



# INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS

The Newsletter of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars

Fall 2007 Vol. 21, No 3

## *Letter from the president*



I hope your summer was an enjoyable experience, without anything too nasty on the global warming/cooling/drought/flooding side of things, and a worthwhile encounter with scholarly research and writing along with some pleasant summer reading and vacationing.

It's time to remind members that we look forward to publishing your papers and other submissions. Our policy for submissions to *TIS/The Independent Scholar* states on the back page under Guidelines: "Submissions to *TIS* are accepted from nonmembers on condition that they become bona fide members of NCIS." We will implement the same

policy for all NCIS publications.

About the Board meeting, which is slated for Saturday, October 13, 2007, in Washington, DC, our Bylaws state: "NCIS members in good standing may attend meetings of the NCIS Board, except for executive sessions, within the limits of space and with advance notice given to the NCIS President." You do not get to vote but you do get to see the Board at work. We are always pleased to get input from members who attend as observers. We meet from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and if any business is left over, we work through dinner. Join us, but remember it's Dutch treat. Since members commented on the new dues policy we began in 2007, as promised earlier I will report to you on the Board's action regarding the dues structure, through the monthly e-mail letter and in *TIS*.

If you recall, I wrote in the last issue about taking NCIS brochures to your meetings and conferences. We recently enrolled new members who picked up brochures at conferences brought by an NCIS member. Warmest thanks to those pitching in to help us grow.

As we move along in the planning for the 2008 conference, again I extend my call for volunteers from our members on the West Coast. We ask all participating Affiliates to appoint a conference coordinator to work with the other coordinators as well as to appoint an Affiliate member to the joint program committee whose responsibility is the conference program creation and vetting papers submitted for presentation.

By the time you receive this issue of *TIS*, I will have resumed sending the monthly e-mail letters to the members, meaning, of course, those members who provided us with an e-mail address. If that address has changed over the summer, please remind me and our Database Manager David Sonenschein about it at <dsonen@myway.com> and he will make the needed changes so you will be up to date in the records.

Regarding the e-mail survey I sent out asking you for input prior to the October 13 Board meeting, I got a terrific response from the members. I thank each of you who took that important moment to answer. Below I've ranked all the categories – from most to fewest mention - that were of concern to the members. For this issue of *TIS* I've added items that came in since the October e-mail letter from the president.

*Continued on page 2*

- 1) Access to JSTOR, MUSE and other online databases. [This was far and away the issue of greatest concern.]
- 2) Access to brick & mortar research libraries. [This was a close second to the need for online access.]
- 3) More grants information.
- 4) Increased status/recognition/credibility for independent scholars.
- 5) Networking.
- 6) Teaching opportunities; publishing/publisher/agent information; letters of reference; online Member Directory. [Equally ranked.]
- 7) Willing members to critique drafts of works in progress (including for pay); more members with math, computer sciences and physics backgrounds; lobbying for independent scholars; change in dues structure; participation in NCIS; discussion forums/member ListServ; website; CFPs; tax tips; community contact with independent scholars; inspiring ideas from other scholars; help in getting published in peer-reviewed journals in a member's discipline; membership photo ID card (to be used for access to institutional/academic libraries). [Equally ranked.]

If you haven't responded, I'll be happy to add your concerns when you can get back to me, anytime you want. Remember, the query is: *What do you want and/or need from NCIS as a member?*

At the end of July I received an e-mail from new Board member Ellen Gilbert recommending a metasearch website. I went to *viaLibri* – Resources for Bibliophiles at <www.vialibri.net/> and searched one of the links for images. I was amazed that *picsearch* had almost twice the number of images of Yahoo and Google combined. Using *picsearch* I authenticated a number of artists and their artwork, which I added to the iconography I am preparing for publication. The message? If you come across a really terrific search tool or database, send the information to editor Linda Lucas to publish in *TIS*, at <linda-lucas@charter.net>, and to our in-house Internet/Web guru David Sonenschein, at <dsonen@myway.com>, and help your fellow members with an invaluable search tool. I am the very happy recipient of this aid to my research. I hope in the future we can add the links you submit to our own website.

*Janet Wasserman*  
<mae08ben02@aol.com>

## In this issue...

- 3** Letters to the Editor
- 3** NCIS Website Update  
*By Tom Snyder*
- 4** You, Too, Can Write Book Reviews  
*Reprint of article By Karen Reeds*
- 5** Book Reviews:
  - *Goddess and God: A Holy Tension in the First Christian Centuries*
  - *Ten Dollars in my Pocket: The American Education of a Holocaust Survivor: A Memoir in Documents*
  - *Artists' Estates: Reputations in Trust*
- 8** Art of Biography, Part 2  
*By Mahala Yates Stripling*
- 11** Reflections on 2006 NCIS Conference  
*By Hugh Lindsay*
- 12** Indy Times  
*By Mahala Yates Stripling*
- 12** *Ma's Lemon Rind*  
*By Lily Prigioniero*
- 13** New Member Profiles
- 16** NCIS Staffing Changes
- 17** Misc. 'Mindings, Musings

*The Independent Scholar*  
is the quarterly newsletter of the

**National Coalition of Independent Scholars**  
P.O. Box 838  
Saint Helena, CA 94574

**Phone: 415-518-1089**  
**Fax: 707-967-0339**  
**Web: www.NCIS.org**

# What we hear from our members. . .

Opinions expressed by contributors may or may not reflect the opinion of the editor, NCIS, and/or *The Independent Scholar*.

---

To the Editor:

I have some complaints about the overly-long essay you published (“JSTOR: Scholarly Journal Archive or Digital Clister?”, Summer 2007, by Christopher Barden). The tone is rather over the top.

AND - as I just emailed Mr. Barden - he could have free access to JSTOR through the San Francisco Public Library at no charge. Any California resident can obtain a free card at any San Francisco Public Library branch, and thereby have free access to JSTOR as well as many other online resources. Many other public library systems would do the same, even if his own San Mateo County system doesn't.

I wish someone had put an after note to the essay as it appeared in TIS.

Ellen Huppert  
San Francisco

Editor's note: *Members and readers, what is it like for library access in your community? Send your comments to <linda-lucas@charter.net>.*

---

## NCIS website update

Excerpt from letter to the Board from Tom Snyder

Dear Members of the NCIS Board of Directors,

You know that we have been working to modernize the NCIS website, having hired a professional design team for the purpose. NCIS was given a generous grant by Dr. Wosk for this purpose.

My aim is to have the home page, and I hope, at least some functionality up and running by the time of our Board meeting. The website will ultimately offer all that we expect from a website these days: pleasant graphics, online membership renewal, member-only pages for *The Independent Scholar* and Membership Directory, archived issues of *TIS*--the works.

This in no way means that we will stop providing service for our "hard-copy-only" members; but we must present a web presence that will appeal to the Internet-savvy younger generation of scholars, who are NCIS's future.

All the best, Tom

Editor's note: With this issue of TIS, we are unveiling the new logo that will be anchoring the home page on our new website. Watch for our revamped website – coming soon!

Fall 2007



# You, too, can write book reviews

Editor's note: *This article first appeared in The Independent Scholar, vol. 12, no. 3, Summer 1998, p. 2. Keeping Your Hand In: Write Book Reviews, by Karen Reeds.*

**Y**ou want to keep up with your field, contribute to the discipline, maintain some sort of scholarly name for yourself. But your day job makes it impossible to do library research. You can only afford to subscribe to one or two journals, buy a few books, maybe attend one day of a meeting if it's close by and on a weekend. Your time is split up in pieces too small to do sustained thinking and writing.

Those frustrations are all too familiar, yet--to claim your identity as a scholar--you have to find ways to keep a hand in your field. For me, reviewing books has served that end.

Every book review editor is desperate for reliable and succinct reviewers. Despite the very real problems of academic presses, scholarly books continue to be published and to pile up on the shelves of scholarly journals. So, don't feel shy about asking book review editors to add you to their list of potential reviewers. Tell your friends to mention you as a potential reviewer when they have to turn down a book review request. Book review editors for new journals will be especially happy to enlist you. Don't forget scholarly listserves on the Internet and newsletters of learned societies as publishers of book reviews that reach unexpectedly wide audiences.

Make sure the editors know how to reach you easily (phone, fax, email, mailing addresses) and where to send the books. List the fields you know reasonably well from your own training, research, or teaching. Volunteer to review books in any language you read fairly fluently (but ask for extra time to do the review if the book is not in your native tongue). Ask for the journal's guidelines for reviewers and for a copy of a recent issue to see the length, range, and character of the reviews.

If you covet a book you've seen announced, don't hesitate to propose a review to a journal. A good bet is to approach one that might not be on the publisher's priority review list for the book but is nonetheless

appropriate for the book. Be forthright to the editor about possible conflicts of interest on a particular book.

Once you have a book to review, keep in mind that you are now the surrogate for all the journal's readers. They want to know whether to invest their own money in the book, spend their time reading it, assign it to students, recommend it for library purchase, or send their own manuscript to that publisher. At the minimum, you have to sketch the scope of the book, define its audience, distill its argument, explain its point of view, comment on its methodology, and assess its strengths and weaknesses—all within the word limit imposed by the editor.

Every book review editor is desperate for reliable and succinct reviewers.

Be kind: invective wastes words and says more about you than about the demerits of the book. More pragmatically, the author of the book you once damned might end up the anonymous reviewer of your article, grant proposal, book prospectus.

The fun comes in making the review memorable, even to casual readers. Grab their attention in the first line with a telling detail, a juicy anecdote, a thought-provoking question, a striking turn of phrase. In effect, you turn the review into a tiny feature story. And add value. Use your own special knowledge to give readers (and the author) something they will not find in the book itself but will enhance their understanding of the work and the field. The review can thus become a forum to try out your own ideas without the effort of a full-scale article.

Is it worth it? As a rule, you aren't paid, but you do get to keep the book--and its content sticks with you forever. That seems pretty good return for 500 well-chosen words.

Finally, when you sign your review, use National Coalition of Independent Scholars as your affiliation. It's good advertising for all of us.

Karen Reeds, PhD, FLS  
Princeton Research Forum/National Coalition of Independent Scholars <karen.reeds@verizon.net>  
609--279-9420

# Book reviews

## ***Goddess and God: A Holy Tension in the First Christian Centuries***

By Valerie Abrahamsen

Warren Center, PA: Marco Polo Monographs (MPM 10), Shangri-La Publications, 2006.

Reviewed by Yvonne Groseil

Valerie Abrahamsen has written a scholarly study of the evidence for persistence of female deity worship and ritual into the early Christian era and to the present day in some locations. The Goddess, the central deity of pre-historic Mediterranean, Eastern Europe, Middle East and northern Africa communities, believed to rule over the earth and nature and connecting humans closely with the natural processes of harvest, birth, and death, was displaced by the ascendancy of the male God of the monotheistic Judeo-Christian religion. Abrahamsen argues, however, that the influence of the Goddess tradition was not eliminated but merely suppressed and that it has much to offer modern people in a world increasingly destructive of the environment.

Interest in the Goddess is relatively recent, sparked by Marija Gimbutas's original research into the archeology of pre-Bronze Age religions of Europe, which was first published in the US in 1974. Gimbutas's work became a resource for feminists who wanted to integrate their woman-centered philosophies with the Judeo-Christian heritage with new forms of liturgy and ritual. Abrahamsen's work supports for that effort as she carefully analyzes archaeology, symbolism, myth and traditions, as well as canonical, non-canonical, and Gnostic writings of the early Christian era for the persistence of the earlier Goddess tradition. The Roman Catacombs, Corinth and Philippi, central locations of early Christian church development, receive special attention in this study.

*Goddess and God* is thoroughly documented with references to the scholarly literature and presents a cogent argument for the existence of strong traces of Goddess worship into the Christian era. In addition, the book is an impassioned plea by the author for modern Christians to restore contact with the Goddess in order to revitalize their religious experience and deepen their practice by including our human relation with the earth and nature as part of our worship of the divine.



While Abrahamsen's description of the Goddess tradition is extremely detailed, her references to "Christianity" are overly general and weaken her inclusive goal. Some denominations have recognized the spiritual content of new liturgy and ritual honoring the Goddess. But these efforts have also provoked harsh criticism from some clergy and laypeople. Christianity today ranges from liberal Protestant churches that permit, even welcome, such experimentation as revitalizing, to conservative and fundamentalist denominations that insist on literal interpretation of the Bible. In addition, there are religions, such as the Roman Catholic, which do not welcome lay initiative in ritual. Therefore, *Goddess and God* is more likely to encourage those who are already engaged in the process of creating nature-affirming worship forms than it is to open the way to recovery of the female deity in denominations less receptive to such re-thinking of theology and worship.

# ***Ten Dollars in my Pocket: the American Education of a Holocaust Survivor: A Memoir in Documents***

By Elizabeth Trahan

Peter Lang Publisher, 2006.

Reviewed by Rhoda Lewin

Elizabeth “Liz” Trahan decided to write her history so her children and grandchildren would know how she became the person they know today. It includes some memories she wrote down, especially when she was suffering from depression, and at one time even considered suicide, and long-forgotten details from an old diary, but most of it is letters written--but not always mailed--to her best friend, Trudi, in Vienna.

Born in Berlin in 1924, Liz Welt lived in Czechoslovakia 1929-1939, then in Vienna, where she had a “nightmarish Holocaust adolescence,” but began reading English-language books and writing down every word she didn’t know. In 1947 she came to America, “the land of opportunities.” She had only \$10, but the American Refugee Committee found her a job and a furnished bedroom--in a building with only one bathroom per floor! She passed the entrance exam at Hunter College, and received a scholarship so she could become a full-time student in composition, literature, American history, psychology, and public speaking. Later she garnered scholarships and free housing, often with faculty in exchange for housework or baby-sitting, while earning B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees at Sarah Lawrence, Cornell, and Yale.

And now she had her first of many “real boyfriends.” He was also Viennese, and had been imprisoned in 1938, but escaped and hid until the war ended. She also now began writing, and her first short story, “The Day of Atonement,” was published in Opinion, a Jewish magazine, in October 1948. She loved to travel and visit historic sites, and returned to England in 1948 to visit Aunt Jenny, who had left Vienna in 1939 to become a nanny in England. Then, on her way home, she read about Sarah Lawrence College in an airplane magazine, and applied for and received a

*In 1947, she came to America, the land of opportunities. She had only \$10...*

scholarship, plus free room and board as a professor’s baby-sitter.

She had expected that at such an expensive college, everyone would be serious about schoolwork--but she learned new English words like “necking,” “smooching,” and “making out.” She had many boyfriends, but one love affair ended when she met her lover’s wife, and after she broke up with another long-time boyfriend, she tore up the “fan letter” he sent when her first book, her Holocaust memoir, was published, saying he’d read her book “with great pleasure!”

Then she was accepted at Cornell, where she was a Teaching Assistant in German, and edited a “Survey of Russian Literature.” When Yale accepted her as a Ph.D. candidate and T.A., with a fellowship in Comparative Literature, she moved into a co-op house, went camping with friends, visited Jackson Hole and Yellowstone and Old Faithful, and in August, 1954, as her second year at Yale began and her salary doubled, she experienced severe depression, and realized that she had to “find” and live with herself, and learn to live with others and without others, and found three antidotes to her depression and emotional problems: (1) relax, (2) find a few good friends, and, (3) do work you enjoy.

...relax, find a few good friends, do work you enjoy...

The following summer she visited her aging father and friend Trudi in Vienna, and found a teaching job at University of Massachusetts. Austria seemed “back to normal,” beautiful, and enticing, but it was still anti-Semitic, so she decided home was now America. And as the years passed, she taught at the Universities of Massachusetts and Pittsburgh, the Monterey Institute of International Studies (where she founded their famous School of Translation and Interpretation and received an honorary doctorate), and at Amherst College, until she retired in 1993.



## ***Artists' Estates: Reputations in Trust***

Magda Salvesen and Diane Cousineau, eds.

New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2005.

Reviewed by Ann Lee Morgan

With no expectation of becoming involved in the administration of any artist's estate, I wondered whether this book would hold much of interest. It does. *Artists' Estates* illuminates recent American artists' personal lives, studio practices, and posthumous reputations, while also providing insights into the mechanisms by which contemporary artists acquire prestige, wealth, and, ultimately, historical recognition. The volume should be required reading for all artists (and their families) long before their demise seems imminent. Careful planning, clear instructions, and meticulous records will prove invaluable not only to administering estates but to securing artistic legacies.

Independent scholar Magda Salvesen, widow of painter Jon Schueler, came to this book through personal experience. As she recounts in the introduction, she was left with her husband's artistic legacy at his death in 1992. She began talking with other heirs in an effort to answer her own questions about the personal and financial questions she faced. Soon she realized that their varied experiences might be helpful to others facing similar quandaries. Over a period of several years beginning in the mid-1990s, she recorded the interviews that constitute the core of this book. Conversations with gallery principals, directors of artists' foundations, and other art professionals amplify the record.

Interviews have obviously been skillfully edited to eliminate digressions, hesitations, and other conversational awkwardnesses. Brief but carefully assembled biographies of both the artist under consideration and the person being interviewed precede each interview. Well-chosen photographs of artist and interviewee nearly always appear, and most selections include at least one image of the artist's work. Updates on significant developments since interviews took place follow many, and most

also offer a bibliography of two or three sources on the artist. Diane Cousineau assisted with editorial tasks and wrote brief introductions to each of the nine chapters that group interviews thematically.

Although useful, well-constructed, scholarly, and personally engaging, this reference by no means will suffice to inform readers completely about the legal and financial questions concerning artists' estates. Despite survivors' emotional attachments to the work they hope to preserve and advance, the Internal Revenue Code lurks behind nearly every word in this book. No doubt, the technical complexities bearing on fiduciary questions dissuaded Ms. Salvesen from undertaking even the briefest evaluation of varied approaches mentioned in the interviews. However, a short, annotated bibliography of additional reading could have been helpful. *Art Law: The Guide for Collectors, Investors, Dealers, and Artists* by Ralph E. Lerner (an art law specialist who appears among the interviewees) and Judith Bresler might serve as introductory guidance.

Blue chip, well-recognized names whose estates are examined in this volume include such artists as Roy Lichtenstein, Milton Avery, David Smith, and Adolph Gottlieb. However, a majority of the interviews relate to critically well-regarded but less financially successful artists. These cases prove telling for what they reveal about the paths to public renown and the difficulties that can be visited upon heirs who struggle to enhance the artistic reputations of loved ones. Ms. Salvesen purposely avoids "those sad and grim stories" of "the many examples of artists whose work may not have the good luck to be collected and promoted by a responsible dealer when the family steps away" (p. xiii). What is not here thus reinforces the book's overall emphasis on preparation, persistence, and professional assistance in cementing a creative legacy.

# The Art of Biography, Part 2



By Mahala Yates Stripling  
<DrRhetoric@aol.com>

**Editor's Note:** This is the second of a six-part series that derives from Stripling's talks showing her step-by-step process researching and writing a biography. It concludes with its publication. To those NCIS members who are thinking of writing a biography, this series offers sound guidelines. To those in the midst of writing one, as this series unfolds over the next two years, I ask that you send your comments and questions either to the series contributor, Mahala Yates Stripling, at <DrRhetoric@aol.com> or, if you wish them to be considered as a Letter to the Editor, to Linda Lucas at <linda-lucas@charter.net>.

## II. Focus and Forward

More people read biography than any other kind of genre. The biography you are currently engrossed in tells something about who you are. And, if you are writing a biography—and you are what you think about all day—your biographical subject has impacted your life. [*Tell me whose life you read. Tell me who haunts you; I will tell you who you are*—André Breton, *Nadja*.] For these reasons, I am grateful to say my subject is not Jack the Ripper, Son of Sam, or Saddam Hussein, but rather he's a friendly genius named Richard Selzer (b. 1928). Nearly an octogenarian, he's witty, kind, and generous. A former surgeon turned author, he's taught me a great deal about medicine and literature—and its history. But way beyond contributing to the end product of my biography, he has personally enriched my life.



### Get a foothold

The importance of getting an early foothold is shown in this story the famous biographer Richard Ellmann told his friend, Richard Selzer. “After the huge success of his *James Joyce* (1959), Dick Ellmann was casting about for another biographical subject and decided upon Ezra Pound. He wrote to Pound who was then living in Rapallo, Italy, after his release from St. Elizabeth's. By that time, Pound had fallen silent and refused to utter a single word. Dick had broached the subject of a “Life.” Pound had read *Joyce*, and Dick further blandished him with a small volume of his essays. Pound sent word for him to come, as Dick had requested. When he

arrived at the house in Rapallo, Pound's old mistress Olga Rudge let him in and went upstairs to get Ezra Pound who did come down, sat in the room with Dick, but never uttered a word. After a while, he went back upstairs. Dick knew then that it would be impossible. That was when he decided to write his biography of Oscar Wilde (1988; [he worked 20 years on this!].”

After my tentative first meeting with Selzer, I was fortunate to get his quick turnabout. I see him at least once a year in person, and he always gives me the names of people to call. Of these suggested interviewees, he opens the door, telling them, “Give her the whole unvarnished truth, warts and all.” He responds to my direct questions promptly via email. At times his entertaining and informative answers catapult me off into another area of interest, such as when I learned recently that in the 1970s he befriended and corresponded with John Irving and Erich Segal.

Travel has been a part of this work. First, I visited his beloved homeland, Troy, New York, on the mighty Hudson River and talked with his childhood and high school friends, whom he had given a heads-up on. Second, I shadowed Selzer around the Yale University campus where during his fifty years in New Haven he has acquired a retinue of disciples, many of whom I interviewed. Third, I met him as he traveled around the country to speak at Stanford University, the University of Colorado in Denver, and the University of Texas—Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas where I recorded his words, observed his deeds, and interviewed others. Officially into the project for

a decade now, I find my subject a wise choice as I recognize his broad and lasting humanistic contributions not only to the education and practice of medicine but to all readers (we are all patients). For this reason, his eleven books, beginning in 1974, have never been out of print.

### **To be or not to be authorized**

In some cases having the subject's or family's signed consent to write a biography (indicating free and open access) can lead to grants. However, I took another path. While I have received Dr. Selzer's full cooperation, this is not an authorized biography in the sense that he will read and approve the pre-publication manuscript. This subject came up between us only within one context: he understood my need not to be bound by his perspective alone but rather, after considering all alternative viewpoints and additional facts, to give my audience at large the bigger story. This involved considerable trust on his part, and, more specifically, a confidence in me that I complete this task showing tact, truthfulness, judgment, and the flexibility to deal creatively with unexpected issues. On my part, I must fulfill his only requisite that he not lose the affection of his readers. This said, he would be embarrassed by "a puff."

### **Wear many hats**

I wear many hats as a biographer: first and foremost, I'm a researcher, interviewer, and storyteller. I'm also an ethicist, psychologist, biblical scholar, and historian. I'm all of these and more. To give you an historical example, part of the art of biography is placing your subject within the broader cultural currents of the times. Therefore, I go back one hundred years to write about the hardscrabble life of Selzer's White Russian ancestors who emigrated to Ellis Island during the turn of the last century. Selzer, like Faulkner and Twain, has influences deeply rooted in his early life. In order to elucidate this, I have also researched the history of the Hudson Valley area—they are a "watery people"—and talked with many Trojans. A local person helps me immeasurably with photographs and clippings as well as verifying facts.

### **Build a team**

Bounty naturally flowed to me in the form of individuals who were interested in lending their expertise, advice and help; i.e., my team. They include a retired linguistic professor who helped zero in on genealogical research, a communication scholar who has read and commented on the manuscript-in-progress; an attorney who has advised me on intellectual property issues; and a journalist who has given me tips on interviewing practices. If you don't know something, ask someone who does!

### **Know copyright law**

Facts and ideas are not copyrightable, only the unique expression of them. When in doubt, careful attributions are imperative. Footnotes keep you out of trouble. Know copyright law and get a fundamental understanding of fair use practices. See *The Chicago Manual of Style* (the 15<sup>th</sup> edition is online). I also subscribe to and ask questions of experts in an online legal forum ([listserv@cni.org](mailto:listserv@cni.org)). One that comes to mind is, who owns the letters in the Selzer Archive? The action I took was to get the signed permission of my subject to use specific letters.

Another issue came up regarding the stories Selzer's tells, which, like Homer, he keeps alive through repeated tellings. Over the years, he told the same story to me and other interviewers on his surgical interpretation of Jonah and the Whale, which has appeared in several publications. An IP attorney explained to me that, even though an earlier interviewer might think she has copyright in this story—feeling ownership through "the sweat of the brow theory"—that only the aspects original to her publication are protected by copyright. To address this issue, in my acknowledgments I state explicitly: "Some of the stories Selzer told others he repeated to me—at times nearly verbatim. Unless otherwise attributed, the factual information in this biography comes from my personal interviews and letters or other primary documents."



## Understand libel law

Legal issues are a slippery slope that await you at every turn. To be grounded in basic libel law, read *The New York Times v. Sullivan* re public figures (freedom of the press v. malice of forethought). It answers how do you steer a course toward truthfulness and accuracy while avoiding the shoals and reefs of libel lawsuits? Libel case law may give you concrete answers to your specific dilemmas, but of particular concern is a subset of defamation law called “false light/invasion of privacy” that sets lower legal action standards. Rely on your publishing house to put its machinery behind you for a rigorous peer review. To avoid sandbagging, when you feel the hint of a problem, flag it for your readers.



There will be times that test your personal morality. Can you live with the consequences of disclosing intimate details on your subject’s life that could hurt people who love and need him? In the end, the greatest challenge might be deciding to not write about everything you know. In a future expanded and edited version of your biography, such material might be more appropriate.

## Test your product

To get important feedback, I publish excerpts from my manuscript and send chapters to readers. Recently a Stanford Emeritus Medical Professor who was at Yale Medical School with Selzer in the 1950s, read an early chapter, and slightly corrected his quotations. In addition, he commented that it was “a wonderful recreation of the times.” It’s just what I wanted to hear.

## Expect this next

The creative art of biography (voice and style): set an overall tone that reflects your relationship to the subject; decide whether to put yourself in; create a feeling (pathos, empathy, pride) in telling historical events and stories; use parallels and examples.

## Here are tips

- Build a bibliography
- Establish a chronology (events in the life of)
- Create a genealogy (use a program like Family Tree Maker)

© Mahala Yates Stripling 2007  
First serial rights granted to *The Independent Scholar* (NCIS)

---

## A note for visiting scholars

Just a reminder that the NCIS president can write a Letter of Reference requesting a provisional status for a visiting scholar and for library and research collection access, including getting Inter Library Loans, in case you should need this service.



# Reflections on 2006 NCIS conference

*Scholars Without Borders* - The Eighth Biennial Conference of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars  
Hosted by Princeton Research Forum - Princeton University  
June 16 – 18, 2006

Reflections by Hugh Lindsay  
Canadian Academy of Independent Scholars  
Vancouver, BC, Canada.



There's a lot more to a conference than the formal proceedings. Here are some reflections on the things I enjoyed during my few days in Princeton:

- Riding on a main line train from Newark Airport to Princeton Junction. Then transferring to the “Dinky Shuttle,” a little train – complete with engineer and conductor – that goes to a station on the university campus.
- Two angels in an air-conditioned minivan on the hot evening I arrived. As I tried to find my way around the campus, they rescued me and took me and my luggage to where I should be.
- Being awakened by bird songs.
- Listening to presenters who were articulate, witty, and passionate about their subjects – and disciplined in meeting their 20-minute time limits.
- Participants who listened respectfully and asked excellent questions
- The dedication and resourcefulness of the independent scholars who produce scholarly work of great diversity and merit with limited funding and academic resources.
- Learning a new term “matrimonial fellowship” for the primary source of funds of some independent scholars.
- Walking down to the lake in the early morning cool to watch oarsmen at practice.
- Watching rabbits and birds and seeing a squirrel sprawled face down on a tree branch eating a slice of pizza.
- Zigzagging among and through buildings on a pedestrian friendly campus.
- Rhododendrons in flower in the Prospect Garden.
- The highlights tour of the University’s Art Museum.
- Sitting in the cool darkness of the chapel listening to the organist practicing on a hot afternoon.
- The grand crescent of buildings – including the Scully Hall where we stayed – embracing a sports field. Like a Nash terrace in England.
- The Two-fer pancake breakfast at PJs on Nassau Street.
- Buying a big can of beer in a liquor store to drink – legally – with my dinner in an unlicensed restaurant.
- Being reminded of the good side of the USA and Americans.
- Paying only \$250 US to the conference organizers for registration, two lunches, and three nights’ accommodation.
- Meeting a delightful group of individuals who were friendly, hospitable, and fun to be with.
- The comfortable blend of early campus architecture – often deliberately old-fashioned – with fine modern buildings.
- The 18<sup>th</sup> century feel of the town of Princeton. Some authentic old buildings, others tasteful replicas. All in harmony.
- The shade of hundreds of beautiful trees.

# Indy Times: Affiliate Liaison's Corner



By Mahala Yates Stripling

Indy Colleagues,

Because our affiliates are taking a summer newsletter break, this column is brief. For the next issue, please send your news to Mahala Yates Stripling, email: <DrRhetoric@aol.com>, or 5121 Sealands Lane, Ft. Worth, TX 76116.

## Meet the Mentor

In the meantime, what are your thoughts on a "Meet the Mentor" session at the next annual conference? Its purpose would be to give early Indies a chance to breakfast with more advanced scholars to discuss their proposed or in-progress work. Mentors guide, encourage, support, and offer other help that gives a direct, positive benefit to another's success. Mentors would be assigned to individuals based on a common area of interest and their particular expertise. Looking at the directory, these might include American History, Biography, Literature, Medicine, Jewish Studies, Music, Religious Studies, Women's Studies, and many more. The mentee would provide a C.V. or a short biographical write-up before the meeting. There would be no additional fee for this session, but advance registration would be required. Information would be included in the annual meeting packet. Tell me what you think, please.

### Today's IT tip

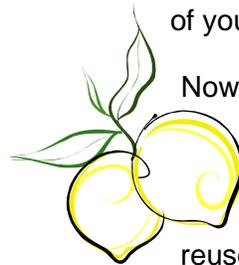
**A man has to live with himself, and he should see to it that he always has good company.**

– Charles Evans Hughes, jurist (1862-1948)

## *Ma's lemon rind*

By Lily Prigioniero

Because that day in Salvato  
when bombs had stopped  
and a path had been cleared  
through rubble and flesh,  
you found half a lemon  
squeezed dry and dusty  
and took it home  
to the center of the table –  
survived wood with  
survived children –  
and as you all split the rind  
contemplating a thousand dreams,  
chicken roasts in different times,  
the dusty grit of hunger and need  
pushed between everyone's teeth  
and into the very core  
of your every thought and sacrifice.



Now as I sift through your things  
clearing off Pa's workbench  
in your double car garage  
and one-acre lot,  
I know that every rusty nail,  
reused and flattened to give us our keep,  
every scrap of wood and piece of cloth,  
left-over paint and unmarked paper,  
is saved –  
placed in little corners and larger drawers  
so that all could fill that need  
to fill that vacant hole  
to then be tossed in the garbage bin  
where life had been filled with everything  
because of the grit of that lemon skin.

Editor's note: *Originally from Michigan, Ms. Prigioniero has lived with her family in Tuscany for the past 24 years. She studied art conservation in Florence and then worked for ten years restoring some of Tuscany's most important frescos. For the past 11 years, she has been teaching fresco technique and art conservation to undergraduate students studying abroad, along with creative writing. She has just been awarded the Premio Selezione of the International literary prize "Archè" for her novel that she wrote directly in Italian (La Cena del Tacchino). Ms. Prigioniero tells us that Ma's Lemon Rind is somewhat autobiographical.*

# Welcome, new NCIS members!

**MICHAEL W. ALBIN**

5603 Ventnor Lane  
Springfield, VA 22151  
michael.albin@verizon.net

Michael has two MAs from the University of Chicago, in international relations and in library science. His long-time research interests are the history of printing and publishing in the Middle East and the Islamic world, 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present. His fluency in Arabic and knowledge of Persian and Turkish have been especially important. This year he retired from the Library of Congress after more than thirty years in many assignments abroad, the longest of which was as field director of the LC's Cairo office.

## **Publications**

“Printing,” *Encyclopedia of the Qur'an*, vol.4, Leiden: Brill, 2005.

“The Islamic Book,” *Blackwell Companion to the History of the Book*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2007.

Several articles incl. history of the Islamic book, libraries and Islamic prayer books in *Oxford Companion to the Book*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (forthcoming).

**KATHIE CARLSON**

P.O. Box 98  
Kintnersville, PA 18930  
Doso81844@aol.com

Kathie studied Jungian psychology extensively at the C.G. Jung Institute in New York City, has an M.A. in psychology from the New School for Social Research, also in NYC, and an undergraduate degree in psychology and philosophy-religion from Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin. During her undergraduate years, she spent a year abroad at the New East School of Theology and the American University of Beirut, both in Beirut, Lebanon.

For 30 years, Kathie was in private practice as a Jungian-oriented psychotherapist and currently works for Bucks County, Pennsylvania as a social worker with frail elderly.

## **Publications**

*In Her Image: the Unhealed Daughter's Search for Her Mother* and *Life's Daughter/Death's Bride: Inner Transformations Through the Goddess Demeter/Persephone*, published by Shambhala Publications, Boston, MA in 1989 and 1997, respectively.

Her current work in progress is tentatively titled *Mama Terror: Overcoming Our Fears of Aging and Death* and will present a Jungian perspective on meaningful aging.

**RICHARD G. CARSON**

**35 Port Norfolk Street  
Dorchester, MA 02122  
carsonr35@comcast.net**

Richard has a Ph.D. in English from Brown University with research areas in American cultural studies -- American literature's representation of American continental expansion and the representation of America as the body of a Native American woman. A current project is the story of twelve-year-old Hannah Ocuish who was executed in December 1786 in New London, Connecticut, for the murder of a six-year-old girl whose prominent family accused Hannah of stealing cherries. Hannah was mentally challenged and lived a foster child in town. She was dragged before the corpse of the murdered child and confessed to the crime. Her confession remained the only evidence against her.

### **Publications**

“ ‘A matter of whispered communication’: Pragmatism, *The Bostonians*, and the Culture of Uncertainty,” in *Conversations with Pragmatism*. Value Inquiry Book Series, Amsterdam: Rodopi, Press, 2002.

“Closet Space,” *Providence Sunday Journal*, August 1991. Winner, Short Fiction Contest.

“Nature and the Circles of Initiation in Sara Orne Jewett’s *The Country of the Pointed Firs*,” *Colby Library Quarterly*, vol.xxi, no. 3, September 1985.

**DENISE E. LASSAW**

**65330 Knob Hill Road  
Anchor Point, AK 99556  
dpaljor@homernet.net**

Denise’s multifaceted life experience includes a stint at the University of Alaska. Otherwise it was the company of famous artists from childhood on and world-wide travel that stamped her interest in art and led to her years-long archival research to create a catalogue raisonné of the work of her famous father, the abstract sculptor Ibram Lassaw (1913-2003), and an annotated bibliography documenting all book and media writings about him.

Her research includes cataloging over seventy years’ worth of Lassaw’s own writings, letters, documents, photographs and slides and she continues to do research in art history and the work of many contemporary artists. She has written and edited articles on art, performed her published and unpublished poetry, and long worked on behalf of human rights in Tibet including extensive involvement on several films about Tibet.

### **Publications**

“On Ibram Lassaw’s Drawings of the 1940’s,” ex. cat. *A Sculptor’s Drawings. 1945-1950*, New York: Pollack-Krasner House and Study Center, 2004.

*Ibram Lassaw: A Bouquet of Memories*, Denise Lassaw, ed., East Hampton, NY: Guild Hall Museum, 2004.

“Ibram Lassaw’s Life and Art: A Personal Account,” *Ibram Lassaw: Deep Space and Beyond*, ed. Steve Arbury, Radford, VA: Radford University Press, 2002.

**INA BROSSEAU MARX and  
ALLEN I. MARX**

**101 Claridge Court #4  
Princeton, NJ 08540-7032  
allenina@marxbrosseau.com**

While we would normally provide separate entries for a joint membership, Ina and Allen's lifelong collaboration have established them together as among the leading American experts on art conservation and restoration. Ina has a BA in studio art and art history from Queen's College/CUNY and Allen has a BS in Business from Northwestern University.

Their specialty in antiques is furniture and painted and gilded surfaces. They have taught, lectured, and led workshops throughout the US and Canada and their publications are standard references on the subjects.

Ina's current research interest is mid-19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular painted surfaces in America and Allen's is early 19<sup>th</sup> century gilded techniques on Asian lacquer. They have done major restoration work for leading American art museums and other collections and are the founders of The Finishing School, which attracts young artisans and scholars to continue their tradition.

### **Publications** [coauthored]

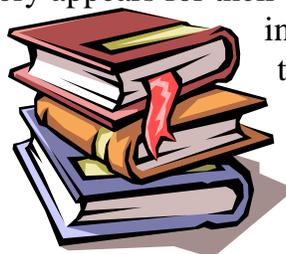
*Furniture Restoration*, New York: Watson-Guption Publications, 2007.

"Restoration of Damaged Verre Églomisé," *The Gilder's Tip. Journal of the Society of Gilders*, vol. 21, no. 1, 2007, 14-17.

*Professional Painted Finishes*, New York: Watson-Guption Publications, 1991.

---

Because new members join throughout the year, they have traditionally had to wait until the revised annual membership directory appears for their entry in directory format. Instead of making them wait, we have now to tell their colleagues about reviews, and so on – as soon as Member Profiles section. New bibliographic citations in their member may submit a new occurs.



increased the opportunity for new members their work – papers, books, articles, they have joined NCIS, in this New members may include three biographic information. Thereafter, any publication for listing in *TIS*, as it



For all members, subsequent lectures, courses, book reviews, essays – anything that is current or will happen soon, are very appropriate as member news items in *TIS*.

Send your news items to < linda-lucas@charter.net. > Let us share your good news with your fellow members.

# NCIS staffing changes

## Webmaster Margaret DeLacy resigns.

Excerpts from a letter to Margaret and the Board from Janet Wasserman

Dear Margaret,

Your years of work as Webmaster, Margaret, can never go without our sincerest thanks and appreciation. No one should ever think that the task of a Webmaster is easy and not without its worries. Years of dedication to a volunteer task are, I think, the only real payback we often get from working in a public membership organization. The years were not without their reward, that is, the website was the only face that many an inquiring searcher knew of us. Many independent scholars reached us through the website. In that sense, the years of dedication were a success -- and that was your success.

Margaret, I wish you success in your work as an independent scholar and as a leader of NISA. No one did what you volunteered to do as Webmaster -- take on a tough and unrelenting job. Thanks are due you not only from your Board colleagues but also from each and every member of NCIS.

With best wishes,

Janet

---

## Board member Alicia Zavala Galván resigns.

Excerpts from a letter to Alicia from Janet Wasserman

Dear Alicia,

I am truly sorry that you have resigned. You've served NCIS in a most dedicated and committed way. I know that when I became vice president and president, I saw you as a shining example of selfless devotion to the Board and as an active member of NCIS doing hard work on several committees including the task of chair on the Awards Committee. You've given so much to NCIS. I hope that leaving the Board will bring some time for you to do the things you must.

With my deepest thanks to you, Alicia, for being with us. I send you my personal warmest regards and affection.

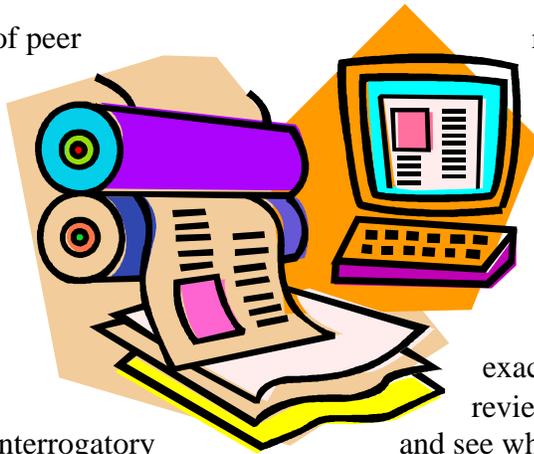
Janet

# Miscellaneous 'Mindere & Musings

## Getting an article peer-reviewed or published

In response to a member's query about being published in a peer-reviewed journal, **Janet Wasserman** shares the following information:

- 1<sup>st</sup>** Look for the journals that you are thinking of submitting your paper to and check online for their contributor guidelines and publication policy.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>** You can look in the NCIS Member Directory under Disciplines (back of the book) and find the names of members who self-identify in your discipline. You can find their contact info in the alpha listing and see if they have published in your discipline's journals. At that point, you can e-mail those members and ask for help, for example, in reading your draft or ask them what their experience has been in being published in peer-review journals.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>** If the journal's policy of peer review, whether or not it is a double-blind option, is clear and you want to get published, just submit your article. I cannot think of any way of getting a recommendation that would move the process itself controls in the way of peer review.
- 4<sup>th</sup>** You CAN Google an exact query. I've done it. Use your keywords -- "peer review," "scholarly journal," "published" -- in an interrogatory and see what comes up. There will be many sites. See Ron Gross's *The Independent Scholar's Handbook*, digitized edition - now online free at <http://www.sfu.ca/independentscholars/isbook.htm>
- 5<sup>th</sup>** It is worth a session as part of a workshop on getting published anywhere.
- 6<sup>th</sup>** Keep a log and consider getting an article about your experience published in our very mildly peer-reviewed *TIS*!



Editor's note: *We welcome readers' advice and experience in having their papers published in a peer-reviewed scholarly journal. Send your comments to <linda-lucas@charter.net.>*

# A word about access to online journals

Member **Karen Reeds** shares the following information:



In the MEDTEXTL discussion earlier this summer about independent scholars, I posted a message about "lack of access to online ... journals [that marginalizes] any researcher who is not affiliated with an institution with a big library: independent scholars, faculty and students at smaller colleges and high schools, museum staff, journalists, local historians.... Even if you have the access now, you can't count on it for the future--just when you need to turn that dissertation into a book! Even if you get that brilliant article published, you might not be able to read it yourself online!"

I've said a bit more on the issue in a short Forum piece in *American Periodicals: A Journal of History, Criticism, and Bibliography*, Volume 17, Number 1, 2007, pp. 121-123. (Available online through Project MUSE--if you have access.)

Karen Reeds  
Princeton Research Forum/National Coalition of Independent Scholars  
<<http://www.princetonresearchforum.org/>>  
<<http://www.ncis.org/>>

---

## Volunteer advisories: Need an editor?

Member **Rhoda Lewin** writes:

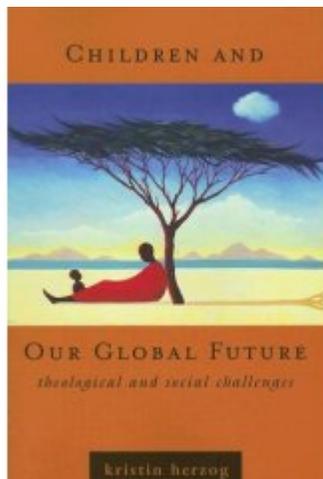
I've been an editor most of my life, and certainly have the members organize and edit their works. I look forward to kind of work I really enjoy much, much more than scholarly article.



skills and experience to help our your response... and to doing the writing yet another book, or

Rhoda Lewin  
<[TRLEwin@aol.com](mailto:TRLEwin@aol.com)>

Editor's note: *We are glad to post in TIS any member's voluntary offer to share your talents and experiences for serving the members. Email your comments to <[linda-lucas@charter.net](mailto:linda-lucas@charter.net)>.*



Member **Kristin Herzog's** book, *Children and Our Global Future: Theological and Social Challenges* (Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2005) was published in German translation in June 2007 as "*Kinder und unsere globale Zukunft: Theologische und soziale Herausforderungen*" by the Neukirchener Verlag.

In July, the author presented the book in Duisburg at the center of "Kindernothilfe," an organization working for children in 27 countries. Several newspapers of the Rhineland reported very positively on the event and the content of the book.

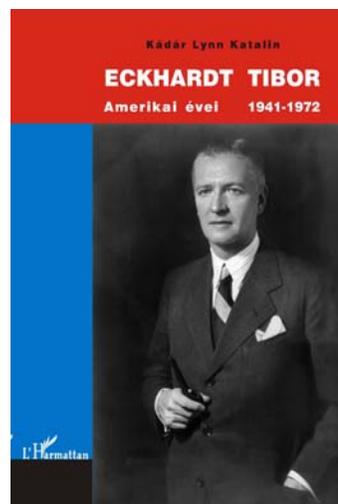
---

Member **Katalin Kádár Lynn** has published two books. They are the English and Hungarian Edition of the same work.

Portions of the book were presented at the Hungarian Studies Association Conference in Bloomington, Indiana at the University of Indiana in April of 2006 and at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies conferences in Salt Lake City in November of 2005 and in Washington, DC in November of 2006.

Hungarian Edition: Kádár Lynn Katalin: *Eckhardt Tibor amerikai évei 1941-1972*. L'Harmattan Kiado. Budapest and Paris. 2006. Foreword by Dr. Otto von Habsburg.

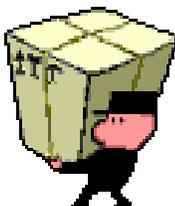
English Edition: Katalin Kádár Lynn: *Tibor Eckhardt: His American Years, 1941-1972*. East European Monographs, Boulder. Distributed by Columbia University Press, New York 2007. Foreword by Dr. Otto von Habsburg.



## Member address change

Ellen Gilbert  
227 Stuart Road East  
Princeton, NJ 08540

edg5@columbia.edu  
Phone: 609-947-3535



Editor's note: *We are happy to post member directory updates in TIS.*

*Send your updates to <linda-lucas@charter.net>.*

*The Independent Scholar*, Vol. 21, Number 3, Fall 2007 (ISSN 1066-5633). ©2007 National Coalition of Independent Scholars.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission, except for brief quotations in reviews and critical writings.

*The Independent Scholar* is published quarterly by the National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS). NCIS is a nonprofit organization founded to improve the standing of independent scholars, [www.ncis.org](http://www.ncis.org).

NCIS works to facilitate the interaction of independent scholars with libraries, research facilities, funding sources, and professional organizations. NCIS is an affiliate of the American Council of Learned Societies.

*The Independent Scholar* is a benefit of membership.

US ..... \$17/yr, \$30/2 yr  
Canada ..... \$20/yr, \$35/2 yr  
All other countries: ..... \$25/yr, \$45/2 yr  
Single issues:..... \$4/5 outside US

Send subscriptions, address changes, and membership inquiries to:

NCIS  
PO Box 838, St. Helena, CA 94574  
Phone: 414.518.1089  
[ncismembership@earthlink.net](mailto:ncismembership@earthlink.net)

### **Guidelines**

*The Independent Scholar* publishes news, notes, essays, articles, reviews, interviews and memoirs, taking first serial rights. In most cases, a submission should not be longer than 1,500 words. Submit manuscripts electronically as a Word.rtf or Word.doc. Use as little formatting as possible, i.e., no page numbers. Contributors receive one copy of the issue in which their work appears. The editor reserves the right to make minor adjustments in the manuscript. Substantive changes and revisions will be the responsibility of the author.

The editor and *The Independent Scholar* assume no responsibility for contributors' errors. Opinions expressed by contributors may or may not reflect the opinion of the editor and *The Independent Scholar*.

Send manuscripts to the editor, Linda Lucas, at [<linda-lucas@charter.net>](mailto:linda-lucas@charter.net). Submissions to *TIS* are accepted from non-members on condition that they become bona fide members of NCIS.

### **Deadlines for submitting articles, essays, papers**

February 15  
May 15  
August 15  
November 15

### **Comments and concerns**

Janet Wasserman, president, [<mae08ben02@aol.com>](mailto:mae08ben02@aol.com)  
Linda Lucas, editor, [<linda-lucas@charter.net>](mailto:linda-lucas@charter.net)



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
VALLEJO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 97

**NCIS**  
**The National Coalition of Independent**  
**Scholars**  
**P.O. Box 838**  
**Saint Helena, CA 94574**