 years. It was a financial, emotional, material, and professional disaster—we lost everything from china and jewelry to wardrobes, research and lecture notes, book and stamp collections, computer equipment, photograph albums, and those special "little" things whose value goes beyond the dollar. In effect, we lost the history of a family.

What was it like? At the risk of being maudlin, it wasn't easy. First, the Great Escape: a phone call alerted us to the fire. I ran to the corner and saw, well, a war: two thrusts of fire came at us as if shot from a giant flame thrower. The wind had the velocity of a North Atlantic gale in January. The smoke was dirty, big, and heavy, and it was getting very hot very fast. My wife, Marie, came out the front door with her 91-year-old mother, who was recovering from a hit-and-run accident. It was desperation in slow motion as they made their way to a car. A neighbor, Bruce Rickborn, a chemist from UCSB, ran by and helped my mother-in-law into the car. That act of kindness cost Bruce time and nearly his life. Marie threw me the keys to another vehicle with a throw that would have made Willie Mays proud. I dropped the keys.

As we rounded the corner, first the orchard and then the house went up in flames. All the way to the Greek church and down San Antonio Creek Road the fire, driven by a 60 to 70 mph wind, was always ahead of us and on both sides. It is not an exaggeration to say that our lives lay within a margin of about a minute.

Next came the Aftermath, another kind of war. Emotionally we bounced from grief to self-pity to anger to depression and to a kind of profound emptiness. In the weeks ahead, we couldn't concentrate, we couldn't sleep, we had no stamina and only through the help of

our kids could we handle the stress of those two zoos: county government and the insurance industry.

Settling a disaster claim is a nightmare. The claims adjusters were mixed:

the woman who did our contents was an angel. The man who did the house, at first working from the wrong policy (deliberately?), should have been put to sleep. We made out 42 single-lined pages of contents and ran out of gas. When did you buy your couch? What did it cost—25 years ago? What would it cost now? And that goes for ladders, jewelry, dishes, etc. Remembering brought tears. It was a mess.

We have now turned the road into Recovery. The catalyst was the incredible kindness and generosity of friends. The town reacted with a proliferation of relief centers, one of which had this sign: "Only new clothes accepted." (Only in Santa Barbara). Recovery is enhanced by the excitement, the planning, and the fun involved in re-building. The new house will be designed better and more spiffy, but the old house will always haunt us.



DR. ALEXANDER CALLOW
...from the ashes

Historia

Prepared for the UCSB History Associates

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Department Welcomes New Faculty

There are three new faces in UCSB's History Department this year.

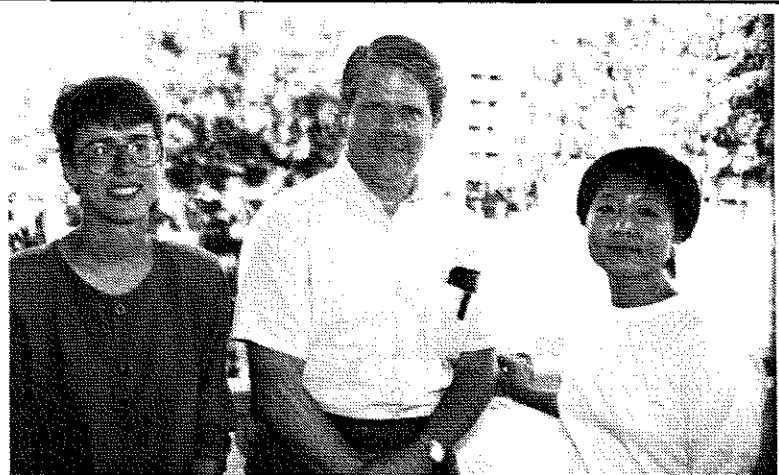
As a result of intensive recruiting efforts, the Department now has a new Colonial U.S. historian, its first Korean historian, and the first holder of the King Ibn Abdul Aziz Chair in Islamic Studies.

A fourth appointee, Prof. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, will not begin teaching at UCSB until next year. A Russian historian who has written a highly regarded study of "The February Revolution in Petrograd," Prof. Hasegawa is spending this year at Kyoto University in Japan.

Dr. Susan Juster comes to the Department as an assistant professor from the University of Michigan, where she completed her PhD earlier this year. A specialist in early American religious and intellectual history, she fills the Colonial position left vacant by Prof. Wilbur Jacobs, who retired in 1989.

Dr. Lee Pai, also an assistant professor, is a joint appointment in History and Asian Studies. She completed her PhD at Harvard last year on Korean pre-history, and will teach courses in Korean and East Asian history and culture at UCSB.

Dr. Stephen Humphreys comes to UCSB from the University of Wisconsin, where he was a senior professor. His appointment concluded an international search, and brings the History Department its first endowed chair. A specialist in medieval Islamic history, Prof. Humphreys is the author of "From Saladin to the Mongols: The Ayyubids of



NEW FACULTY. Enjoying a quiet moment before the start of classes, Profs. Susan Juster (left), Stephen Humphreys, and Hyung Il ("Lee") Pai compare notes on their reactions to their new home in the UCSB History Department.

Damascus, 1193-1260" and a translation of "The Caliphate of Uthman, AD 644-656/AH 24-35," by the great Arabic historian al-Tabari.

Arrival of the three new faculty has generated considerable excitement in the Department.

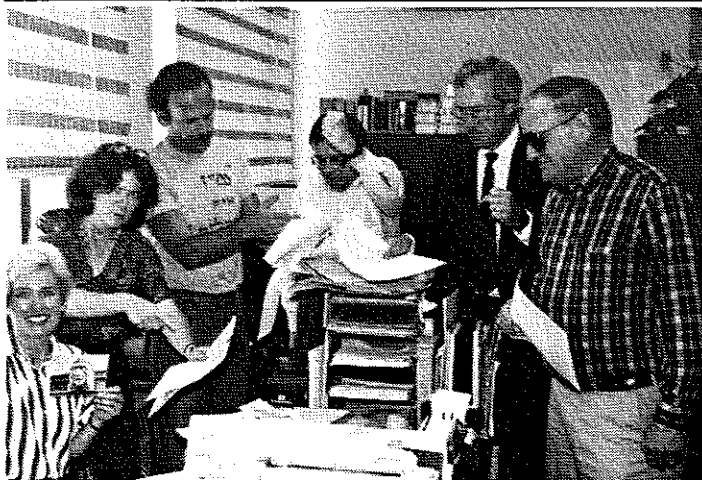
Prof. Sears McGee, who took over as chair this year, hailed Prof. Humphreys' appointment as "a sign of our Department's strength and maturity."

"Our ability to fill this chair so quickly with a candidate of Steve Humphreys' stature is a great boost not just to the Department but to Islamic Studies in general at UCSB," he said.

Similarly warm comments were made about the junior faculty.

"Colonial history was one of the most competitive positions in the country last year, and we wound up with one of the most sought-after candidates," Prof. Pat Cohen, who chaired the search, said. "We were extremely impressed by the depth as well as the breadth of Susan's understanding of early American history."

(Please see FACULTY, p. 6)



A DAY TO REMEMBER

The Department bade goodbye to its unflappable scheduling secretary, Phyllis King (left), who moved to Salt Lake City at the end of Spring quarter after eight years at UCSB. Helping her remember her last day on the job was a delegation of "angry" faculty, including (l. to r.) Pat Cohen, Josh Fogel, Jack Talbott (who really got into the job!), Sears McGee, and "cupcake" Bob Collins, who couldn't help smiling.

order to show the forms that misuse can take," he said. "The remedy is not to forget the past but to learn how the past can be used rather than misused."

How does all this stand up alongside the cliché which suggests that all humanity learns from history is that it does not learn from history?

"The problem is more serious than ignoring history," Prof. Graham replied. "In fact, people respect history, which is what we want. But they misuse it anyway. We have to be much more sophisticated and serious about the important and tricky business of making use of history."

Internationally known for his books on the Progressive Era and the New Deal, Dr. Graham's most recent work has been in the field of history of public policy, in which he has been one of the pioneers..

Dr. Graham taught at UCSB from 1966 to 1980, when

he left to fill an endowed chair at the University of North Carolina. He returned to UCSB last year to assume the directorship of the Department's program in Public History.

Dr. Graham has held a number of the nation's most prestigious fellowships, including the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

Prof. Graham is the first of six historians on the Associates series. The Fall lineup also includes Prof. Dimitrije Djordjevic, who will speak on events in Eastern Europe. In the Winter quarter, Dr. Pat Cohen will describe her research into a sensational 19th century murder trial, and Dr. Abraham Friesen will talk about the historical significance of the Reformation.

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Frost (Continued from p. 1)

The terms of the endowment empower the chair of the Department to select qualified graduate students for support, in consultation with the Financial Aid Committee.

"We are simply overwhelmed by Frank's generosity," Department Chair Sears McGee said. "This is a man who has really given his all to the Department."

A specialist in underwater archaeology, Prof. Frost taught ancient Greek history, the history of seafaring, and Western Civilization for 25 years at UCSB, during which time he became equally well known in the community as a professional jazz pianist and member of the county Board of Supervisors.

Faculty (Continued from p. 5)

understanding of early American history."

Prof. Josh Fogel, who took over as chair of the Asian Studies program this year, hailed Pai's appointment as "a significant addition" to UCSB's strength in East Asian history.

"Lee specializes in ancient Korean archaeology, but her interests are extremely wide-ranging and her enthusiasm is truly infectious," Fogel said. "We have wanted someone to teach Korean history for a long time, and I think she is really going to get the students interested in this field."

The three new faculty will be guests of honor at the Department's annual Homecoming reception in November.