



**Presidential Address
and Awards Ceremony**

27 April 2001 • Los Angeles

The Power of History



KENNETH T. JACKSON
Columbia University

In some respects, the discipline of history is in excellent shape in the United States, at least as measured by the success of The History Channel, the best-seller status of some books, the popularity of history themes in various forms of entertainment, the growth in attendance at national parks celebrating the nation's past, and the quality of scholarship and the range of topics being addressed by professors, graduate students, and freelance authors. In other respects, however, our profession is in crisis. The presidential address will focus on the challenges to the discipline we love and suggest ways of improving the status of history in the twenty-first century.



DARLENE CLARK-HINE
OAH President-Elect
Michigan State University
Presiding

2001 OAH Awards and Prizes

The Organization of American Historians sponsors awards and prizes given in recognition of scholarly and professional achievements in the field of American history. Please join us in congratulating the following 2001 OAH award and prize winners.

OAH Distinguished Service Award

The Executive Board of the Organization of American Historians has conferred its Distinguished Service Award upon **Richard Kirkendall** and **Maeva Marcus**.

Richard S. Kirkendall was educated at Gonzaga University in his native Washington and at the University of Wisconsin. During his long career he was professor of history at the University of Missouri and Indiana University before holding the Henry Wallace Professorship of History at Iowa State University and the Scott and Dorothy Bullitt Professorship of History at the University of Washington where he now serves as professor emeritus.

A distinguished scholar, Professor Kirkendall has written extensively on the Truman Administration and on government agricultural policy during the 1930s and 1940s. An authority on Henry A. Wallace, Kirkendall is currently writing a trilogy on Wallace's life.

Professor Kirkendall has served his profession through a number of organizations. He was vice president of the Professional Division of the American Historical Association and has contributed his time and energy for many years to both the Agricultural History Society and the Truman Library Institute.

Professor Kirkendall served with distinction as executive secretary of the OAH from 1973 to 1981. He had previously served on the Membership Committee, chaired the Nominating Board and the Frederick Jackson Turner Award Committee, and was a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of American History*. As executive secretary, he initiated and directed a great expansion in the functions and activities of the organization. Very concerned about broadening the appeal of the organization, Kirkendall worked closely with other historical organizations and served as an advocate for the profession emphasizing the importance of both scholarship and teaching. His most recent OAH service has been as a member of the Development Committee. Professor Kirkendall's service and the crucial leadership role he played in shaping the OAH, its publications, its programs, and its services to members and the profession, make him a worthy recipient of the OAH Distinguished Service Award.

Maeva Marcus, a native of New York, was educated at Brandeis University and Columbia University where she began her scholarly career in American and American legal history. After a brief stint as an instructor at the Waterbury Branch of the University of Connecticut, she became in 1977 the editor of the *Documentary History of the Supreme Court* and the research director of the Supreme Court Historical Society. In that position, she worked additionally with the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Park Service, and the NHPRC to further the interests of American historians in various agency undertakings. She has also been helpful to an entire generation of historians who have profited from her extraordinary access to information about the history of the Supreme Court or other aspects of American legal and political history.

As a scholar, Marcus's publications have ranged from her early book on *Truman and the Steel Seizure Case*, nominated for the Bancroft and Pulitzer Prizes, the Frederick Jackson Turner Award, the Albert J. Beveridge Prize and the David D. Lloyd Prize, to her more recent work in the legal history of the Early Republic. In addition to editing six volumes of the *Documentary History of the Supreme Court of the United States, 1789-1800*, she has published a dozen and a half articles in law and historical journals as well as in essay collections published here and abroad.

Her service to the profession has been widespread. She chaired the Littleton–Griswold Prize Committee for the American Historical Association and served on the Board of Directors and several committees of the American Society for Legal History as well as on the editorial boards of *Law and History Review* and the *Journal of Supreme Court History*. She is Historian of the Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit and was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the Permanent Committee for the Oliver Wendell Holmes Devise.

Dr. Marcus has served the OAH in numerous ways including membership on the Louis Pelzer Memorial Award Committee, the Oversight Committee for the History Teaching Alliance, and the 1987 Program Committee. She was cochair of the 1992 Program Committee and chair of the Richard Leopold Prize Committee. She served on the Committee on International Initiatives and most recently on the International Committee, at a time when that committee was helping the organization to internationalize American history.

Maeva Marcus is an excellent example of a public historian who makes a difference through her scholarship and service to the profession. She is most worthy of the honor conferred on her by the OAH Distinguished Service Award.

ABC-CLIO America: History and Life Award

The ABC-CLIO America: History and Life Award is a biennial award given to recognize and encourage scholarship in American history in the journal literature advancing new perspectives on accepted interpretations or previously unconsidered topics.

The ABC-CLIO Prize Committee unanimously chose **Christopher L. Brown's** article, "Empire Without Slaves: British Concepts of Emancipation in the Age of the American Revolution" *William and Mary Quarterly* (April, 1999). Brown examines British abolitionist thought in the period between the Seven Years' War and the American Revolution, a time when the administration of Britain's colonial empire seemed ripe for reform. The increasingly diverse population of the empire after 1763 encouraged a small group of British thinkers to propose the abolition of slavery. Brown argues convincingly that the primary obstacle to emancipation was the deeply ingrained belief that imperial power and wealth depended on a coerced labor force—as the colony of Georgia's recent failed effort to forbid slavery seemed to demonstrate. The abolitionists' proposals for alternative forms of labor required, however, that policymakers rethink conventional attitudes toward property rights, racial stereotypes, imperial authority, subjectship, and social organization. And such challenges to the eighteenth-century British conceptual universe proved untenable as the American Revolution approached. Brown's learned, original, and gracefully written essay illuminates a range of significant issues regarding slavery, empire, reform, and historical contingency.

Erik Barnouw Award

The Erik Barnouw Award is given annually in recognition of outstanding reporting or programming on network or cable television, or in documentary film, concerned with American history, the study of American history, and/or the promotion of history.

The committee selected *Freedom Never Dies: The Legacy of Harry T. Moore* as winner of the 2001 Erik Barnouw Award. The ninety-minute film was produced by **The Documentary Institute at the College of Journalism and Communications of the University of Florida**. The producer-directors were **Sandra Dickson** and **Churchill Roberts**. *Freedom Never Dies* is about Harry T. Moore, the NAACP's Florida executive secretary whose organizing strategies and advocacy of equal rights during the 1930s and 1940s presaged the activism of the 1960s. With his death in an unsolved Christmas Eve bombing in 1951, Moore (along with his wife Harriette) became the first



Dickson



Roberts

martyr of the modern civil rights struggle, and yet his role in shaping the movement has been largely overlooked. Confronted by an enigmatic subject, an elliptical visual record, and the formality of public correspondence (Moore was a prolific letter writer), *Freedom Never Dies* nonetheless successfully conveys a three-dimensional portrait of an unusual man and his times. Using re-creations, archival footage and documents, testimony from local participants, commentary by scholars, and evocative *a cappella* music, this documentary breaks out of the traditional 1954-1965 narrative and dramatically restores Moore to the forefront of the struggle against racial injustice. The film also presents a more complicated picture of civil rights, portraying the tension between the agenda of the national NAACP and improvisational needs at the grassroots level. Finally, the film contributes to clearing up the mystery surrounding the Moores' assassination, pinpointing Ku Klux Klan members. *Freedom Never Dies* exemplifies the best in historical documentary, addressing a little-known piece of history and revealing its significance to a broad audience.

Ray Allen Billington Prize

The Ray Allen Billington Prize is given biennially by the Organization of American Historians for the best book in American frontier history, defined broadly so as to include the pioneer periods of all geographical areas and comparisons between American frontiers and others.

The members of the Billington Prize Committee were delighted with the vitality and creativity of work in Western and frontier history. From many books of value and note, we have selected **Gunther Peck's** *Reinventing Free Labor: Padrones and Immigrant Workers in The North American West, 1880-1930* (Cambridge University Press, 2000). By applying imaginative analysis to the results of vigorous research, Gunther Peck sharpens and freshens our understanding of the history of labor and immigration in the American West. He is especially impressive in balancing distinctively western experiences with patterns and forces transcending regions and nations; by "North America," Peck truly means Canada and Mexico, as well as the United States. This book weaves themes of mobility, rural experience, manhood, family, and power into an intricate whole. Variables of time and space receive equally thorough attention. With Greek, Mexican, and Italian case studies, *Reinventing Free Labor* gives us a dynamic model of the ways in which Western and frontier history can be enriched by an international context. Clearheaded in its overview of the workings of capitalism in North America, the book also offers memorable and moving portraits of the lives of immigrant workers. *Reinventing Free Labor* combines the best qualities of thorough research and innovative interpretation.

Binkley-Stephenson Award

The Binkley-Stephenson Award is an annual award for the best scholarly article published in the *Journal of American History* during the preceding calendar year.

Elizabeth A. Fenn has given us a fresh look at a subject that has long captured the attention of colonial and Native American historians: the accusation that British General Jeffrey Amherst ordered the spread of small pox among rebellious Ottawa Indians who besieged Fort Pitt in 1763. In her *Journal of American History* article, "Biological Warfare in Eighteenth-Century North America: Beyond Jeffrey Amherst" (March 2000), Fenn reorients the debate by investigating many other reports of the use of small pox against enemies who were regarded as "savage," or rebellious. Combatants who fell into these categories were not protected by the rules governing "civilized" warfare in the eighteenth century and could be extirpated with any means at hand. The use of small pox as a weapon of war was horrifying and indiscriminate in its impact, but army officers had the motive, means, and ethical justification for ordering the infection of rebellious Indians in 1763 and the Continental Army during the Revolution. Fenn demonstrates that accusations of biological terrorism were common in the eighteenth century, even if those acts were carried out imperfectly or were merely fears in the imagination of those who were vulnerable to infection. Fenn's wide-ranging study reminds us that the reexamination of well-worked subjects from a new perspective can yield important and unexpected insights.



Fenn

Avery O. Craven Award

The Avery O. Craven Award, first given in 1985, is awarded annually by the Organization of American Historians for the most original book on the coming of the Civil War, the Civil War years, or the Era of Reconstruction, with the exception of works of purely military history.

Lyde Cullen Sizer's *The Political Work of Northern Women Writers and the Civil War, 1850-1872* (University of North Carolina Press, 2000) is the winner of the 2001 Avery O. Craven Award for the most original book on the Civil War era, with the exception of works of purely military history. An important contribution to expanding understanding of women's vision of the war and the impact of that vision on the wider polity, Sizer offers a fresh and compelling reading of traditional sources. Here is an intellectual history that is never divorced from social history, linking culture and politics. Sizer's analysis of class is finely rendered, a model in its treatment of middle

class and working class actors. She provides revealing and careful attention to how women were enmeshed in the crises of the war era and how they learned to define new standards of womanhood in defining the meaning of the war.



Smith

Merle Curti Award

The Merle Curti Award alternates yearly and is awarded to the best book in American intellectual history and American Social History.

In a book poised at the boundary between history and political theory, **Kimberly K. Smith** provides an original and probing inquiry into the forms of democratic speech in the antebellum North. As a contribution to political theory, her argument that democracies need more than passionless speech offers a striking challenge to the Habermasian ideal of purely rational discourse. To intellectual historians, *The Dominion of Voice: Riot, Reason, and Romance in Antebellum Politics* (University Press of Kansas, 1999) offers a reading of early-nineteenth century Americans' debates over their competing modes of public political expression—riot, rebellion, reasoned debate, affective oratory, and sympathetic narrative—that sparkles with insight and intellectual provocation. Smith shows how the ideal of rational debate rose out of the socio-political circumstances of the Revolution only to be challenged by rising social demands in the early nineteenth century. The book's analysis moves deftly from novels to moral philosophy, mobbings to slave narratives, and party newspapers to handbooks on eloquence. In each of these domains, Smith subtly peels back the competing and intricately layered meanings behind early nineteenth-century America's foundational cliché: that democracy is the arena in which the people's voice holds sway.



Schnurmann

Foreign-Language Book Prize

The Organization of American Historians sponsors a biennial prize for the best book on American history published in a foreign language.

The committee selected **Claudia Schnurmann's** *Atlantic Worlds: English and Dutch People in the American-Atlantic Area, 1648-1713* (Bohla Verlag) as an exemplary international study that sheds important new light on trade between Europe and the Americas in the seventeenth century. Schnurmann's massive project examines official and unofficial trade relations among Great Britain, the Netherlands, and colonies in North America and the Caribbean from 1648 to 1713. Her extensive research in heretofore little-used sources in English, Dutch, North American, and Caribbean archives revises the widely held view of the decline of Dutch commercial influence in the

latter half of the seventeenth century. Schnurmann's research reveals ongoing patterns of trade between merchants in the American colonies and the Netherlands based on personal and family ties and operating outside of official channels and in spite of laws to restrict or regulate such trade. The Atlantic world was marked by a continuing pattern of Dutch commercial activity with New Netherland, after 1664 with New York, and with the Chesapeake. Networks of trade established by Jewish migrants from Brazil linked New York to Surinam and Barbados as well. By the end of the seventeenth century, American merchants had participated in these networks of trade and had established considerable commercial independence from the policies of both Great Britain and the Netherlands. The importance of this study arises from Schnurmann's insistence on viewing colonial America from a global perspective and from her attention to personal ties that sustained trade between colonies and European powers.

Ellis W. Hawley Prize

The Ellis W. Hawley Prize, is awarded annually for the best book-length historical study of the political economy, politics, or institutions of the United States, in its domestic or international affairs, from the Civil War to the present.

In *Ben Tillman & the Reconstruction of White America* (University of North Carolina Press, 2000), **Stephen Kantrowitz** presents a vivid, compelling, and ultimately frightening account of the political making of white supremacy in the American South following the Civil War. Born in 1847 to a farm family in South Carolina, Tillman early learned what Kantrowitz labels "the language of defiance," which later matured into the language of the lynch mob. Whether as governor of South Carolina beginning in 1890 or as a U.S. senator up to his death in 1918, Tillman and like-minded colleagues used murder, control of political agencies, and threats of more violence to foster the idea and practice that white men—especially white-male farmers, by right—supervised their wives and ruled African-Americans. Out of the talk and action of men like Tillman and others emerged the image and sometimes the reality of the poor-white southern man whose violent nature could seem "almost a force of nature." Kantrowitz, then, links Tillman's reconstruction of race and gender on the one side with his reconstruction of politics, public policy, and American institutions on the other.



Kantrowitz

Huggins-Quarles Award

Named for Benjamin Quarles and the late Nathan Huggins, two outstanding historians of the African American past, the Huggins-Quarles Award is given annually to minority graduate students at the dissertation research stage of their Ph.D. program.

The OAH Committee on the Status of Minority Historians and Minority History evaluates the Huggins-Quarles award applications. The dissertation winners are: **Lionel Kimble, Jr.**, University of Iowa, "Combating the City of Neighborhoods: Employment, Housing, and Civil Rights in Chicago, 1940-1955"; and **Fay Ann Yarbrough**, Emory University, "An Interracial Love Triangle: Sex Between Cherokee Indians, African-Americans, and Whites, 1830-1866."

OAH-JAAS Short Term Residencies

The Organization of American Historians and the Japanese Association for American Studies, with support from the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, award three U.S. historians to undertake two-week residencies in Japan.

The three two-week teaching residencies in Japan for 2001 were awarded to: **Katherine G. Aiken**, University of Idaho who will visit Rikkyo University in Tokyo; **James Barrett**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who will visit Osaka University of Foreign Studies in Osaka; and **Judith Stein**, The Graduate School and University Center, The City University of New York who will visit Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo.



Richter

Lerner-Scott Prize

The Lerner-Scott Prize was given for the first time in 1992 for the best doctoral dissertation in U.S. women's history. The prize is named for Gerda Lerner and Anne Firor Scott, both pioneers in women's history and past presidents of the Organization of American Historians.

In her beautifully crafted Ph.D. thesis, "Tracking Public Culture: Women, the Railroad, and the End of the Victorian Public," (New York University), **Amy G. Richter** demonstrates the centrality of the railroad in forcing Americans to define the gender of new spaces. She does so by recasting the railroad as the public space in which women and men encountered the modern conditions of anonymity, social diversity, and technological uncertainty in their most concentrated form. Through an imaginative analysis of design choices, company policies, social conventions, anecdotal accounts, and legal rulings, she recasts the debate in women's history over separate spheres by showing how a variety of actors struggled to draw the line between private

and public on the rails. The result is a probing analysis of the interplay of gender, race, and class that clarifies a number of important issues in the creation of modern culture, including why the key legal steps in the establishment of Jim Crow took place on the railroad. With the emergence of this modern space, one shared by women and men, the right to deference, privilege, and comfort came to be negotiated through commercial rather than personal relationships. In rich detail, Richter reveals how this process helped create a newly gendered culture.

Merrill Travel Grants

The Horace Samuel & Marion Galbraith Merrill Travel Grants in Twentieth-Century American Political History were first given in 1998 to promote access of younger scholars to the Washington, DC, region's rich primary source collections in late-nineteenth and twentieth-century American political history. The grants also provide the opportunity for scholars to interview former and current public figures residing in the metropolitan Washington area.

This year five scholars have been awarded Merrill Travel Grants in American Political History. They are: **Nancy A. Banks**, Columbia University, for her work, "Workers Against Liberalism: The Struggle Over Affirmative Action in the New York City Building and Construction Trades, 1961-1976"; **Margot Canady**, University of Minnesota, for her work, "Good Citizens and the Straight State: Citizenship and Sexuality in the United States, 1917-1952"; **Daniel M. Cobb**, University of Oklahoma, for his work, "Encountering an Indian War: Culture, Poverty, and the Politics of American Indian Participation in Community Action, 1964-1973"; **Eric Fure-Slocum**, University of Iowa, for his work, "The Challenge of the Working-Class City: Recasting Growth Politics and Liberalism in Milwaukee, 1937-1952"; and **Neil M. Maher**, Federated History Department of Rutgers University, Newark-New Jersey Institute of Technology, for his work, "Planting More Than Trees: The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Roots of the American Environmental Movement." The range of topics, the creative approaches, and the thoughtful research strategies of these five scholars reflect the growing richness of political history. The projects are well-conceived, well-formulated, and demonstrate a firm sense of direction; all will clearly benefit from the opportunity to draw upon materials in the Washington, D.C., area's archives and collections.



Canady



Cobb



Fure-Slocum



Maher



Capozzola

Louis Pelzer Memorial Award

The Louis Pelzer Award is awarded for the best essay on any period or topic in the history of the United States. The winning essay will be published in the *Journal of American History*.

The 2001 Louis Pelzer Memorial Award goes to **Christopher Capozzola** for his essay, "The Only Badge Needed is Your Patriotic Fervor: Vigilance, Coercion, and the Law in World War I America." Capozzola uses four case studies—of volunteer policing, anti-labor leagues, anti-prostitution squads, and racist vigilance societies—to offer a strikingly fresh assessment of political coercion during World War I. The essay highlights the debated boundaries between "vigilance," which various public figures endorsed, and "vigilantism," which they denounced. In the postwar era, he concludes, wartime citizen vigilance served to legitimate certain forms of coercion even while it evoked the rejection of "mob violence." The Pelzer Prize committee was especially impressed with the originality of the argument and the breadth and depth of the research. Capozzola draws on a wide range of sources and knits together several historiographic threads. The article engages readers interested in politics and policing as well as those who work on issues of class, gender, and race. Capozzola's article will appear in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of American History*.



Smith

James A. Rawley Prize

The James A. Rawley Prize, given for the first time in 1990, is awarded annually for a book dealing with the history of race relations in the United States.

In this compelling book, *Reimagining Indians: Native Americans through Anglo Eyes 1880-1940* (Oxford University Press, 2001), **Sherry L. Smith** provides us with a collective intellectual biography of the major popularizers of Indian life and culture in the period, the men and women, many of them from the Northeast and Midwest, who chose to live among the Indians, and who, as a result, came to adamantly oppose the established wisdom that the future of the Indian was best secured by cultural deracination through assimilation. They were all committed to the notion that cultural pluralism had merit, and that Indian culture should be given every opportunity to prosper. Smith argues that the work of these intellectuals was influential in altering government policy from one based on assimilation to one that accepted the need for cultural independence. These works, she argues convincingly, hold up a mirror to American society and in so doing not only altered society's perception of the Indians but also affected changes in government policy.

Elliott Rudwick Prize

The Elliott Rudwick Prize is awarded to the best book on the experience of racial and ethnic minorities in the United States. 2001 is the final year for the Rudwick Prize.

In *Lost Revolutions: The South in the 1950s* (University of North Carolina Press, 2000), **Pete Daniel** has written a remarkable work of both scale and analytical depth. The book is an achievement of both synthesis and deep research. With an engaging writing style, and with wit and seriousness, Daniel tells a story of what was and what might have been in the race relations of the South as a whole from the end of World War II to the early 1960s. Persuasively, Daniel illuminates several “revolutions” that swept through the South in the late 1940s and 1950s: the collapse of cotton culture and sharecropping, a massive rural to urban migration, the great challenge to segregation and the beginnings of integration, new technologies with environmental and social impact, the growth of cities, and the emergence of new forms of popular culture that often crossed racial lines. A signal achievement of the book is its fascinating examination of the growth of auto racing and the white working class culture that gave it birth, as well as the birth of rock and roll out of the rich, biracial musical culture of the region around Memphis, Tennessee. In the end, Daniel brilliantly links the stories of high politics, the Civil Rights Movement, and the South’s new worlds of popular entertainment and expression. Most of these revolutions, Daniel demonstrates, persisted but were overcome by the “counterrevolution” of racism in the 1960s. As few other books have done, Daniel convincingly tells the story of the possibilities and failures of white-black working class unity tangled, and partly ruined, by the South’s dilemma with racism.



Daniel

Tachau Precollegiate Teaching Award

The annual Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Precollegiate Teaching Award was established to recognize the contributions made by precollegiate and classroom teachers to improve history education.

The committee unanimously selected **Doris Marguerite Will Meadows** as the recipient of the Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Precollegiate Teaching Award. She excels in all six of the criteria set forth in the award standards. Dr. Meadows engages her students and teaches them important skills through research papers, role playing, class discussions and oral history projects. Last year she worked with students to pressure the city of Rochester, New York, to act on abandoned buildings near their school. She has also been actively involved in professional historical organizations. She is a founding member of the Organization of History Teachers, actively involved in OAH, served on the Advisory



Meadows

board for *History Teacher*, and was a member of the Teaching Committee of the American Historical Association. Furthermore, Dr. Meadows has published a wide range of articles on history and history teaching and has made presentations at the OAH and AHA conventions. She has also been an active participant in the Nineteenth Ward Community Association in Rochester, New York, for which she wrote a history of the neighborhood, produced a history video and conducted public lectures. Doris Meadows is both a history teacher and historian.

David Thelen Prize



Schäfer

The Organization of American Historians sponsors an annual prize (formerly the Foreign-Language Article Prize) for the best article on American history published in a foreign language. The winning article will be translated into English and published in the *Journal of American History*.

This year's David Thelen Prize is awarded to **Axel R. Schäfer** for his article, "W.E.B. Du Bois and the Transatlantic Dimension of Progressivism, 1892-1909", published in Manfred Berg et al., eds., *Macht und Moral: Beiträge zur Ideologie und Praxis amerikanischer Aussenpolitik im 20 Jahrhundert* (1999). The article traces German influence on Progressive social thought and reform, with a special focus on W.E.B. Du Bois. During his student years in Berlin, Du Bois studied with Gustav Schmoller and imbibed the teachings of the German historical school of economics. Schäfer suggests ways in which German historicism shaped Du Bois's understanding of race. Using German language sources, the article offers astute analysis of German historicism and its rejection of laissez-faire liberalism as well as fresh perspectives on the links between Du Bois's early years and his later social thought. It also points more broadly to the divergent ways in which German concepts of cultural and ethical development shaped Progressive Era reform. The committee admired Schäfer's transnational approach in which knowledge not only circulated among nations but also took on new meanings in new contexts.

Frederick Jackson Turner Award



Norling

The Frederick Jackson Turner Award, first given in 1959 as the Prize Studies Award of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, has been given each year by the Organization of American Historians for an author's first book on some significant phase of American history and also to the press that submits and publishes it.

In *Captain Ahab Had a Wife: New England Women and the Whalefishery, 1720-1870* (University of North Carolina Press, 2000), **Lisa Norling** makes rich and creative use of letters, diaries, and selectmen's journals to explore the relations between women ashore in Nantucket and New Bedford and men at sea. After the Revolution, while whaling voyages

lengthened, personal lives constructed around romantic domesticity began to displace an earlier pattern of women as “deputy husbands” in patriarchal homes. Beautifully written and illustrated, this book explores the changes that simultaneously raised the emotional stakes of marriage and made the romantic ideal more difficult to fulfill, while also masking the work and social networks within which women and men actually moved behind an ideal of the nuclear household, through which women defined themselves and their own aspirations. Norling offers a conceptually creative, yet jargon-free interpretation of the personal accounts and styles of expression in letters that she has discovered by means of a relentless quest for family papers and lost letters. Norling has persuasively recounted the ways in which religious reform, romanticism, revolution, and industrialization at the turn of the century made the personal lives of women married to career whaling officers more intense and more difficult.

Mark your calendar!
2002 OAH Annual Meeting

11-14 April 2002
Washington D.C.
Renaissance Hotel
