



IOHA News

Bulletin of the International Oral History Association (published twice a year)

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Starting Points

From the Editors

Following the elections at the business meeting in Sydney, Australia, we have begun our new terms—Pilar Domínguez as vice president, Don Ritchie as a member of the council—and will continue as editors. Building on our last two years of experience, we hope to expand and improve the IOHA newsletter, with an even greater diversity of reports from around the world. To meet this goal, we depend upon all IOHA members.

The variety of oral history projects discussed in Sydney was truly impressive, and amply demonstrated the vitality of oral history methodology. From large, well-funded institutional projects to small, self-supported individual efforts, people are recording and preserving a greater variety of oral testimony than ever before, and presenting it in highly creative forms. Some projects have sought to cut through the fog of memory to recover stories long suppressed or ignored, while others have tried to capture experiences almost immediately after they occurred, especially in the wake of a natural disaster or a political upheaval. Oral history projects have given voice to those left out of the official archives, let victims speak out, and confronted conventional wisdom. Oral history has celebrated human achievement and endurance. Those we interview give us a view of the past that is both clearer and more complex. These are issues that we hope the newsletter will fully reflect.

Oral historians have also been caught up in the technological turmoil of the digital electronic revolution. Reliable equipment becomes obsolete, new devices appear in rapid succession, and questions arise over the long-term preservation of the digital recordings. Digital equipment not only replaces the old tape recorder but opens vast new possibilities for showcasing and disseminating the interviews we conduct and collect. This makes it all the more necessary that we keep current with technological developments. Please let us know your concerns, the types of information you seek, and the types of projects you conduct. We look forward to including your reports in future issues.

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Co-editors, IOHA News



From the President

It was a great honor to be elected President of the International Oral History Association at the tenth anniversary conference in Sydney, July 2006. This is my first newsletter report to the IOHA membership. I'll tell you a little bit about myself and then outline some recent and prospective IOHA developments.

I believe that oral history illuminates the lived experience of forgotten pasts, brings rich pleasure and affirmation to the elderly and indeed anyone with a life story to tell, and creates histories that challenge silence and provoke social change. I conducted my first oral history interview in Melbourne in 1979 and since then have worked as an oral historian in Britain and Australia as a freelance interviewer and in academic and community projects. For the past 15 years I have taught oral history in an adult education department at the University of Sussex, and have been a co-editor of the British journal *Oral History*. From 1996 to 2000 I was a Vice-President in the first IOHA Council and helped to create and co-edit our journal *Words and Silences*. Coming back onto the Council after six years I have been impressed by the ways in which IOHA has matured as an organization: the Council now has regular biannual on-line meetings; a translation coordinator ensures our bilingual effectiveness; we have a regular newsletter published on our website; and we are able to fund scholarships for oral historians who would not otherwise be able to attend our conferences.

The Fourteenth International Oral History Conference in Sydney was a resounding success. Janis Wilton, Rosie Block, Paula Hamilton and their many Australian supporters hosted a conference that was stimulating and friendly, efficient and great fun. For the first time the conference produced a booklet of bilingual abstracts of all the presentations, with full papers all available on a CD. A dozen scholars from Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and South Asia were supported by conference scholarships funded by IOHA with generous support from individual donors and the national oral history associations of the US, UK, Brazil and Australia. Profits from Sydney will kick-start the scholarship fund for our next conference. Other successful innovations in Sydney were Oral History Master-classes, which will become a regular feature of the IOHA conference program, and Special Interest Group meetings that we hope will generate continuing discussion through email and the website.

In Sydney the IOHA Council and the General Meeting were wowed by a presentation from Mexican oral historians and agreed that the Fifteenth International Oral History Conference would be held at the university in Guadalajara in 2008. By moving to North America, IOHA completes a global cycle that has taken the conference to each of the six geographical regions of the world: South America (Rio de Janeiro in 1998), Asia (Istanbul 2000), Africa

(Pietermaritzburg 2002), Europe (Rome 2004), and Oceania (Sydney 2006). We are already beginning to think about a venue for 2010. Please email me if you are interested!

The new IOHA Council—pictured below—also includes representatives from each geographical region.



Front row from left: Rob Perks (United Kingdom), Alexander von Plato (Germany), Al Thomson, (UK/ Australia), Rina Benmayor, (Past President -United States), Pilar Dominguez (Spain), Ana Maria Castellanos (Mexico); Back row: Alexander Freund (Canada), Sean Field (South Africa), Megan Hutching (New Zealand), Don Ritchie (United States), Tineke Jansen (England / international), Tomoyo Nakao (Japan), Marilda Menezes (Brazil)

While each of us represents a particular geographic region, all Council members will also be active in one or other council committee: fund-raising, processing scholarships, running the conference, developing the website and publications, and so on. Our two Vice-Presidents, Pilar Dominguez and Alexander von Plato, both have extensive experience from membership of previous IOHA Councils. We are indebted to Almut Leh, who continues to serve as Membership and Finance Secretary, and to my predecessor Rina Benmayor, who remains on the Council as immediate Past President and is an invaluable fund of knowledge about the international oral history movement and the workings of our association. I must also introduce two other important ex-officio members of Council: Gerardo Necochea who will continue as an editor of *Words and Silences*, and Juan José Gutiérrez who has the new role of IOHA translation coordinator.

Our website is generously hosted by oral historians led by former IOHA President Marieta de Moraes Ferreira at the Getulio Vargas Foundation in Brazil. The IOHA newsletter will continue to be published on the website, and we hope to develop more interactive features, perhaps involving the special interest groups established at the Sydney conference.

We are re-thinking the role, content and form of our journal *Words and Silences*. Our production base in Mexico City has become a little uncertain (and I apologise that the 2005 and 2006 issues have been delayed—they should both be with members within the next six months) so this is a good time for a review. Should the journal be peer-reviewed? Should it be published in paper or on-line, or both? Should it only be available to members? How can it best operate as a forum for



an international dialogue about the theory and practice of oral history? Should we work with a commercial publisher? These are important questions—please email me with your ideas or suggestions about the future of our journal.

A report delivered by Almut Leh in Sydney showed that IOHA members often do not renew their membership after the biennial conference, and that although total membership is stable (between 150 and 200) it is not growing. Our Membership Development committee (chaired by Sean Field) is developing a plan of action. As President I will write to all 2004-06 members who have not rejoined the association, and Council members representing geographic regions will have a role to play. IOHA can support the development of new national associations in regions where oral history is taking root. Our new committee on Relations with National Oral History Associations and Movements (chaired by Rob Perks) will develop plans that might include some form of linked membership between IOHA and national associations.

To attract and keep members, IOHA must continue to perform an essential role and offer valuable services to oral historians around the world: the biannual conference and master-classes, an international newsletter and journal, an informative and interactive website, special interests groups, support for emerging oral history work in new regions. Most importantly, IOHA supports and energises an international dialogue between oral historians. It is tremendously exciting to learn from colleagues who are conducting oral history projects on the other side of the world, to realise that we often have common aims and approaches but also to learn from our differences. Oral history is both an intimate encounter and a global conversation. Oral historians are good communicators, so let's keep listening and talking to each other across national boundaries. I look forward to hearing from you!

Al Thomson

IOHA President

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The World of Words

Future Conferences and Meetings

SECOND INTERNATIONAL ORAL HISTORY CONFERENCE IN PANAMA, 29-1 February 2007, Penonomé and Panama City

The University of Panama invites universities, institutes, schools museums, researchers, teachers, students, filmmakers and national and international groups or associations involved working with the spoken word to participate in the Second International Conference, “**Constructing the Other History: Sources and Methodology**” and in the First National Oral History Symposium, “**Historiographical, Educational and Visual Experiences**” that will take place in Panama City on 29- 31 January 2007. The Oral History Oral Workshop is also being held in Panama City on February 1-2 and in Penonomé, Coclé Province, on 1 February 2007.

The basic objective of this event is to offer an academic and hands-on experience with the hope of stimulating research, teaching and public outreach regarding oral history with the goal of establish the value of oral history and collective memories and thereby recovering the spoken word and collective memory.

For more information, please contact

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E.N. BRANDT ORAL HISTORY CONFERENCE, 16 May 2007, Philadelphia, US

In celebration of the Gerstacker Foundation’s endowment of the E.N. Brandt Oral History Program, the Chemical Heritage Foundation will hold a conference on 16 May 2007. This conference will feature talks and discussions on the use of oral history in the business and science fields as a learning tool for leadership training, as a means of preserving personal recollections, and as a method for capturing, identifying, and interpreting the heritage, philosophy, and values of a company or academic institution. The conference will also deal with modern methods for conducting, recording, transcribing, and processing oral history including innovations in digitization. On a larger scale, we will explore oral history’s ability to provide cross-fertilization between institutions, fields, and the general public.

The Chemical Heritage Foundation invites scholars to submit proposals for papers and



discussion panels, with a one-two page abstract and a brief biographical statement in Word format, by 1 December 2006. Registration information will be available at a later date and a limited number of travel stipends will be available. For further information contact Megan Lindsay, Oral History Program, Chemical Heritage Foundation, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106,

Fax: (215) 629-5236. mlindsay@chemheritage.org
Also visit their new Web site: www.chemheritage.org

MAKING COMMUNITY ORAL HISTORIES, Annual Conference of the Oral History Society, 6 -7 July 2007, London Metropolitan University, UK

The 2007 Oral History Society conference will re-examine the subject of community oral histories six years after the successful *Talking Community Histories* conference. Like its predecessor, it will bring together an exciting and informal mix of community organizations, museums, libraries and archives, schools and universities to present their work and debate the nature, challenges and achievements of community oral histories. It will also reflect on what has changed in the last six years.

Strands will include:

§ What community? Exploring questions around what is a community and who defines it, how community oral histories are constructed, how collaboration works in practice, and how communities are reflected through the voices of individuals.

§ Whose interview? Looking at the interview relationship in the community context, including issues around “insider” and “outsider” interviewers, interviewing in community languages, and inter-generational interviewing.

§ Which audience? Reflecting on who community oral history projects are for and what they achieve, how they are disseminated and received, and how audience responses are collected and evaluated.

Further details will be posted on the Oral History Society website over the coming year – please visit www.ohs.org.uk for up-to-date information. For offers of presentations please contact Rob Perks (rob.perks@bl.uk) or Annette Day (aday@museumoflondon.org.uk).

INDIGENOUS LIVES 2007: A Conference on Indigenous Biography and Indigenous Autobiography, 9-12 July 2007, Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University, Canberra

Sponsored by the Humanities Research Centre, the National Centre for Indigenous Studies, and the Australian Centre for Indigenous History at the Australian National University, together with the Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Western Australia, and the Centre for Public



Culture and Ideas, Griffith University, the conference invites contributions from biographers of Indigenous people, and from Indigenous autobiographers, and other writers. It also welcomes those concerned with portraying Indigenous lives in the artistic, visual and performing arts. The conferences takes “Indigenous” to include Indigenous people from all parts of the world. Interested persons are invited to forward to the conveners a presentation abstract addressing one of these themes: mixed identities; controversial lives; alternative narratives and technologies; the performing arts; art and politics; who owns the story? and who owns the work?

Please send proposals and abstracts to **Peter Read** by 28 February 2007

peter.read@anu.edu.au peter.read@anu.edu.au

OLD STORIES, NEW WAYS: Oral History Association of Australia Annual Meeting, 27-30 September 2007, Brisbane, Australia

The Oral History Association of Australia (Qld Inc.) invites proposals for papers and presentations for its 2007 National Conference to be held in a delightful riverside setting at Riverglenn Conference Centre, Indooroopilly, Brisbane from 27 to 30 September 2007. Proposals that relate to mediations and new work on the following are encouraged:

interpreting story;
working with community;
understanding memory;
oral history and independent practitioners; and
addressing changing technologies.

Proposals on other topics are also welcomed. The conference committee invites proposals from oral history practitioners in a wide variety of disciplines and settings, including academic institutions, museums, historical societies, archives and libraries, community organizations, media professionals, independent historians and oral historians, arts workers and reminiscence practitioners. We also encourage proposals from students. Sessions may address the many uses of oral history in media such as film, video, play back and other theater, radio, exhibitions and multi media. Similarly, while sessions may be organized in a panel format, we encourage workshop proposals, media and performance oriented presentations and other formats that go beyond the boundaries of conventional conference presentation.

If you are interested, please send us a single page proposal (email info@ohaqlld.org.au or PO Box 12213 George Street, Brisbane Qld 4003) including an outline of your paper and the following details: Name (with your family name in CAPITAL letters); affiliation; postal address; email address; phone and fax numbers; relevant theme; whether an individual paper, a thematic panel, a workshop proposal, an exhibition or a dramatic piece.



FOR PROPOSALS: 28 February 2007

Acceptance or rejection of proposals 16 March 2007.

Full papers by email required by 30 May 2007.

For further details visit the website of the Oral History Association of Australia- Qld Inc – www.ohaaqld.org.au

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL IOHA CONFERENCE, 23-26 September 2008, Guadalajara, Mexico

The IOHA has selected Guadalajara, Mexico for its next international meeting. The program committee is currently discussing the theme of the conference, a timetable and the creation of a conference web page, as well as logistical and fundraising/sponsorship issues. Cosponsoring the meeting with the IOHA are the University of Guadalajara, and the Mexican Oral History Association. Some of the themes that will be pursued are the contributions of oral history to understanding twentieth century political history; teaching oral history; archiving memory; oral history theory and method; ecology and natural disasters; health, family and generations; migrations; memories of violence; work; museums and oral history; gender identity; religion and sharing of beliefs; and oral tradition. The call for papers will be distributed shortly.

Ana Maria de la O Castellanos
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Face to Face

Oral History Meetings IOHA in Sydney, Australia, 12-16 July 2006

A great success, the 14th International Oral History Conference, “Dancing with Memory: Oral History and its Audiences,” was held in Sydney, Australia, from 12 to 16 July 2006. The conference attracted over 400 people from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.

The attendance figures affirm the IOHA practice of moving the international conference around



the world in order to invite participation from people who previously have not attended IOHA conferences. The continuing strong presence of participants from Brazil and South Africa indicate the flow on effects of having held conferences in those countries. Efforts to attract attendance from oral historians in Asia were not as successful as hoped in terms of numbers, although the paper presenters from Asia highlighted the depth and diversity of oral history practice and provided an impetus for the IOHA Council and members to increase Asian networking.

Fully booked Master Classes were conducted by Alessandro Portelli (the creative aspects of memory), Linda Shopes (preparing oral history interviews for publication), Alistair Thomson (interpreting oral history), and Michael Fegan and Dean Rehberger (oral history in the digital world). These provided focused three hour workshops in which presenters shared their expertise and invited comment and interaction. The conference began with a reception hosted by the City of Sydney at the Sydney Town Hall on the Wednesday evening. Following a welcome to country, Councillor Phillip Black drew particularly on Aboriginal histories and traditions to demonstrate his engagement with oral history as a powerful research and community tool. The reception also provided a warming introduction where old friends and new acquaintances could

meet over wine and food.

The conference dinner took place on Thursday night at NSW Parliament House. A vocal acoustic trio, *Touchwood*, provided entertainment. On Friday evening, Urban Theatre Projects (<http://www.urbantheatre.com.au/>) in association with Bankstown Youth Development Service presented a performance, *FAST CARS & Tractor Engines* that drew on oral history interviews with local residents from different cultural and socio-economic backgrounds and with different passions. International audiences were confronted with bursts of idiomatic Australian language, actors changing character, changing and sometimes confronting electronic images as backdrops, and statements about lives in Sydney's western suburbs. Sample stories from the play can be heard online at <http://www.urbantheatre.com.au/fastcars.html>.

Some of the conference delegates elected to take the tour to Canberra organised by the National Library of Australia. In two days, they acquired a taste of Australia's capital city and some immersion in the oral history worlds of a number of the national cultural institutions. One participant, Suzanne Mulligan, has provided a detailed report – scroll to the end of the *On Tape*, September 2006 newsletter at <http://www.flexi.net.au/~mulligan/Newsletter.htm>.

The conference began with carefully considered welcome addresses by dignitaries the Hon. Bob Debus (NSW Minister for the Arts), Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir (Governor of NSW), and Professor Sue Rowley (UTS) followed by responses from Rina Benmayer for IOHA and Rosemary Block for OHAA. As both Rina and Rosemary observed, the content of the welcome addresses demonstrated how the visiting dignitaries had engaged with the conference program and with the nature of oral history. Peter Read's moving and insightful comparative excursion into oral history, national reconciliation and conspiracies of silence in Australia in relation to the Stolen Generations and in Chile in relation to the Pinochet Repression set a powerful tone for the remainder of the conference.

Mid-stream in the conference was a panel to mark the Tenth anniversary of IOHA. Chaired by Don Ritchie, the panellists (Alexander Von Plato, Marieta de Moraes Ferreira, Alessandro Portelli and Ronald Grele) shared their memories and visions for the future of the international oral history movement. Their presentations will be published by IOHA. The powerful plenary sessions and the keynote address were flanked by equally powerful parallel sessions organized under conference sub-themes. Statistics indicate patterns in the topics addressed, which suggest developing emphases in international oral history scholarship and practice. Following are the number of papers presented under each of the conference sub-themes: archiving memory (23), fire and water (10), healing memories (7), island stories (4), memory and community (47), memory and trauma (20), places and buildings (11), pleasures of memory (9), political pasts (13), sharing/passing on beliefs (6), stories in translation (8), talking to ourselves (27), and teaching and learning (11).

New features introduced for the 14th International Oral History Conference and which proved worthwhile included: Online database of paper abstracts, which proved an effective way both to advertise the content of the conference and to assist with the organization of the program.



Bilingual abstracts, available through both the online database and as a printed book at the conference, ensured that conference delegates could select sessions and papers based on more than a paper title. As well, the book – along with the CDROM of conference papers – provides a permanent record of the range of papers presented at the conference. Special Interest Groups (SIGs) were provided small time slots for people to gather in special interest groups. As a result, a number of the groups have established ongoing networks and there are requests for more time at the next conference and for a form of infrastructure (perhaps through the IOHA website) for advertising SIG activities and issues. The SIGs formed at the conference were: archiving oral history, corporate history, environmental history, film and video, human rights and advocacy, independent practitioners, labor history, local and community history, migration and ethnicity, Indigenous memory, multimedia/digital storytelling, museums, oral history associations, performing arts, religious traditions, remembering war, reminiscence therapy, repression and violence, science and scientists, teaching and learning, and visual and creative arts.

Conference organizers Rosemary Block, Paula Hamilton and Janis Wilton were assisted by sponsorship and in kind support from a range of organizations and individuals. These included their own institutions which provided significant infrastructure support and each of which took on specific tasks: the State Library of NSW (<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au>) hosted the Master Classes, the University of Technology Sydney (<http://www.uts.edu.au>) provided the venue, and the University of New England (<http://www.une.edu.au>) hosted the website and online conference database. <http://www.arts.nsw.gov.au/>

Translation of abstracts and other conference materials was achieved with the generous assistance of Oriana Acevedo, Rina Benmayor, Lidia Bilabatua, Pilar Dominguez, Pilar Folguerra, Juan José Gutiérrez, Demetrio Padillo, and Marisol Wunder. The overall running of the conference was achieved with the dedicated and voluntary work of members of OHAA, IOHAA and other supporters. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation, ABC Radio National will be producing a radio program of the conference. Keep an eye on the website at <http://www.abc.net.au/rn>. Other material can be found in *On Tape* (Newsletter of the Oral History Association of Australia Queensland Branch), September 2006. <http://www.flexi.net.au/~mulligan/Newsletter.htm> CDROM of conference papers available for AUD \$15 plus postage and packaging. Email jwilton@une.edu.au.

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IOHA in Sydney: Perspectives from Argentina and Chile

ARGENTINA

The International IOHA Conference, recently held in Sydney, Australia coincided with the 10th anniversary of the association. During this event, I observed the diversity, quality and relevance of the papers presented.



What is always surprising about the IOHA conference is the presence of topics considered “marginal” among mainstream historians in “normal” history accustomed to working exclusively with documents. I attended a diverse number of sessions, including those related to the political past, the transmission of beliefs, healing memories, natural disasters, the relation between memory and imagination, radio history and the representation of the past. I met researchers from India, New Zealand and Japan who, in all likelihood, would not have been able to attend a similar conference in Argentina. I also felt very much a part of Latin America and the Iberian world, thanks to the friendliness and support of my colleagues from Spain, Mexico, Guatemala and Brazil.

I would especially like to mention that the IOHA is privileged to be able to count among its members people such as Alexander Von Plato, (the association's new vice-president) whose effort to integrate participants from diverse cultural background is especially appreciated. I can personally attest to this warmth: since the first IOHA conference I attended in Río de Janeiro in 1998, I observed Alexander's unwavering endeavour to communicate with his colleagues from all around the world, despite linguistic barriers. After attending several more IOHA events, I again witnessed this type of effort at the Sydney conference, especially in the efforts of Rosemary Block, Paula Hamilton and Janis Wilton. I can only extend my gratitude to these people.

A wonderful surprise was the session dedicated to the history of oral history. Although I sensed that Mexico's important contribution to the subject had been omitted, it was extremely interestingly to listen to first hand accounts and descriptions of important issues relevant to our association. Finally, I would like to mention the progress that has been made in the conference's organization. At the same time I would like to thank the City of Sydney and the State of New South Wales for hosting the event as well as for their general support and respect for bilingualism. More importantly, the event would not have been possible without the presence of the IOHA's outgoing president and current council member, Rina Benmayor.

While these short notes could titled “An Argentine Woman in Sydney”, such a heading would be simultaneously chauvinistic, Argentine-centric and not entirely truthful. There were two Argentine women at the International Oral History Convention in Sydney. Vera Carnovale presented her research on “Morality and Religion in the Construction of the Revolution Workers Party-Revolutionary Army's Identity” as did Graciela Browarnik, in a paper written with Laura Benadiba, titled “Halfway There: The Memories of Artist Activists in the Argentine Communist Party.” In my case, the IOHA grant committee generously covered my travel expenses. Without this assistance my participation in the conference would not have been possible. To everyone involved, thank you very much!

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The audience for the plenary session on the tenth anniversary of the IOHA

CHILE

Through the support of a travel grant received by the International Oral History Association I had the opportunity to participate in the XIV International Oral History Conference, “Dancing with Memory: Oral History and its Audience” in Sydney, Australia in June 2006. Here, I presented a paper titled “Oral history, the recovery of heritage games in the Magallanes region and their transmission in daycare centres.” I would like to highlight that this experience has been a very important part of my professional development. It is a topic that I would like to continue working with as I deeply identify with it. In Sydney, I enjoyed the high quality of the conference’s events, the warm welcome of the organisers and participants, the human level of communication and the cheerfulness of everyone present.

I also learnt a great deal about oral history and the resources and strategies that can be employed in approaching events in different settings. Of special interest were the strategies used to preserve events in the collective memory through photography and through storing information gathered through the protagonist's oral testimonies. Through these strategies I have become especially motivated to unveil history. Currently, I am working on many projects, one of which I am currently writing entitled “*Memories from another time*” which looks into the games and toys of boys during the last period of *salitre* (potash or saltpeter) mining in northern Chile. This paper will be presented to the Oral History Congress being held in Panama next January. The conference program was comprehensive and interesting. A wide number of themes were covered in seminars, classes, plenary sessions, papers, special topic tutorials, theatre



presentations and social awareness events. The conference's opening ceremony offered a sample of Australian aboriginal culture and allowed conference participants to meet. As well, during the preparatory stages of the conference, there were continual updates concerning the process of selecting papers and travel grant application procedures. The organising committee helped with submitting papers, visa paperwork as well providing other useful information regarding participation in this event. Computer support was particularly helpful for establishing contacts and reducing geographic distances.

The organizing committee's welcome was excellent and especially warm. It was clear that participants are as open as they are dedicated to oral history and to those human events which mark our lives. The common area, set aside for socializing and for showcasing future projects, renewed my motivation towards the topic of oral tradition. Finally, I again wish to thank the International Association of Oral History (IOHA) for awarding me a travel grant which allowed me to attend this event and the conference's organizing committee, especially Antonio Montenegro, Rina Benmayor, Janis Wilton, Rosie Block, Pilar Domínguez, Paula Hamilton and everyone from Latin America, Australia, New Zealand and others who I have been able to establish working ties and friendships with those who have encouraged me to continue working through this process.

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CANADA

Revival of the Canadian Oral History Association

During a successful Canadian oral history conference in August 2004, historians at the University of Winnipeg initiated a revival of the Canadian Oral History Association (COHA). Historians, folklorists, and archivists had founded COHA during Canada's first national oral history conference in 1974. It expanded successfully over the next ten to fifteen years, but drastic funding cutbacks by the federal and provincial governments hurt particularly one major backbone of the association, archivists. As a result, COHA lost much of its steam in the 1990s.

The situation is rapidly changing now. Co-chairs Alexander Freund and Nolan Reilly, secretary-treasurer Janis Thiessen, with the help of a group of enthusiastic local historians, archivists, and community activists, as well as oral history veterans from around the country, have taken on the responsibility of developing membership and raising Canadians' awareness of oral history. A first result of this is COHA's new website at <http://www.canoha.ca>. Still a work in progress, it has some attractive features: All back issues of *Forum*, the journal of COHA, are now available online—free access—in pdf-format. If you wish to receive the latest issue of *Forum* (volume 26, 2006), you can download a membership from the website and send it to the folks in Winnipeg.



Another feature of the website is the *Guide to Oral History Collections in Canada*. Available so far only in printed form, it is now a keyword-searchable database and serves as a powerful research tool. The most recent entries, however, are from 1993. Thus, a major project for the next year will be to update this guide.

Starting with the next volume in 2007, COHA plans to publish *Forum* as an online journal. This will allow authors to include excerpts from audio and video interviews and other documents. But the Winnipeg team does not focus solely on computer technology. We came to conclusion that we need to do some serious “consciousness raising.” Most Canadian academics have come to see oral history as merely a research method, but not as a means of democratizing history and changing the nature of historical inquiry and interpretation. Paradoxically, the use of oral history among academics and graduate students, school teachers, community activists, and legal advocates increased rapidly at the same time. More Canadians than ever are interested in and use oral history, but they are less and less connected with other oral historians around Canada and around the world. COHA's main goal is to change that.

One way in which we have been trying to connect to members is by listserv. We moderate an email discussion list to keep our members informed of what we are doing and to hear from them what they would like COHA to do. Everyone is welcome to listen in and participate. Information is available on our website. Another way to further the cause of oral history in Canada—and it would seem to be useful for other countries as well—is to investigate the connections between oral history and oral tradition. We strive to create a dialogue between oral historians and those working with and on oral tradition. Through this initiative, we believe that COHA can not only learn from the world but return some of its insights.

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JAPAN

Voices from the War and Colonial Era: Oral History and War, Japan Oral History Association, 23-24 September 2006

In April 2005, the Historical Science Society of Japan, one of the nation's largest historical associations, founded in 1932, held a special seminar on oral history. Once before, in 1988, the same society had reconsidered the value and position of oral history in Japan, and the results appeared in two books. The debate took place between the historians and a journalist who was doing research on the Japanese War atrocities in China, and a novelist who used a lot of historical records. Otherwise, oral history was largely ignored and remained stagnant. To address these issues, the Japan Oral History Association (JOHA) was set up

The 4th Conference of JOHA was successfully held at Tokyo University of Foreign Affairs, 23-24 September. It drew 138 people. The main theme this year was “War and the Colonial Era.”

Symposium panelists were Professor Masanori Nakamura, a historian, three members of the Recording War-Experience Preserving Society (two of them being war veterans), and Mr. Higa Toyomitsu, of Okinawa (Ryu-kyu)War Experience Society. The symposium aimed to introduce the citizen's movement to Reserve/Record War experience by audio-visual oral history. For many of the younger members of the audience, it was their first opportunity to “interview” actual war veterans. Two of the veterans and young volunteer member Junko Nakata explained their aim and activity. Prof. Nakamura , who has been discussing the value of oral history for more than thirty years at the Kanagawa Institute of Folklore Studies, introduced the “history of oral history” and his own research on Okinawa and Japanese women who were used as nurses by the Chinese Army during WWII, which led to a discussion of the ethics of oral history.



Twenty-seven people read their papers, details of which are on the JOHA web site joha.jp (in English, one in Korean, two in German, one in Chinese!). The session were titled “Narratable /Un-narratable,” “Colonial Occupation: How Can We Use the Oral Evidence?” “Individual Memories/National histories,” and “Diversity of Oral History.” The discussions were very active. Needless to say, the papers covered both the oppressor and oppressed sides, for instance, the sexually assaulted colonized subjects, as well as the Japanese soldiers who spent the rest of their lives in mental hospitals because of post-traumatic-stress-syndrome, Nagasaki, Hiroshima, Japanese-Koreans, the Korean leprosy subjects, and the soldiers who accepted the returnees from China. One veteran told his experience as a Dutch POW. All of the papers cast new light on WWII. They also dealt with other military subjects, such as German war veterans, and the conflicts in Northern Ireland and Cambodia. One of the paper presenter, Dr. Toru Shimizu, has been doing Oral History since 1979 years with Mexican Indigenous village Chamula. He also organized the Oral History Study Project in the Faculty of Economy, at Keio University, in



Tokyo. Dr. Shimizu has recently joined JOHA, and hopes to bring members to IOHA Mexico conference and also to make more active link with Mexican Oral History Association.

Paper presenters at the JOHA meeting ranged from 23 to 87 years of age. Both the growing interest in oral history and the research into war/colonial era gave us hope. JOHA will next meet at Nippon Women's University in September 2007 and all are welcome.

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NEW ZEALAND

National Oral History Association of New Zealand (NOHANZ): Te Kete Korero-a-Waha o Te Motu

NOHANZ celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. Planning is under way for the next conference which will be held in Wellington in mid-2007 where, to commemorate the anniversary, one of the themes will be the history of oral history in New Zealand. Details will be posted on the website: www.oralhistory.org.nz We are also organising a workshop for people who train oral historians which will be a mixture of presentations, group discussions and a general sharing of practices.

NOHANZ has recently published Maori and Oral History which collects together all the articles published in Oral History in New Zealand either by Maori authors or on Maori topics. It has sold very well, and we have had to reprint it twice. See the website for more details. And we are always looking for papers for our refereed journal, Oral History in New Zealand. The closing date is mid-July each year. Contact Megan Hutching or Anna Green for more details: megan.hutching@mch.govt.nz or anna.green@aut.ac.nz

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PORTUGAL

Oral History, Living History. First International Oral History Congress, 26-28 October 2006, University of Porto.

The First International Oral History Congress, organized by the Department of History of the University of Porto (Portugal), took place from the 26th to the 28th October 2006, in Porto,



Portugal, with the theme: “Oral History, Living History.” Being the first in Portugal on this field of study, this Congress aimed to bring oral history to the Portuguese public’s attention by inviting the leading international and Portuguese oral historians. The goal was to reflect on oral history in a scientific manner, reviewing its past trajectory, drawing upon recent developments, and evaluating its future. Over one hundred people attended, mostly Master of Arts students in contemporary history and the history of education, indicating a growing interest in oral history on the part of the Portuguese higher education community.

Eleven papers were presented by Pilar Dominguez, Paula Godinho, Federico Lorenz, Antonio Montenegro, Regina Neto, Robert Perks, Deolinda Pires, Alessandro Portelli, Jorge Rocha, Alistair Thomson, and Stephen Weiss. They reflected upon various issues related to oral history, including its evolution and current highlights, new technological arenas, specific contexts and practices in working with oral testimonies, theoretical and methodological approaches, and the different layers of socio-cultural remembrance.

Jorge Rocha, on behalf of the Portuguese section of the Museum of the Person, presented examples of Portuguese research projects through which the collection of testimonies brings together older people, schoolchildren, companies, and university researchers. Likewise, Deolinda Pires focused on a specific oral history project with a Portuguese company keen on preserving its employees’ memories. Paula Godinho, drawing upon her own research, explored the ways in which oral history was instrumental in examining an undocumented episode of Portuguese contemporary history.

Responding to Pilar Dominguez’ paper on the Spanish experience, those attending the Congress discussed the possible creation of the Portuguese Oral History Association. They agreed to keep a closer contact between Portuguese and international researchers who work with oral sources. On the last day, a crowded workshop was conducted by Antonio Montenegro and Regina Neto on the use of oral sources in historical research. The organizers, speakers, and other participants found this a most rewarding event on both the academic and personal level. The interest of the participants manifested itself in the dialogue established during the sessions and parallel conversations that took place throughout the event, making this a meeting point for sharing ideas and articulating projects and research methodologies. The Congress organizers were also most honored to count on the presence of Alistair Thomson, President of IOHA and other Council members. Hopefully, this Congress has given more visibility to oral history in Portugal and connected researchers using oral history interviews, integrating them into the existing international network. We are certainly looking forward to future events!

For further information, contact: **Angela Campos** (Congress Organizing Committee), a.d.c.ferreira-campos@sussex.ac.uk

SOUTH AFRICA

Oral History Association of South Africa Website



Formally constituted in October 2005, at a meeting in Johannesburg, the Oral History Association of South Africa has inaugurated its website: www.ohasa.org.za and invites oral historians to visit it and spread the word to their colleagues. The association held its third national conference in Richards Bay, KwaZulu-Natal, 7-10 November 2006. More than thirty were presented from all the provinces of South Africa and neighboring countries. The abstracts of the papers are posted on the OHASA website.

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UNITED STATES

Accomplished Past, Challenging Future: Kentucky Oral History Commission thirtieth anniversary program, Louisville, Kentucky, 8-9 September 2006

To mark its thirtieth anniversary, the Kentucky Oral History Commission held a conference and workshop in Louisville that showcased the diverse oral history that the commission has sponsored over the years and brought together many prominent oral historians who have been associated with its work. Former directors Kim Lady Smith and Doug Boyd organized the program, which included panel discussions on how the practice of oral history has evolved over the past three decades. Speakers included Alessandro Portelli, Charles Morrissey, Rebecca Sharpless, John Neuenschwander, and Anne and Don Ritchie.

Since 1976 the state-funded Commission has awarded more than 450 grants to individuals, universities, and community organizations that have resulted in the collection of an estimated 25,000 interviews. Among its major projects are the Civil Rights Movement in Kentucky Project, which produced 200 interviews and a documentary film, "Living the Story: The Civil Rights Movement in Kentucky." Other projects have dealt with family farming, Appalachian history, community history, and Kentucky authors. visit its oral history database at www.kyhistory.gov

Generational Links: Confronting the Past, Understanding the Present, Planning the Future, Oral History Association, Little Rock, Arkansas, 25-29 October 2006

In 1957 the U.S. government sent troops to Little Rock, Arkansas to carry out court-ordered desegregation of the city's main public high school. Angry crowds had gathered outside the school, and the state's governor had used the Arkansas National Guard to prevent nine African-American students from entering the all-white school. Almost fifty years later, two of the students who integrated Little Rock's Central High School, participated in the annual Oral History Association meeting, sharing their reminiscences of that pivotal events, and their assessment of the movement for racial equality in the United States. The largest share of sessions dealt with matters of race, ethnicity, civil rights, and social justice in the American South. The



program also featured several sessions on recording oral histories of Hurricane Katrina and its affect on the people of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.

This meeting celebrated the association's fortieth anniversary, and included commentary on the history of oral history and the evolution of the Oral History Association. Held near the new William J. Clinton Presidential Library, the conference program also included sessions on presidential and congressional oral history projects, and a report on oral histories gathered about the disputed vote in Florida during the presidential election of 2000.

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From Page to Mouth

Oral History Projects

ITALY

Here Magazine

Here magazine was launched in Italy in Italian in 1999 to gather testimonies, descriptions, and reflections on the private-public times we live in, in whatever forms writing allows for: notes, poetry, stories, letters, essays, and diary entries. The magazine is published in English, with future collaborators drawn from different countries in the world.

The latest issue is entitled “Away from Home,” and includes diary entries from Ukraine, Israel, the United States, Italy, Iraq, and Morocco; several short stories, essays, and a poem by Giusi Busceti, “World (Cup).” As the editor explains: “The magazine will come out both on paper and on the Internet every four months, in February, June and October, and will contain diary pages written, respectively, between September and December, January and April, May and August. Whoever would like to collaborate will be welcome, and will write, of course, what he or she prefers; but in selecting writings, we will prefer those reflections and life experiences that are not the most ‘original’, but the most incisive, revealing and free (the least contaminated, for instance, by the media blah-blah). Why a diary? Because all together on these pages we want to be ‘witness’ to the times we are living in: to read and comment on them together, periodically offering readers the possibility of reliving a recent past, which they themselves have experienced, through a ‘chorus’ of diverse voices. Moreover, a diary is an exercise of attention. And it can also be a container for scattered thoughts, observations, and questions: those which never become ‘fully expressed’, and which, especially in our times when it is a matter of re-considering everything, may offer some precious help.”

Here is published both in printed form and on the Internet (www.quihere.eu). Anyone who would like to receive a paper copy or a three-issue subscription can place a credit card order via fax or phone (0039-02-57406574), providing us with the card number and expiration date. A single issue costs 10 Euros (13 \$US), and a complementary sample copy of one of the most recent issues can also be requested if you are interested in subscribing. A three-issue subscription costs 30 Euros (38 \$US) in Europe and the Mediterranean area, or 35 Euros (45 \$US) in the rest of the world; however, reduced-price subscriptions are available.

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LIBYA***Revisiting a Pioneer: The Libyan Jihad Oral History Centre***

A visit to the Jihad Centre for Historical Studies in Tripoli turned out to be a remarkable experience in the daily workings of one of the first historical institutions that made oral history its principal research activity. Modern oral history, as a method, research discipline, and alternative historical approach, found a fecund terrain in Libya, where oral tradition and the verbal arts pervaded popular culture as a mode of social negotiation and intra-generational transmission of knowledge. With its foundation in 1978, the Oral History Centre in Tripoli, became one of the earliest research institutions in the world to recognize the value of oral history in the construction of a “people’s history” (taken in a populist sense) and use it as a unique means to reclaim indigenous memories of a past anti-colonial resistance which had been either neglected or suppressed by official history. Straight away, this research centre became a point of gravitation for individual Libyan historians but also for other scholars from neighboring countries. It also became a catalyst for the spread and popularization of oral history practice in North Africa, by providing assistance in the teaching of oral history and in the launching of similar projects.

The foundation of this *Jihad* (here meaning resistance against colonial occupation) Centre for historical studies took place during the early post-colonial phase of Libya and the neighboring countries. An initial debate was generated, in both university academic and other scholarly circles in the region, on people’s collective memory and the use of oral history to generate a new post-independence approach to history. In this new historical perspective, oral history came to be viewed as a principal means to mediate and articulate authentic people’s voices in the molding of a postcolonial national historical identity. The recording of fresh memories of the most recent colonial past, as narrated by the actual protagonists, was perceived as the most democratic alternative to the top-to-bottom, Eurocentric, colonialist interpretation of the region’s history. In Libya, in the late 1970s, the Italian colonial occupation (1911-1943) was still remembered by many of the elderly. They recollected repressive events and acts of vengeance and battles, but also experiences of their daily life under colonial rule. Several of these veterans had been front-line members of the resistance movement, while others resisted colonial rule through other means. Still alive in the late 1970s, most of these were by then nestled in their native villages dotting the vast Libyan territory. A massive effort was therefore needed to get in touch with, and systematically record, as many eyewitnesses as possible, to save their narratives from extinction, in a situation where the native people’s history of resistance against Italian occupation was still unwritten.

These ideas fell into the logic of a whole post-independence anti-colonial historiographical current, that the history of a country like Libya, like most of the “Third World,” “needed to be decolonized, to be rescued, from the tyranny of official documentation, to be allowed to study all facets of the Past,” as David Henige put it in 1982. According to this reasoning, the colonial, prejudiced, top-to-bottom vista inherent in the contemporary records neglected the life experiences, daily activities and world outlook of the subject people, and could be redressed by

the “scholarly pursuit of oral historiography.” Within this theoretical frame of reference, the Jihad Oral History Centre immediately launched a major project, still in progress, to interview all of the surviving *Mujahidin* (resistance fighters).

Jan Vansina, historian, anthropologist and pioneer oral historian, organized the Oral History Centre, taught the first generation of Libyan oral historians modern oral history techniques and theories, and designed and supervised the first phase of the project to record people’s narratives on the Jihad against Italian occupation. Vansina’s impact on the employment of oral history in Libya and nearby countries, and the significance of this same experience on his own subsequent elaboration of oral history fieldwork methods, techniques and theoretical issues, can be found in some of his published works, although it would be very profitable to make this a research topic on its own.

This first oral history project on the Jihad encompassed all of Libya’s communities by dividing the terrain of this vast country in seventeen fieldwork districts. This geographical partition of Libya for research purposes has structured all subsequent oral history ventures undertaken by the Centre, including a recently launched project on the social and economic history of Libyan communities. This is meant to be another long-term venture, aiming to dig deep in the different communities’ past modes of living through a cumulative method of research in which oral history plays a pivotal part.

The “lessons learnt” from this project are now employed to elaborate fieldwork methods/techniques used in new ventures. A series of semi-structured questions in printed form, with space for the inclusion of more ancillary information and annotations, stills form the spinal cord of all oral history work undertaken. As context is imperative in such extensive projects, a general holistic approach has been developed wherein veterans are interviewed in their intimate spaces, household and community terrains, surrounded by their immediate cultural references.

Oral historians and their fieldwork teams—known as “research workers”—have been photographing or filming the elderly interviewees in their surroundings, and in locations mentioned in their narratives, annotating and copying old photographs and written records, and gathering artefacts. The whole “package of evidence” is deposited at the Tripoli Jihad Centre and, from time to time, exhibited for the public. Younger oral historians, trained by the first group of Vansina’s students, spread in teams, interviewing veterans in the urban areas in the nearby districts, or in organized fieldwork expeditions to the remote villages. They employ face-to-face negotiations, sustained by an established network of contacts, in order to get in touch with specific individuals or households. This enables them to tap in, and record, localized nexus of shared memories. To date, this oral history project has produced a collection of 7,451 recorded tapes, all of which have been transcribed (with 4,468 of them fully indexed/classified). Although most of the tapes have been recorded on tape, digitalization has started. This has already facilitated multiple level research and the publication of full text narratives in Arabic in a series entitled the *Jihad Narrations Encyclopaedia*, which has reached its forty second volume.

Approaching the thirtieth anniversary of its foundation in 2008, with more work in preparation, the oral history core of the Jihad Centre for historical Studies in Tripoli has come a long way, from its origins as a pioneer in the practice of oral history, to serve as a potential site for initiating a critical debate on the multiple uses of oral history in a post-colonial setting.

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SPAIN

Voices from the Mountain: Histories and Memories of a Disappearing Form of Rural Life

With the acceptance of Spain in the Common European Market in the 1980s, a rapid phase of changes in the agricultural markets legislation led to a dramatic transformation of rural villages, particularly in the region of Asturias. The physical layout of mountainous Asturias and a significant and continued presence of human settlements throughout the centuries created a pastoral culture based on extensive cattle herding. The longstanding presence of this practice shaped the emergence of a mountainous space rich in man-made grasslands and ground beds, locally known as *majadas* and *brañas*, as well as great amount of human and cattle movement. Our oral history focused on the valley of Viango, lands communally owned by the village of Porrúa in the region of Llanes, eastern Asturias.

Our project aims at documenting the last few years of practice of the old agricultural system and examines the transformation of the high mountain valley's economy. It reviews strategies followed by families of landowners to maintain their property under a new set of rules that has complicated the viable use of the grazing lands. To carry out this project, we relied on first-hand interviewing of members of families that continue to work the valley. We also depended on existing regional archives, and on the rich ethnographic record maintained at the Ethnographic Museum of Eastern Asturias. While existing records and studies give a sound understanding of the everyday life of rural villages such as Porrúa, little or nothing has been done to document the traditional relationship of the village with high mountain valleys as the case of Porrúa-Viango, with its communal ownership of the land, when the economic systems that fostered it have disappeared.

The research is being carried out in four stages. The first involves the collection of secondary source materials, and the mapping of the region. The mapping includes the identification of families and individuals with existing ties to the valley of Viango. The second stage involves the description of current activities and uses of the valley, including festivities, cattle management and new uses, such as touristic routs and services. Most of the information in this stage will be collected through informal interviewing and group discussions, mostly in the village of Porrúa. The third stage is the collection of oral histories with members of four to six selected families that will be used to illustrate aspects and strategies emerging as a result of the transformation of the local economy. The last stage will include focused interviews to document in audio an video

specific aspects of the project.

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Applying New Technologies to the Memory and History of Les Corts Women's Prison

Presodelescorts.org: Les Corts Women's Prison, 1939-1955 is a project created by the recently formed Association for the Recuperation of Catalan Historical Memory, developed with the generous support of the Generalitat de Catalunya's Program for Democratic Memory. The organizers' primary aim can be summed up as the recovery and dissemination of historical memory with pedagogical and social objectives through the use of new technologies. The idea of the project began with the proposal to make publically available existing knowledge on a specific historical realities outside the walls of academe. In our case, this is the protracted women's prison of Les Corts in Barcelona during the Francoist dictatorship.

The Women's Prison of Les Corts, opened during the height of the Spanish Civil War, was converted during the Francoist period into mass detention center, like many other prisons throughout Spain. The few existing studies on the topic suggest that during 1939 and 1940 thousands of prisoners were crowded into a facility designed for one hundred. It served as a repressive female detention center until 1955, but its recent demolition removed all physical evidence of the prison. Not even a commemorative plaque reminds one of its existence. The story of Les Corts Women's Prison stands as an example of what happened in many other centers of mass repression throughout Spain that have never been acknowledged as "places of memory" by the Spanish people.

Presodelescorts.org is a web-based organization that easily allows for the addition of large quantities of information in distinct formats, such as written texts, images and audio clips from interviews. The website is bilingual except for the texts of the original testimonies that have been transcribed in their original language, Catalan or Spanish. The site also contains the necessary tools to guarantee full accessibility for those with disabilities.

A fundamental aspect of presodelescorts.org is its ongoing development and improvement. As a key principle, the website openly accepts news and information, testimonies and suggestions. Presodelescorts.org's specific objectives are: 1) Collect, process and copy to appropriate media as well as distribute over the internet the oral and written testimonies of women incarcerated in Les Corts prison. 2) Make widely available *presodelescorts.org* to a general audience, especially to those groups who have inspired the recovery of the historical memory within Catalunya and Spain. 3) Offer presodelescorts.org to specialised researchers, historians and sociologists in academe and universities in Catalunya and in other the Spanish regions. 4) Develop an educational and pedagogical dimension within the project which will be offered to educators dedicated to the historical memory of our country, above all those who use oral sources in educational centres. 5) Serve as a bridge and a meeting place for all participants



including researchers, teachers and the general public, as well as other important bodies such as archives or foundations which have transcribed oral testimony collections.

The Contents of presodelescorts.org are arranged into four principle categories.

- 1) The Prison: A historical synthesis accompanied by a photo gallery from the Arxiu Minicipal of Les Corts. This is complemented with urban maps and a chronology of events, covering relevant episodes that occurred within of the Francoist prison.
- 2) The Voices: A series of testimonies of women who were detained at Les Corts. Some are preserved as recordings while others have been transcribed into text. The project began by collecting nine testimonies, eight with women who were imprisoned, and one with the daughter of an incarcerated woman. Each testimony contains supplementary information including the biography, bibliography, and family photo albums. Some of the women have died but have left their testimony in interviews stored in archives or reproduced in texts and compiled works. Several interviews are also being re-done. All interviews are placed into historical context, with annotated references to other testimonies or studies dealing with the events in the account.
- 3) The Images: Compiling graphic sources has been part of the study of the Francoist prison. The source of these images are from the Biblioteca de la Dirección General de Instituciones Penitenciarias de Madrid [The Library of the Secretariat of Penetenciary Institutions of Madrid].
- 4) The Texts: This section brings together four types of written documentary sources.

To complement to the four central areas, the site will contain two additional sections:

Methodology: There will be a separate area dedicated to explaining the methodology used while compiling and commenting on written and oral sources.

Material: For in-depth studies of Les Corts Prision a complete list of recommended primary sources (written, recorded and audiovisual) as well as secondary sources will be provided

Contact: Web readers will be invited to leave comments and suggestions. There is also the opportunity of adding new information such as contacts for interviews or unedited sources.

Finally, Presodelescorts.org's continual development opens the door for suggestions and contributing news and additional testimonies. This ongoing exchange of information with a wider audience we expect will transform the readership into both the subject and active agent in the creation and maintenance of the web page.

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UNITED STATES

Italian Oral History Institute

The Italian Oral History Institute (Los Angeles), a non-profit educational institution, founded and directed by Luisa Del Giudice, closed its doors in 2006. The IOHI Collections are now housed in the UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive (<http://www.ethnomusic.ucla.edu/archive/>) while its recently-launched Web site on Italian Los Angeles will affiliate with another organization. The IOHI has gained much respect in the arts and culture community locally, nationally, and internationally with such highly-acclaimed programs as conference/festivals: 1) *Performing Ecstasies: Music, Dance and Ritual in the Mediterranean* (cf. publication, ed. by LDG and Nancy Van Deusen, Ottawa: Institute for Medieval Music, 2005); 2) *Italian Jews: Memory, Music, Celebration*; 3) *Italian Los Angeles: Celebrating Italian Life, Local History, and the Arts in Southern California*; 4) *Speaking Memory: Oral History, Oral Culture and Italians in America* (the 38th conference of the American Italian Historical Association; publication forthcoming, ed. by LDG). Its Web site, Italian Los Angeles: A Resource Guide to Italian Los Angeles, and many exhibitions, concerts, tours, workshops and lectures, is at: www.ItalianLosAngeles.org

For more on the IOHI see: www.iohi.org

Hurricane Digital Memory Bank

An open-access, on-line database project at <http://www.hurricanearchive.org> collects, preserves, and presents photographs, stories, oral history audio and video files and transcriptions related to Hurricanes Rita, Katrina, and Wilma. The databank includes the submissions of individuals as well as collections from various organizations. A joint venture of the University of New Orleans and the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, the project also streams short and feature-length documentaries produced by local filmmakers as part of the New Orleans Video Access Center collection. In addition to keyword searches, individual submissions can be found via its map browser: <http://www.hurricanearchive.org/map/>

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From Mouth to Page

Oral History Archives

UNITED KINGDOM

British Library Sound Archive, London, New Oral History Acquisitions 2005-6

Two major fieldwork programs were completed over the past year: “Lives in the Oil Industry” (177 interviews), a collaborative project with Aberdeen University focusing on North Sea oil and gas exploration; and “Book Trade Lives,” comprising 118 interviews documenting bookselling, publishing and wholesaling from the 1920s. Our Artists' Lives project celebrated its fifteenth year with its 235th life story interview (with Simon Lewty). Interviewees have ranged from Eileen Agar (1889-1991), whose memories stretch back into the nineteenth century, to younger Scottish artists such as Abigail McLellan (b 1969). Major funding from the Rootstein Hopkins Foundation will allow Artists Lives to add a steady flow of new interviews over the next few years. A full annual report can be downloaded from <http://www.bl.uk/collections/sound-archive/nlsc.html>, which also details our other ongoing fieldwork programs in the areas of the crafts, the food industry (including an oral history of supermarket giant Tesco), theater design, social welfare, disability, horticulture, fashion and sport. Our online catalog provides more details of each collection at www.cadensa.bl.uk.



-Courtesy Hugo Manson/Aberdeen University

Among donated collections, a major acquisition of 300 digital recordings with over 1200 people all over the UK was received from the BBC as part of their “Voices” project, one of the largest-

ever linguistic surveys in Britain. The Harman-Shepherd collection of interviews with a cross-party group of 83 women Members of Parliament, recorded and deposited by Boni Sones, is embargoed for five years but extracts have already appeared on BBC Radio 4 and in a book *Women in Parliament: The New Suffragettes* (Politico's). The Society of Archivists Oral History Project, 69 interviews with senior members of the profession, were gathered as part of the Society's 50th anniversary reflecting changes in conservation and records management, and came to us with full transcripts. Some acetate recordings of Leonard Cheshire were deposited by the Leonard Cheshire Archive Centre: Group Captain Cheshire VC commanded the famous RAF 617 "Dambusters" Squadron and later established the Cheshire homes for older and disabled people. Finally, a not yet cataloged collection of interviews relating to the introduction of the contraceptive pill in the 1960s was deposited by Lara Marks, originally recorded for her book *Sexual Chemistry: A History of the Contraceptive Pill* (Yale University Press).

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Books

***Jamaican Hands Across the Atlantic*, by Elaine Bauer and Paul Thompson, IAN RANDLE PUBLISHERS, 2006. <http://www.ianrandlepublishers.com/books/jcanhand.htm> US\$ 24.95; UK 16.95**

Leaving aside the forced migrations of the slave era, Jamaican migration goes back over a century initially within the Caribbean to countries like Panama but it was the post-1945 trek to Britain that signaled a new phase in Jamaican and West Indian migration. Large scale migration of Jamaicans to North America began later in the 1970s and there are now reported to be over a million Jamaicans in New York alone. Although there have been valuable studies of West Indians in Toronto and New York, none have looked at the triangular family connections between Britain, North America and Jamaica.

This book is a study of some 45 families originating in Jamaica who also have members in both Britain, the US and Canada. Oral interviews with these families provide insights into the dynamics of transnational families. The authors conclude that Jamaican transnational families are important as key witnesses to understanding the experiences of migration, global living with family members scattered between continents, the instability of parents' shifting relationships and encounters with both racial mixing and racism.

Further, because of the modernity of their family structures, they provide important clues for the future of the majority of white families of the twenty-first century both in difficulties and in solutions. The book is written in an accessible style and is rich in vivid quotations from family members. It will appeal to several readerships including the broad audience interested in Caribbean families and culture, Black Cultural Studies, Race and Diaspora Studies.

Elaine Bauer is an Anthropologist researching on black-white couples and their families. She is a Fellow at the Young Foundation, London. Paul Thompson is Research Professor in Sociology at the University of Essex. He is founder-editor of *Oral History* and founder of the National Life

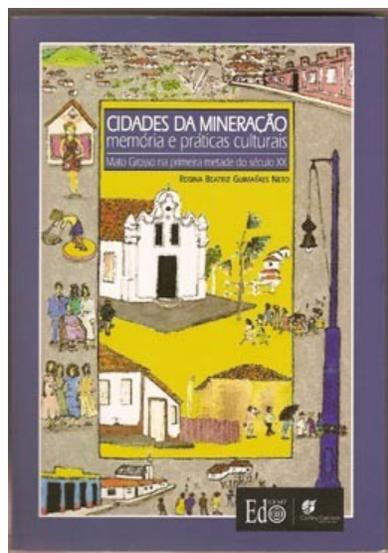
Story Collection at the British Library. His many books include *The Edwardians*; *Living the Fishing*, *Growing Up in Stepfamilies*; and *The Voice of the Past*.

In this vivid and readable text, Elaine Bauer and Paul Thompson provide a wealth of new insights into the pivotal role played by the Jamaican family in transnational migration. Using extensive interview material and oral testimonies, they track the complex pathways by which the family connects different experiences and generations, sustains networks and links pasts and future across the vicissitudes imposed by separation, time and space.

Stuart Hall

Never Too Small to Remember: Memory Work and Resilience in Times of AIDS, edited by Philippe Denis, South Africa: CLUSTER PUBLICATIONS, 2005

With thousands of children being orphaned by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, South African oral historians at the Simolando Center for Oral History and Memory in Pietermaritzburg launched the Memory Box Program in 2001. The program operates under the assumption that children who retain positive recollections of their deceased parents will develop more resilience and be able to cope with their hardship. With the cooperation of the family, their story is recorded, transcribed, and compiled in a booklet for the children and their caregivers. The Memory Box is a wooden, metal, or cardboard box that holds photos and other memorabilia belonging to the deceased, along with the text of their interviews. The volume includes essays on the project's methodology, the training program, its cultural significance, and means of measuring resilience. A training manual is included as an appendix. The editor notes that memory box methodology is becoming increasingly popular in southern and eastern Africa and is supplementing the African tradition of storytelling, as the tellers of the story fall victim to the disease.





“Cidades da Mineração” [Cultural Memory and Practices], by Regina Beatriz Guimaraes Neto. EDITORA DA UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE MATO GROSSO, Brasil, 2006.

In this work, the author analyses, through experience and motive, different social groups that emigrated to the mining towns of Mato Grosso in the first half of the twentieth century. As the professor explains in the prologue, the book questions traditional historiography concerning central-west Brazil that describes an uninhabited region

Research is based on oral accounts of individuals and collective groups (relatives) of the city's first inhabitants, *hacendados*, businessmen and women. Interviews were made in the perspective of life history. The interviews were made with the perspective of life histories. Also, available written documents in the region have extensively been used. Undoubtedly, this is an excellent sample of the potential of Brazilian oral history.



Journals

Oral History, Vol. 34, no 2, Autumn 2006

ARTICLES:

So Much Depends on a Red Bus, Or, Innocent Victims of the Liberating Gun, *Alessandro Portelli*

Memories of the War and the War of Memories in Post-Communist Bulgaria, *Daniela Koleva*

The Politics of “Selective “Memory: Re-Visiting Canadian Women’s Wartime Work ion the Public Record, *Pamela Wakewich and Helen Smith*

“These Feelings Fill My Heart”: Japanese Canadian Women’s Memories of Internment, *Pamea Sugiman*

Humor in Oral History Interviews, *Neal R. Norrick*

London’s Voices: Exhibiting Oral History, *Annette Day*

All the articles are abstracted on the Oral History Society website: <http://www.oralhistory.org.uk>

Oral History Review, Vol 32, no 2, Summer/Fall 2005

ARTICLES:

Talking about Remembering and Forgetfulness in Oral History Interviews, *Neal R. Norrick*

Ask and Tell: Gay Veterans, Identity, and oral History on a Civil Rights Frontier, *Steve Estes*

Secrets, Lies, and Misremembering, Take II, *Sandy Polishuk*

When Subjects Talk Back: Writing Anne Braden’s Life-In-Progress, *Catherine Fosl*

Negotiating Voices: Biography and the Curious Triangle Between Subject, Author, and Editor, *Deborah A. Gershenowitz*

Pushing Boundaries in oral History-Based Biographies, *Kathryn L. Nasstrom*



Put it in Writing

WORDS AND SILENCES the journal of the IOHA, is seeking contributions for the 2007 issue, articles, reviews of books, films, plays or other performances or exhibits that rely on oral history.

GUIDELINES:

Contributions may be written in English or Spanish (or both, which would save us translation work).

Use Word for windows 95 or later.

In short pieces please include references, if necessary, in the text and not as footnotes.

For longer pieces, place footnotes at the end, as text and not in the automatic format.

References:

(a) Author (first and last name), Title (bold if a book, "in quotes if an article, diss, etc."), Publication data (Place, Publisher, date if book; name of journal in bold, no. and date if article), p. or pp.

(b) Subsequent references: Author's last name, shortened title, p. or pp.

(c) Interviews: Interviewee's full name, interviewed by (interviewer's full name), place, date, reference to collection if any.

Please email your article as an attachment to:

wordsandsilences@inah.gob.mx or gnecoechea.deh@deh.inah.gob.mx

The DEADLINE for receipt of contributions is 1 February 2007.

Please pass this request on to other oral historians.



H-ORALHIST

H-Oralhist (<http://www.h-net.org/~oralhist/>), is an on-line network for those interested in studies related to oral history. It is a member of the H-Net, the Humanities & Social Sciences Online initiative, an international interdisciplinary organization of scholars and teachers dedicated to utilizing the enormous educational potential of the Internet and the World Wide Web. Its edited lists and web sites publish peer reviewed essays, multimedia materials, and discussion for scholars and the interested public. The computing heart of H-Net resides at the Center for Humane Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences Online, at Michigan State University, but H-Net officers, editors and subscribers come from all over the globe. You can subscribe for free to the oral history list at: <http://www.h-net.org/lists/subscribe.cgi?list=H-OralHist>

IOHA Membership Details

The International Oral History Association (IOHA) was formally constituted in June 1996 at the Eleventh International Oral History Conference in Goteborg, Sweden. The Association provides a forum for oral historians around the world, in order to foster international communication and cooperation and a better understanding of the nature and value of oral history. The Association meets every two years in a different region or continent. Benefits of membership include:

- concessionary rates for the biennial international oral history conferences
- copies of *Words and Silences*, the annual, bilingual (English and Spanish) Journal of the IOHA (containing oral history articles, an index of oral history journals from around the world, special items and commentaries on oral history issues)
- access to the IOHA home page on the world wide web
- access to IOHA News, the on-line newsletter of the Association
- voting rights at the Association's General Meetings and Council elections
- active participation in the international community of oral historians.

Membership is open to any individual or institution supporting the aims and objectives of the Association. The Association is governed by a Council elected at the General Meeting of the biennial international oral history conference. The President of the Association is Al Thomson, from the United Kingdom and Australia, and current Council members come from Brazil,



Canada, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.

For membership forms, go to Membership on the IOHA website. For inquiries e-mail the Association's treasurer, Almut Leh (almut.leh@fernuni-hagen.de).

Fees for two-year membership (July 2006 - June 2008)

Individuals: 46 Euros

Institutions: 92 Euros

Students: 23 Euros

IOHA Newsletter Guidelines and Deadlines:

Copy is preferred as Microsoft Word attachment. Footnotes included in items should be included only in parentheses and not formatted. Images and illustrations should be scanned at 72dpi, and sent in jpg or pic formats.

Send via e-mail to both co-editors:

Pilar Domínguez (Spanish text)- pdprats@dch.ulpgc.es

Don Ritchie (English text) - oralhistorians@comcast.net

Maximum Length:

- Future conferences, meetings, and other announcements: 250 words
- Conference reports: 500 words
- Archive News: 500 words
- New Projects: 1000 words

Deadlines:

October 15 - posted to web site in January.

April 15 – posted to web site in June

If you change your email address, please notify the IOHA treasurer, Almut Leh (almut.leh@fernuni-hagen.de).