



Newsletter

HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

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PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS

In the decade since the Social Science Research Council held its Conference on the History of Anthropology, interest in the field has burgeoned considerably. At that time it was largely occupied on a part-time basis by anthropologists whose sense of disciplinary crisis set them stirring the soil their study was rooted in. The anthropologists are still there, of course, and will rightfully remain as long as there are unplowed furrows. But they no longer claim privileges of sole occupancy. As intellectual history has expanded its frontiers, the field has been invaded by a number of professional historians; scholars on one-book forays, anthropologists manque who want to hang around indefinitely, and recently by an increasing number of graduate student historians in search of interesting and interdisciplinary dissertation topics which may become permanent areas of specialization.

As in any developing field of historical inquiry, the prospects are inviting, but the problems are many. It is nice to have all that unobstructed acreage, but it would be nice also to have a few more landmarks to guide one through it: information as to archival holdings, bibliographic aids, research in progress, recent publications, and so forth. It is to meet such needs that a group of us decided to try to put out a semi-annual newsletter. We figure we can sustain one or two issues on our own resources and enthusiasm. After that, it will probably take a good deal of audience participation. We encourage you all to join in.

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