



NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL WORLD HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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Formation of the New England Regional World History Association THE 12/04/93 MEETING

by Patrick Manning and Gerald Herman

Fifteen historians met on December 4, 1993 at Northeastern University in Boston, at the invitation of Wilfred Bisson, professor of history at Keene State University in New Hampshire, to discuss ways to encourage the development of World History in teaching and scholarship at all levels of the curriculum. In a lively discussion, participants described their work in world history and considered possibilities for exchanging ideas.

They decided unanimously to form a New England Regional World History Association, a new regional affiliate of the World History Association. Those in attendance included college faculty members and high school teachers drawn from four of the six New England states.

The meeting began with a presentation by Dick Allen, executive secretary of the Rocky Mountain Regional World History Association. Allen, of the University of Denver, offered suggestions based on the experience of his group since its formation in 1980. Then the group debated, revised, and approved a framework for by-laws, based on a draft circulated by Fred Bisson, and elected interim officers. The final text of these by-laws appears later in this newsletter.

By acclamation, Theodore Von Laue, professor emeritus of history at Clark University, was elected president of the new organization. Gerald Herman of Northeastern University was elected Vice President, and Patrick Manning of Northeastern University was elected Secretary-Treasurer. These three were to an initial steering committee. The group accepted the suggestion of Herman and Manning that Northeastern University serve as interim secretariat for the new association, providing modest funding for its initial activities, and producing a newsletter.

Activities proposed for the new association included several sorts of meetings, including panels on world history at the annual meeting of the New England Historical Association, and activities at the annual meeting of the New England Council of Social Studies. The prospects for a larger membership seemed good: of the WHA members in New England whom Bisson had contacted, about seventy had expressed interest in a regional association.

PROVISIONAL BY-LAWS

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL WORLD HISTORY ASSOCIATION

- ARTICLE I:** The name of the ORGANIZATION shall be the New England Regional World History Association.
- ARTICLE II:** The objectives of the Association shall be to promote and to facilitate the study of World History in schools, colleges, and universities in New England by means of conferences, workshops, networks, curricular materials, the publication of a newsletter, and other such activities which it may deem appropriate.
- ARTICLE III:** The affairs of the Association shall be under the supervision of a Steering Committee consisting of at least eight teachers and professors of World History elected from the membership of the Association. Every effort should be made to insure that the members of the Steering Committee be broadly representative of the geographic and employment diversity of the Association's membership. The Steering Committee shall conduct the business of the Association; plan meetings; set, collect, and expend dues and other revenues of the Association; appoint committees; nominate officers for election by the membership; and do whatever else may be appropriate. In preparing its Officers' nominations, the Steering Committee shall insure that the list be representative of the geographic and employment diversity of the Association's membership. Members of the Steering Committee shall serve three-year, staggered terms of office and are eligible for re-nomination and re-election. (At the outset, the Association shall be governed by an interim Steering Committee made up of those who attended the founding meeting (and other interested individuals) and by interim officers elected by that Steering Committee. Its tasks shall include development of a formal Charter for approval by the membership based on the principles set forth here, to commence operation of the Association, to expand its visibility and membership, to begin publication of the Association's Newsletter, and to prepare for the first regular elections of the Association which shall follow approval of the Charter and take place no later than two years following the Association's founding meeting.)

- ARTICLE IV:** The officers of the Association shall include a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer who shall be elected annually by the Association's members. The officers shall assume their duties immediately upon election and serve as ex officio members of the Steering Committee. Any vacancies that might occur during the terms of office shall be filled by vote of the Steering Committee.

The President

Shall preside at all meetings of the Steering Committee and at the annual meeting of the Association and shall present for consideration by the Steering Committee policies for the conduct of the Association. The president shall serve ex officio on all standing or ad hoc committee which may be created by the Association in all work with other organizations, conferences, institutions, and individuals.

The Vice-President

Shall assist the President and, in the absence of the president shall serve as presiding officer and perform such other presidential duties as may be required.

The Secretary-Treasurer

Shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Association and of its Steering Committee, shall attend to the correspondence of the Association, cause and authorize the publication of the Association's newsletter, and be responsible for all funds, making collections and disbursements as directed by the Steering Committee, and preparing an annual report of the Association's finances for the Association's members.

- ARTICLE V:** The financial year of the Association shall be from July 1 through June 30. The annual meeting of the Association shall take place during each fiscal year at a time and place established by the Steering Committee. At this meeting, the Association shall elect Steering Committee members. The Association's Officers shall be elected from the Steering Committee's nomination list by a mail ballot due prior to the annual meeting, so that its results may be announced there.

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- ARTICLE VI:** Any person may become a member of the Association by payment of annual dues once such dues are established.
- ARTICLE VII:** All income from dues, conference fees, publication income, and all monies received as gifts (except as may be stipulated by the gift itself) are considered general revenues and may be used to further the objectives of the Association as determined by its Steering Committee.
- ARTICLE VIII:** Amendments to the By-Laws may be adopted by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members voting solicited by a mail ballot following a discussion of the proposed By-law amendment at the annual meeting. Proposed amendments to the By-Laws should be included with the notice of call for the annual meeting.

A Message from the President

As reported above, the New England Affiliate of the World History Association (WHA) was started on December 4, 1993, thanks to the initiative of Fred Bisson of Keene State College (NH) and the eager response by Pat Manning and Gerald Herman at Northeastern University. Those present at that meeting elected me president of the New England affiliate. Long associated with the WHA and serving for three years as a member of the WHA Council, I gladly accepted this honor, promising to help spread the mission of the WHA in New England.

The WHA brings together school teachers and academics in lively interaction. School teachers, as I discovered at WHA conferences, use their minds creatively, thinking not only about history but about the world in which they live. Eager for intellectual stimulation by academics, they also give vital energy to the organization and management of the WHA. Academics in turn benefit from testing their ideas before a broader audience.

The New England Affiliate of the WHA is a voluntary organization; it relies essentially on the motivation of its members. Members join the WHA (annual fee \$24.00) and receive its Bulletin and the World History Journal. The main benefit, however, lies in the local opportunities for exchanging ideas and experiences. New England has ample talent and intellectual resources for discussing one of the most crucial subjects in our times: how to deal with the human experience past and present at a unique turning point in human affairs.

Within the past century humanity has shifted from pre-global cultural separation into intense global interaction, producing profound cultural disorientation and growing violence (for proof you can read Robert Kaplan's article "The Coming Anarchy" in the Atlantic Monthly, February, 1994). How are we personally to react, as we follow the news? What guidance can we offer to our students who have to find their way in this dangerously unstable world? How are we to organize in the limited class time available the infinitude of historical data? In this novel age we have to fit the human experience into the global context, with due emphasis on the present and foreseeable future.

There is more at stake than the textbook facts. What sense of direction for the present and future can we distill from the past? And more important: what staying power in the coming crises, what sources of wisdom, can we derive from the study of world history? In these difficult times we have to give life-supporting meaning to world history. Who is ready for this challenge—teachers, academics? Let us get together regionally in the New England Affiliate, nationally in the WHA, and above all locally in our communities in order to share our answers to the questions raised by the historic era in which we live.

Looking forward to meeting you,

Theodore H. Von Laue, President
History Department, Clark University
Worcester, MA 01610

WORLD HISTORY PANEL

World History panel at the annual meeting of the New England Historical Association, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m., Saturday, April 23, 1994, at Bentley College. The panel will be as follows:

Topic: "Conceptualizing World History"

Moderator: Patrick Manning, Northeastern University

Papers:

1. William H. McNeill, University of Chicago (emeritus),
"The Changing Shape of World History."
2. H. Haines Brown, Central Connecticut State University,
"The Contradiction of World History."
3. André Gunder Frank, University of Amsterdam,
"World Systems History."
4. Theodore H. Van Lane, Clark University (emeritus),
"World History for the Future."

Copies of the papers will be available for members of the audience.

Directions to Bentley College: From the south and west, take Exit 14 off the Massachusetts Turnpike and follow signs to Route 128 North (also I-95 North). From Route 1228, exit at Exit 28a (Trapelo Road), and head east (toward Belmont) on Trapelo Road for 2.2 miles. Turn right on Forest Avenue; one half mile on the left is the entrance to Bentley College.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Fred Bisson	Keene State College
Patrick Manning	Northeastern University
Gerald Harman	Northeastern University
William R. Jones	University of New Hampshire
Ed Coss	Keene State College
David Burzillo	The Rivers School
Paul Rivera	Beaver Country Day School
Theodore Von Loze	Emmanuel, Clark University, (ret.)
Lynda Shaffer	Tufts University
Steven Hirsch	Tufts University
William H. Miller	University of Hartford
Bill B. Brayfield	University of Hartford
H. Haines Brown	Central Connecticut State University
Christine Skwiat	Rutgers University

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