Department of History, News Letter No. 25
1939-1940

THE Department of History presents its annual bulletin of items concerning the scholarly and professional interests of both faculty and graduate students.

Faculty

Chester W. Clark, Ph.D., Harvard, has joined the history faculty as associate professor and George P. Cuttino, D. Phil., Oxford, 1938, as instructor. Dr. Thornton has been promoted to a professorship.

Professor Pelzer and Dr. Petersen attended the Memphis meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association. Dr. Pelzer presided at one session and Dr. Petersen spoke at another on “Tall Tales of the Mississippi.” Dr. Petersen will teach at Washington University, St. Louis, in the coming Summer Session.

Dr. de Kiewiet presided at a session on “Liberalism in England” at the Washington meeting of the American Historical Association and has been appointed to the special committee on British documents. At this convention Drs. Clark, Cuttino, de Kiewiet, Root, and Thornton were in attendance.

Dr. Thornton addressed the South Central Teachers Association at Creston on “The Social Approach to History” and spoke to the A.A.U.W. at Des Moines on “America and the War.” Dr. de Kiewiet spoke to the Federation of Iowa Womens Clubs, meeting at Mt. Pleasant, on “Wisdom in War Times.” Dr. de Kiewiet during the year organized and directed a series of public forums in which members of the faculty discussed the problems of War and Peace.

Dr. Root gave two addresses in the lecture series at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Miss Daley talked to the Faculty Club at Vinton, Iowa, on “The United States and Latin-America.” Dr. Petersen addressed the State Historical Society of Illinois meeting at Quincy, and gave an illustrated lecture on “Steamboating on the Mississippi” before the Minnesota Historical Society. Dr. Goldwin Smith appeared on the University Baconian Lecture series with a paper on “Tudor Medicine: An Historical Revision.”

Dr. Thornton presents two articles in Midland Schools; “Changing Interpretations of History,” March, 1940, and “The Humanitarian Crusade of America’s Middle Years,” April, 1940; and an article on “North and South—From Conflict to Reconciliation” in Journal of Grand Army of the Republic, June, 1939. Dr. Goldwin Smith has one article on “The Practice of Medicine in Tudor England” in Scientific Monthly, Jan., 1940, and another on “Elizabeth and the Apprenticeship of Parliament” in University of Toronto Quarterly, July, 1939.

Dr. Cuttino’s study of “An Unidentified Gascon Register” appeared in the English Historical Review, April, 1939, and his book on English Diplomatic Administration 1259-1338 is published by the Oxford Press.

Dr. Clark has provided an introduction and editorial comments on documents dealing with the “Question of the Cession of Gibraltar to Spain in 1870” in Hispanic-American Historical Review, Aug., 1939.

Dr. Plum received a grant from the Social Science Research Council to carry on his study of Puritan ideals in the Stuart Period. He spent the summer in London and the first semester in New York gathering material.

Dr. Clark also received a grant to aid him in his study of the causes of the Franco-German struggles culminating in 1866-1871.

Graduate Students

During the past year nine candidates were granted the Ph.D. in history. Four were on leave of absence to complete their studies for the degree: Lyle Shelmdine, College of Puget Sound; C. L. Green, Teachers College, Moorhead, Minn.; R. L. Lokken, Teachers College, Mayville, N. Dak.; M. L. Cole, Augustana
College, Sioux Falls, So. Dak. M. W. Hansen served as research associate in the department for a semester and then accepted a post at the Teachers College, Aberdeen, So. Dak. Thomas E. Twito joined the faculty of Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S.C. Car. Melvin Wren remained on the campus to pursue graduate work in economics.

F. A. Shannon, Ph.D., 1924, resigned from the faculty of Kansas State College to accept a professorship of history at the University of Illinois. H. R. Anderson, Ph.D., 1930, has been promoted to an associate professorship at Cornell University and was elected to the presidency of the National Council for the Social Studies. D. D. Jones, Ph.D., 1929, was promoted to a professorship at the University of Arkansas and C. H. Norby, Ph.D., 1935, to an assistant professorship at Iowa State College. F. J. Bowman, Ph.D., 1929, is visiting professor at the University of Southern California. J. A. Greenlee, Ph.D., 1934, has been appointed Assistant Registrar at Iowa State College, beginning next year. B. C. Shafer, Ph.D., 1932, has been made head of the department of social studies at Stout Institute, Menomonic, Wis.

W. O. Mishoff, Ph.D., 1933, is now director of library service at Central Teachers College, Warrensburg, Mo. Ruth I. Friedrich, Ph.D., 1938, is teaching this year at Lenoir Rhyne College, Hickory, No. Car. H. W. Rice, Ph.D., 1938, Marquette University, is in charge of the Historical Records Survey for Wisconsin. Fred Tilberg, Ph.D., 1928, historian at Gettysburg Military Park, is in Washington for a period serving the National Park Service in research studies.

H. D. Berg, lecturer in history at Iowa, has accepted a place on the faculty of the University of New Hampshire, beginning next year. Maxwell White, M.A., 1933, who continued in library work at Columbia University, is now in charge of the Serials Department in the University Library in Iowa City.

The following were visiting instructors during the past summer: at Purdue, H. R. Anderson, Ph.D., 1930, associate professor, Cornell University; at the Teachers College, Albany, N.Y., J. H. St. John, Ph.D., 1927, Miami University; at the Teachers College, Buffalo, N.Y., E. R. Fair, Ph.D., 1938, of Teachers College, Mankato, Minn. W. J. Ruppert, M.A., 1938, of the Junior College, Tracy, Minn., was junior college assistant in the department of history at the University of Minnesota during the summer of 1939.

H. R. Anderson, Ph.D., 1930, spoke to teachers on the place of the social studies in American education during past months at Dallas, Texas, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Rochester, N.Y., and gave an address before the teachers institute in Lafayette, Indiana. He is working with Professor Marcham of Cornell University on a project to teach critical thinking through the use of specially prepared social studies material. The project is financed by the General Education Board. R. L. Beyer, Ph.D., 1929, Teachers College, Carbondale, Ill., is president of the Southern Illinois Historical Society. R. L. Welty, Ph.D., 1924, State College, Fort Hays, Kansas, is vice-president of the Kansas History Teachers Association. Ralph Turner, M.A., 1917, is connected with the Social Security Administration in Washington, D.C., and teaching part time in George Washington University. E. R. Fair, Ph.D., 1938, Teachers College, Mankato, Minn., is chairman of the social studies instructors for the six Minnesota state teachers colleges, and W. O. Mishoff, Ph.D., 1933, is a member of the legislative committee of the Missouri Library Association concerned with the problem of adequate public support for libraries in the state.

P. H. Giddens, Ph.D., 1930, head of the department of history, Alhaghy College, and H. T. Hagg, Ph.D., 1936, Teachers College, Bemidji, Minn., spent the past summer in travel and study in Europe.

Thirty-six M.A. degrees were granted in 1939. In this group were teachers who returned to their posts, some who found new positions, while others returned for further graduate study. J. R. Cardle is teaching at Princeton, Ill.; Alice Belgarde at Fayette, Iowa; R. J. Schlicher in the junior college, Elkader, Iowa; Eileen Lynam at Concord, Neb., and John Danielson at Lamoni, Iowa. Philip A. Crowl is studying at Johns Hopkins on a fellowship and Kenneth Fuller is continuing graduate work at Cornell University.


John Blackmore, M.A., 1933, resigned from history teaching to resume pastoral work and is with the Central Church, Los Angeles. N. E. Demoney, M.A., 1931, is superintendent of schools at Estherville, Iowa. Benlah Shinn, M.A., 1935, resigned her post in the high school at Indianola, Iowa, to take up Y.W.C.A. work in Detroit. Henri C. Meyer, M.A., 1937, is teaching in a junior college, Hartford, Conn., and continuing graduate work at Yale.

At the Washington meeting of the A.H.A. eighteen former and present graduate students of the department were in attendance.
John H. Haefner, M.A., 1939, presided at a session of the National Council for the Social Studies in Kansas City in November, 1939, and spoke at the St. Louis meeting of the Council, Feb., 1940, on "What Shall We Teach About C.I.O.?


Research and Publications

The last News Letter mentioned the appearance of several recent books: Elmer Ellis, Ph.D., 1930, edited selected writings of Finley Peter Dunne under the title Mr. Dooley at his Best; Paul H. Giddens, Ph.D., 1930, The Birth of the Oil Industry, and Melvin Gingerich, Ph.D., 1938, The Mennonites in Iowa. Since then has appeared a volume by Philip D. Jordan, Ph.D., 1936, Miami University, on the life of William Salter—Western Torchbearer, pioneer preacher, author, historian (Miss. Valley Press). B. C. Shafer, Ph.D., 1932, Stout Institute, Wis., and Mrs. Shafer have brought out through the Columbia University Press a book on Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Bread. H. E. Briggs, Ph.D., 1929, University of Miami, Florida, has a volume on Frontiers of the Northwest soon to be issued by the Appleton-Century Co. A Study of Senator Teller of Colorado by Elmer Ellis, Ph.D., 1930, has been accepted for publication.

Elmer Ellis, Ph.D., 1930, is the holder of a Guggenheim Fellowship for the current year to enable him to write the life of Finley Peter Dunne. Virginia M. Bever, A.M., University of Cal., 1935, fellow in history, who spent the past two years in research in London, has received the Margaret Smell A.A.U.W. fellowship to carry on her researches next year.


Bernard J. Holm, M.A., 1930, Ph.D., University of Cal., 1939, presented a paper on "The Influence of the Carolingian Renaissance on Alfred the Great" at the meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the A.H.A. in Dec., 1939. Elmer Ellis, Ph.D., 1930, presented a paper on "The Origins and Meaning of the Teller Resolution" before the Miss. Valley Historical Association at Memphis. P. D. Jordan, Ph.D., 1935, read a paper on "Northern Singers in the Ante-Bellum South" before the Southern Historical Association meeting in Lexington, Ky. R. L. Beyer, Ph.D., 1929, gave an address on "College Preparation for High School History Teaching" before the annual meeting of the college history teachers of Illinois. Fred Tilberg, Ph.D., 1928, presented a paper on "The National Park Historical Service" at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association. Augustus Low, M.A., 1938, scholar in history, spoke on "Mother's Day as a Value" at Lincoln University, Mo. During the past summer the following carried on

The Twentieth Historical Conference 1940

These annual conferences have met a need judging by the large attendance year by year through two decades. To them come the teachers of the social studies in high schools and colleges, not only of Iowa but neighboring states. The Twentieth Conference is scheduled to meet Friday and Saturday, April 12-13.

Professor Marcham, Cornell University, will talk on "Oliver Cromwell and Izaak Walton, an appeal to inner light and outward authority"; Professor Howard, Miami University, on "The Balkans in Peace and War"; Professor Deutsch of the University of Minnesota, on "1919 and 1939: Parallel or Contrast"; Professor Craven, University of Chicago, "The South: The American Historian's Problem No. 1," Professor Olson, University of Iowa, "The Changing Course of World Economy"; Professor Smith, Teachers College, Albany, N.Y., "Why Teach History"; Professor Norby, Iowa State College, "Living in History"; and John H. Haefner, University High School, "The Historical Approach in Teaching Controversial Issues."

Summer Session 1940

The forty-first Summer Session opens for registration on Saturday, June 8, for instruction Monday, June 10, and closes Friday, August 2.

In American history the following courses are offered: The American Colonial Era 1578-1713, Professor Root; the West in American History, Professor Pelzer; The United States since 1865, Professor Thornton. In British history Dr. Smith offers the Tudor and Stuart Period and Associate Professor Livingston, the British Empire Commonwealth since 1900. Dr. Troyer S. Anderson, professor of history in Swarthmore College, will give one course on Factors in the Development of Modern Europe, another on Twentieth Century Europe.

There will be available four seminars for graduate students: History of the West, Professor Pelzer; American Civilization, Professor Thornton; American Foreign Relations, since 1900, Associate Professor Livingston; Imperialism and European politics, 1870-1914, Dr. Smith.

The staff holds itself responsible for the conduct of directed readings. This is the nature of individual study and the purpose is to care for the special needs of students not served by formal courses. Though the Summer Session provides the same type of work that is given during the regular semester, a special effort is made to meet the needs of graduate students working toward higher degrees.

Two courses are provided in the methods of teaching history, one on the Supervision of the Social Studies, and the other a Curriculum Laboratory open to graduate students, under the direction of Dr. W. G. Kimmel, formerly supervisor of Social Studies, New York State Department of Education.