

foreword

The USCMH is affiliated with the International Commission of Military History and takes part in its projects and programs, including contributions to its publication program (mainly the International Bibliography of Military History) and participating in the annual international meetings.

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2007 ICMH Congress in Cape Town, South Africa

Pat Harahan, Secretary-general

The South African Military History Commission and the Faculty of Military Science of the University of Stellenbosch has invited all members of the national military history commissions to participate in the 2007 International Commission of Military History (ICMH) Congress, to be held in Cape Town, South Africa from August 12-17, 2007. Major General L.S. Mollo, President of the South Africa Commission of Military History, invites everyone to come and enjoy Cape Town. "Our theme is wide and current," he explained, "it addresses issues of 'Regions, Regional Organizations and Military Power.' I am positive that international community and the various national commissions could contribute much to our understanding of this issue and that a large variety of interesting papers will provide us with important insights into this complex phenomenon."

USCMH members wishing to propose a paper should review the information in the following paragraphs on the theme, subtopics, and major questions that will be considered. Proposals should be submitted (with an abstract and a brief vita or resume) electronically to Dr. Hans Pawlisch, Vice-president, USCMH. For younger scholars presenting papers, the Commission will provide travel grants to the meeting. Dr. Pawlisch's e-mail address is HansPawlisch@msn.com

Information on registration, hotels, daily schedules, and tours is available electronically. To make the 2007 Congress a success, General Mollo asks delegates and accompanying persons to register by the conference deadline, 30 April 2007. For details on the congress, registration, hotels, tours, and Cape Town, see the website www.cihm.ac.za)

Congress theme: Regions, Regional Organizations and Military Power

The congress theme divides into a number of sub-themes, including the following:

- Regions, regional organizations and military power in historical perspective
- Regions, military power and military intervention during the Cold War.
- Regional security co-operation and peacekeeping.
- Regional alliances.
- Creation, operation and maintenance of regional and multi-national forces.
- Threats to regional security and regional conflicts since the end of the Cold War.
- Regional conflicts and international coalitions.

Special provision will be made for the roundtable panels:

- Support of Warsaw Pact countries in liberation struggles.
- Analysis of major themes and bibliography on proxy wars

Major Issues to be considered by the Congress

- What was the effect of the Cold War on regional security? Did it stimulate conflicts within regions?
- How did the changing world order after the end of the Cold War impact on conflicts within regions?
- What is the role of military forces in making regional organizations work?
- To what extent is the military instrumental in regional organizations?
- How does military thought reflect on the relationship between regional organizations and military power?
- To what extent does regional military cooperation enhance domestic stability?
- Is military cooperation between various states in a region possible without strong regional organizations?
- How do the ideas of Nation, Religion, and Ideology threaten regional security?
- Do hegemonic and dominant military powers within regions enhance or threaten regional security?

Traditionally, the U.S. Commission has nominated several presentations and a roundtable on recent books in military history. Dr. Pawlish will set up a small selection committee to determine which papers the US Commission will send forward to the South African Commission. All proposals must be submitted by **31 March 2007**. The South Africa Commission will select from the proposals received and organize the final conference program. Proposals should contain the author's name and a brief academic or professional vita, and the proposed title with an abstract of the paper.

<u>Special advice for USCMH members considering attending the 2007 ICMH Congress in Cape Town</u> South Africa is an interesting country; however the travel distance, cost, time, and health considerations mean there will be many questions for those considering the journey. Please read the Congress information carefully. Registration for the Congress and hotels close on April 30, 2007. If you are interested in taking a pre-or postcongress tour, make all inquiries on the web sites provided by the Congress. There are certain health advisories for the city and nation. For that information, please consult the US State Department web site at <u>http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1008.html</u>.

The U.S. Commission has frequently had one of the largest delegations. If you are interested in attending this Congress in Cape Town, we are setting up a special web group. It will provide you with information, any changes or bulletins concerning the congress, and help answer some of your questions. As Secretary-general I know both General Mollo and Commander Dr. Thean Potgieter of the South African Commission, and I will relay your questions to them. The address for the "Cape Town in '07" group is <u>harahan@verizon.net</u>

President's Report, February 2007

John Lynn, President USCMH

I hope your holiday season was particularly rewarding.

Since the last newsletter, I have devoted my primary energies to pursuing my duties as a member of the committee formed to consider new directions and standards for the International Commission of Military History. The particular charge given me has been to develop a formal proposal for an internet portal to be sponsored by the ICMH. As intended, this portal will include sections for teaching aids, soldier reminiscences, and chat room, but the essential function of the portal is to provide a single, unified, and well-integrated site to access the great and expanding body of books, articles, and research materials now available on the web. One way of looking at it is to consider the Portal as an extensive subject catalog of web materials with links. The multiplication of scanned library collections, as with Google Library, will only make this all the more valuable.

Faculty at the University of Illinois top-ranked Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) have urged me to conceive of the bibliography as a "Wiki" site, using the methodology of Wikipedia. Here, the users themselves contribute the entries contained in the site. To an academic this may seem fraught with danger, but there are ways of managing the quality of the entries. Members of the USCMH could play a role in providing the subject matter expertise that will maintain the quality of the site.

Even mobilizing the volunteer contributions of users, creating such a site will be a major effort and expense. Our best initial estimate is that it will require some \$200,000 to cover the first three years. Raising this kind of money becomes the major task. As a step along the way, we hope to interest the GSLIS in developing a pilot Portal site as a graduate student project. Then with pilot in hand, the ICMH can seek funding. Whoever develops the Portal will provide a great service and immediately gain international recognition and credit.

We will know more how this proposal will fare at the ICMH's South African congress.

Tom Ricks, War Correspondent, discusses Iraq War at Annual Meeting

Pat Harahan, Secretary-general USCMH

Nearly forty members of the commission gathered for a luncheon at the Mount Vernon Inn on Saturday October 28th. Tom Ricks, the senior military correspondent for the Washington Post spoke on his recently published book, *FIASCO: The American Military Adventure in Iraq.* Ricks, a military journalist for nearly twenty-five years, has covered wars and conflicts in Somalia, Haiti, Korea, Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq. These experiences, plus a deep interest in military forces in combat, led Ricks to examine the Bush Administration's planning and conduct of the war in Iraq.

Ricks began the talk by asking a question. Did the audience of military historians agree with his analysis that the policy, planning, and conduct of the war in Iraq differed fundamentally from previous American wars? He thought that there were five, possibly six major differences. To begin with, the Bush Administration had rejected five decades of the United States' foreign policy objectives for the Middle East: stability and peaceful settlements of conflicts. They had replaced this policy with the forceful military invasion of Iraq and the imprinting of an American democratic system on its people. Next, the Bush Administration had defined and conducted the war - the invasion, occupation, and post-occupation, in an extremely narrow, partisan way. Another difference was that contrary to the American experience, the U.S. Congress had refused to exercise its constitutional oversight responsibilities. Then in the conduct of the war, U.S. defense leaders and senior military commanders followed a war plan that anticipated a tactical, instead of a strategic, victory since the invading and occupying force was too small and unprepared for the postwar insurgency. Next, Ricks asserted that before the war, U.S. intelligence agencies had been politicized and they produced flawed, incorrect WMD threat analyses. Finally, he confessed that his colleagues, American journalists, had joined in the pell-mell rush to war, relying on false informants and fabricated leads to persuade the American public to go to war. In all of these aspects, he believed that the war in Iraq differed from previous American wars abroad.

Historians at the meeting challenged some of Rick's points. One thought that the new U.S. military strategy of preemptive war, adopted in June 2001, further separated the Bush Administration from America's military past. Another thought that in the past, the military services and the defense department's intelligence agencies had served as a check on the CIA's inflated estimates. That check had disappeared after the 9-11 attacks. Others questioned the Bush Administration's blindness to the Middle East region's culture, history, and complexity. Ricks paired the questions with comments, based on his research, analyses, and recent experiences embedded with US Marine and Army divisions in Iraq. Having researched and considered the issues so recently, he gave little ground.

Ricks ended his interesting talk and discussion with a series of somber predictions on the future of the war in Iraq. Referring to the book's final chapter, written in December 2005, he declared that a bloody civil war in Iraq appeared to be imminent. He was pessimistic about the future, seeing the war in Iraq as an American strategic failure and an international tragedy. Sadly, he said that he had come to the conclusion that the war would grind on for another three or four years, assuming for the Iraqis and Americans the dimensions of a Shakespearean tragedy.

In a brief business meeting that followed, Vice-president Hans Pawlisch declared that the organization was in excellent shape, financially. He explained that President John Lynn sent his apologies and regrets; he was caught up in unavoidable aircraft delays in Chicago. Finally, Pawlisch explained that the U.S. Commission is planning to send a strong delegation to the 2007 International Commission of Military History Congress in Cape Town, South Africa in August. Any member wishing to become a delegate or to submit a paper should consult the article on the Congress, themes, registration, and accommodations in the winter 2007 newsletter.

Summary of USCMH Trustees' Meeting, 28 October 2006

Janice McKenney, Trustee and Secretary

In the absence of President John A. Lynn, Vice President Hans Pawlisch called the meeting to order at the Collingwood Library and Museum, Alexandria, Virginia. Dr. Pawlisch explained that flight cancellations in Chicago and other difficulties had caused Dr. Lynn to miss the meeting. After establishing a quorum and approving the minutes, Dr. Pawlisch read the President's report, in which Dr. Lynn stated that the USCMH had had an impressive and productive year, citing the 32d ICMH Congress in Potsdam, Germany, as particularly noteworthy. The report mentioned some difficulties with the website and recommended that the US Commission create an office of "webmaster," parallel to that of recording secretary, newsletter editor, or committee chair. Dr. Lynn thought that his idea of creating a "portal" on the commission's website was too great for the USCMH alone, so he would seek outside financial support. He decided to enlist the support of the ICMH, as well as comments from the Society for Military History (SMH).

Lynn reported that at the Potsdam meeting, the ICMH had created a new committee to survey the standards, practices, and institutions of the international organization in order to improve the quality of the annual congresses, improve the services provided by the international commission, and gain more

international recognition. Professor Ioannis Loucas of Greece chairs the committee, which also includes Ciro Paoletti, Jean Avenel, Winfried Heinemann, and himself. Part of the goal of gaining more recognition for the USCMH has been to support other historical meetings. This past year, the US Commission lent its name to cosponsoring a museum display in Casablanca, Morocco, in commemoration of Operation Torch. The Commission also co-sponsored with Society for Military History the annual meeting of the Society of French Historical Studies in April 2006 at the University of Illinois.

In his report as Vice President Dr. Pawlisch stated that he convened a committee (Edward Marolda, Janice McKenney, Dean Allard, and Barton Hacker) to select papers to be given at the 2006 ICMH Congress in Potsdam. The papers of Geoffrey Megargee, James Hogue, Joseph P. Harahan, and Bianka Adams were very well received and will appear in the conference *Acta* scheduled for publication in 2007. Dr. Pawlisch reported that plans were being made to assemble a panel on the genocide crisis in Rwanda for the 2007 ICMH Congress in Cape Town, South Africa. Tentative speakers are the former U.S. ambassador to Kigali, David Rawson; the former U.S. Defense attaché, Lt. Col. Tom Odom, USA ret.; and Maj. Brent Beardsley, ADC to the Canadian General Romeo Dallaire, Force Commander of the UN Assistance Mission to Rwanda, 1993-94; with overtures being made to the Belgian journalist Gerard Prunier. The Board of Trustees then authorized the panel on Rwanda to be submitted for the 2007 ICMH Congress.

Secretary-general Harahan informed the board that as of October 2006, the USCMH had 109 members. He felt that the most important administrative development was the conversion of its membership activities to electronic media, which was proving to be faster, cheaper, and far more efficient. Members without computers will continue to receive communications through postal mail. Dr. Harahan reported that he had organized a small committee to assist in running USCMH business: Dr. Megargee, Dr. Sanders Marble, Dr. Bianka Adams, and Ms Janice McKenney. He cited three new developments. First, beginning in winter 2007 the USCMH newsletter will be sent to the 36 other national commissions in the ICMH. Next, because the USCMH is sponsoring the Military Classics Seminars, each month electronic announcements will be sent to all members concerning the date, speaker, and book topic. Third, for the 2007 ICMH Congress in Cape Town, all members will receive announcements and information directly from the Secretary-general. Dr. Harahan stated that the Secretary-general's office would be the point of contact for members attending the meeting and for communicating information to the South African Commission, the exception being USCMH scholars presenting papers and leading panels.

Harahan then asked that the USCMH consider expanding membership through joint membership in other professional societies, such as SMH and the Society for History in the Federal Government. For a small additional fee members of those societies could also join the USCMH and receive its newsletter, annual meeting notices, and ICMH announcements and publications. He recommended that a small committee be established to consider expansion through the affiliated professional society route. Dr. Harahan also felt that a direct appeal for new members was needed and recommended that the Board of Trustees authorize the Secretary-general to develop a new membership brochure and that it authorize a USCMH table display for the SMH meeting in Frederick in 2007. The board approved these requests.

Dr. Megargee, the Treasurer, reported that the USCMH was in good shape. Its assets total \$49,716.51, an increase from last year. Income was \$8,416.42, while expenses were \$5,930.20. He suggested shifting some money from the Smith-Barney account (\$22,388.69) to a mutual fund for greater income. After some discussion, the board approved a transfer of \$10,000 from the Smith-Barney account to the Pimco Real Mutual Fund.

Dr. Hogue, Chair of the Bibliographic Committee, stated that the ICMH meeting in Potsdam was a significant milestone in the development of the *Bibliographie Internationale d'Histoire Militaire (BIMH)*. The principal business conducted there was the transition to new leadership. After discussions within the Swiss Commission and the International Board, ICMH Secretary-general Piet Kamphuis proposed that a triumvirate of Swiss members be designated as a collective interim editorial leadership for one year. The Bibliographic Committee unanimously approved Anselm Zurfluh, Hervé de Weck, and Dimitry Queloz as the committee's new leadership. Publication of the *BIHM* Volume 27, consisting of 276 bibliographic entries and a special essay on the 150th anniversary of the *Swiss Military Review*, was presented to the Bibliography Committee. Members of the US Commission were well represented in the volume with a total of 39 entries. Reviewers included David Graff, Dr. Hogue, Brian Linn, Dr. Lynn, and Allan R. Millett.

Ms McKenney read Robin Higham's report on the meeting that took place in Potsdam of the Comite des Archives Militaires (CAM), the theme of which was "Archival Maps, an Under-used Historical Source?" The minutes of the Potsdam meeting are to appear in archives committee' newsletter *Mars & Janus.*

There being no old business, Dr. Pawlisch asked Dr. Megargee to present the 2006-07 budget. The approved budget projects an income of \$6,270 with expenses of \$6,500 for a net loss of \$230. Dr. Pawlisch then discussed the selection of scholars eligible for travel grants, stating that the budget provided \$3,000 for grants for up to three people. Dr. Hacker recommended giving priority to new individuals. He also recommended placing a notice on H-Net and the SMH newsletter. Then Dr. Harahan asked if the board would be interested in a session of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University. The trustees were favorable, and Dr. Harahan plans to arrange such a session. Dr. Hacker recommended that the USCMH sponsor a panel at the 2008 American Historical Association (AHA) meeting in Washington, D.C., and Dr. Harahan agreed to take on the responsibility. The Board of Trustees unanimously agreed to sponsor a panel at the 2008 AHA meeting; there are also plans for participating in the 2007 SMH meeting in Frederick, Maryland. After the board established the date for the next annual meeting of the USCMH as 3 November 2007, Dr. Pawlisch adjourned the meeting.

For those wishing to read the full minutes of the 28 October meeting, please email Pat Harahan at <u>harahan@verizon.net</u> or Janice McKenney at <u>janicee.mckenney@verizon.net</u>.

US Commission Supports Military Classics Seminar

Randy Papdopoulos, USCMH Trustee

As a new initiative, for the next two years the USCMH will host the Washington DC-based Military Classics Seminar. Founded in 1958, this seminar is a dinner-and-speaker series held on the third Tuesday of the month at the Fort Myer Officers' Club, in northern Virginia. Each of the Military Classics Seminars opens with a reception at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner at 6:30 and book presentation at 7:30. The cost for the evening is \$28.00, including the dinner and gratuity. The books and discussants scheduled for the seminar from January through June 2007 are:

20 March 2007 Michael R. Gordon, & Bernard E. Trainor, *Cobra II: The Inside Story of the Invasion and Occupation of Iraq.*

Speaker: Mark D. Mandeles, Historian and Systems Analyst, The J. de Bloch Group

17 April 2007 Dual: Wilkinson Dent Bird, *A Chapter of Misfortunes: The Battles of Ctesiphon and of Dujailah, and the British Campaign in Mesopotamia, 1915-1916, and Charles V. Townshend,*

My Campaign in Mesopotamia.

Speaker: Dina R. Khoury, Historian, George Washington University

15 May 2007 Edward M. Coffman, *The Regulars: The American Army, 1898-1941*. <u>Speaker:</u> Timothy K. Nenninger, Military Historian and Senior Archivist, National Archives

19 June 2007 Laurence Stallings, The Doughboys.

Speaker: Sanders Marble, Historian, Office of Medical History, U. S. Army

If you are interested in being added to the invitation list for these events, please contact Randy Papadopoulos at (202)433-3934 or by e-mail at <u>randy.papadopoulos@navy.mil</u>.

International and National Military History Conferences

'Warfare in the Central Sector, 1948-1968', Münster, Germany, 22-23 March 2007

From Prof. Dr. Jan Hoffenaar, Netherlands Institute of Military History The Hague

An international conference 'Warfare in the Central Sector, 1948-1968' will be held on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 March 2007 in Münster, Germany. The Netherlands Institute of Military History (NIMH) is sponsoring the conference in cooperation with the Militärgeschichtliches Forschungsamt (MGFA) and with the support of the Zentrum für Niederlande-Studien, Westfälische-Universität and Headquarters 1 (German/Netherlands) Corps.

The conference will be held in Münster. During the Cold War, the Central Sector was the most significant potential battle area in Europe. A large number of states in the West and East prepared their combined forces for military confrontation in that sector. The security policy and strategic aspects of the East-West conflict have already been extensively researched, reported and analyzed. However, international research into the military-operational level is still in its infancy. Although national studies have been done, a more integrated multinational approach is, to date, still lacking. During the conference, the operational level will be the point of focus. International military historians will present papers on subjects such as perception of the enemy, intelligence, operational plans, logistic planning, training, exercises and mobilization.

The conference program is available at <u>www.nimh.nl</u>. The conference will take place on 22 - 23 March 2007 at the Freiherr vom Stein-Saal in Münster (Germany). Participation in the two-day conference costs EUR 75. To register, contact Dr Jeoffrey van Woensel (NIMH), P.O. Box 90701, 2509 LS The Hague, Netherlands, or just e-mail him at: <u>jtwh.v.woensel@mindef.nl</u>. It is also possible to register at the Netherlands Institute of Military History, at <u>www.nimh.nl</u>.

Society for Military History Conference "Crossroads of War," Frederick, MD, 19-22 April 2007

By Bianka Adams, USCMH

This year's Society for Military History Conference will be held from 19-22 April at the Catoctin Center for Regional Studies at Frederick Community College in Frederick, Maryland. The program includes presentations by scholars from the United States and from abroad that will examine the meeting's theme "Crossroads of War" from different perspectives and time periods. In addition to a great choice of panels and book exhibits, conference attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a Staff Ride of the South Mountain Battlefield, led by William Glenn Robertson from the US Army Command and General Staff College, and tours of the Monocacy Battlefield, Civil War Frederick, including the Civil War Medical Museum, and Fort Detrick.

"Balkan War 1912-1913 and Military Alliances and Coalitions of the 20th Century", Sofia, Bulgaria, October 2007

Dr. Dmitri Minchev, President Bulgarian Commission of Military History

In connection with the 95th Anniversary of the Balkan War of 1912-1913, the Bulgarian Commission of Military History, in coordination with the Military History Research Section of the G. S. Rakovski Defense and Staff College, will organize in October 2007 in Sofia, Bulgaria, an international conference: "Military Alliances and Coalitions of the 20th Century." Working languages are English and Bulgarian. Foreign participants are invited to present papers and communications, as well as to participate in the discussions.

Three main topics will be discussed: The Balkan Wars 1912-1913 – lessons learned; Military alliances of the 20th century, up to 1990; and Military coalitions 20th century after 1990. Participation fee for participants and accompanying persons is 50 Euros.

For information contact the Bulgarian Commission of Military History, P. O. Box 698, 1000 Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria, or e-mail Dr. Minchev at: <u>drminchev@yahoo.com</u>

American Historical Association Meeting, Washington DC, January 2008

At the Trustee's meeting, Bart Hacker recommended that the US Commission sponsor a panel at next year's American Historical Association (AHA) meeting in Washington, D.C., in January 2008. The Board of Trustees unanimously agreed. Since the Commission is an affiliated member of the AHA, we can submit a panel directly to the program committee. The theme "Uneven Developments" is so broad as to be indecipherable, so we will consider any topic in international and transnational military history. Panels with international scholars are particularly welcome. If any members are interested in organizing a panel, or presenting a paper, please contact Pat Harahan, Secretary-general, at <u>harahan@verizon.net</u>.

"Military Conflicts and Civilian Populations: Limited Wars, Total Wars, and Asymmetrical Wars," ICMH Congress for 2008, Trieste, Italy, August 2008

Colonel Pilota Euro Rossi, President of the Italian Commission of Military History, announced that the 2008 Congress of the International Commission of Military History (ICMH) would be held in Trieste, Italy in August 2008. The theme "Military Conflicts and Civilian Populations: Limited Wars, Total Wars, and Asymmetrical Wars" will be explored from a variety of perspectives and time periods. The scientific program is being organized by Professor Pietro del Negro of the University of Padova and Professor Massimo de Leonardis, of the Accadimo of the Catholic University of Milan.

News and Information

John Lynn, president, was awarded the Quissam Al Alaoui, (Order of the Royal House) in Rabat, Morocco, in November 2006. Previous American recipients included Generals Eisenhower and Patton, who were awarded the rank of Grand Cordon.

Allan R. Millett, past president, retired from Ohio State University in 2006, is now the Director of the Eisenhower Center for American Studies at the University of New Orleans. Dr. Millett is the senior advisor to

the president of the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. In November, he co-chaired the museum's international military history conference on World War II.

Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett received the Secretary of Defense's medal for Distinguished Civilian Public Service as military authors and professors of military history.

James K. Hogue, associate professor of history, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, published *Uncivil War: Five New Orleans Street Battles and the Rise and Fall of Radical Reconstruction,* Louisiana State University Press, 2006.

Barton C. Hacker and Margaret Vining, curators of military history and diplomacy at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institute, published a new book, *American Military Technology: The Life Story of a Technology*. The history is part of Greenwood Press' series on the history of technology.



Edward J. Marolda, has edited a volume, *The U.S. Navy and the Korean War* (Naval Institute Press, Spring 2007). A compilation of works by naval historians in the United States, it draws on many formerly classified sources and sheds new light on the U.S. Navy's role in the three-year struggle to preserve the Republic of Korea.

Obituary

Loyd Lee, emeritus professor of history at the State University of New York, New Paltz, died suddenly in January. As a Commission member, Dr. Lee participated in many international meetings and congresses, presenting papers and contributing to the growth and development of international military history.

Current Officers and Trustees

The current list of officers and trustees.

Officers:

President: Dr. John A. Lynn, email johnlynn@uiuc.edu Vice-President: Dr. Hans Pawlisch, email HansPawlisch@msn.com Secretary-general: Dr. Pat Harahan, email pat.harahan@dtra.mil or harahan@verizon.net Treasurer: Dr. Geoffrey Megargee, email gpmega@yahoo.com Secretary: Janice E. McKenney, email janicee.mckenney@verizon.net Newsletter Editor: Dr. Sanders Marble, email uscmh_newsletter@yahoo.com

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Dr. James K. Hogue, email jhogue@email.uncc.edu **Representative to the ICMH Archives Committee**

Dr. Robin Higham, emil marolync@flinthills.com

Welcome New Members!

Edward Coss, Virginia Dewitt Cave, Massachusetts Scott D. Welch, Florida

Commission Dues Notices

During February and March dues notices will be mailed to all members. Annual dues remain modest at \$30 per year. Please return the amount in the envelope provided. Thanks for your participation.