

MINING HISTORY NEWS

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IV International

The organizers of the IV International Mining History Conference are putting the finishing touches on that event to be held in Guanajuato, Mexico between November 10th and 13th, 1998. The Congress is supported by the Instituto Nacional de Anthropologia y Historia (INAH), the Asociacion de Ingenieros de Minas, the Metalurgistas y Geologos de Mexico, A. C., and other mining companies and academic institutions. The Congress will be similar to the III International held in Golden, Colorado in 1994 with professional papers, receptions, and tours. The agenda is set and the program drafted. Guanajuato was a major silver producer during the colonial period, with revivals, especially in the early 1900s. The city is a historic monument to the colonial era. Mining sites abound. For more information contact: Comitè Organizador del IV Congreso Internacional de Historia de Minería, Direccion de Estudios Historicos, INAH, Anexo al Castillo de Chapultepec, Apartado Postal 5-119, Mexico, D. F., C. P. 06500. Information about the conference and Guanajuato is available on their web page: <http://www.inah.gob.mx>

Their Fax is 553.63.74 or e:mail (miningcongress@infosel.net.mx). For travel information contact: Viajes Cartagena, S. A. DE C. V., Prolongacion Americas 1612 - A C. P. 44610, Guadalajara, JAL. Phone 523-678-9232 or FAX 523-678-9272.

Lost in the Klondike?

Looking for an ancestor who followed the gold rushes to the Far North? The Alaska Gold Rush Centennial Task Force recently published *How to Find Your Gold Rush Relative: Sources on the Klondike and Alaska Gold Rushes, 1896-1914*, compiled by R. Bruce Parham. The ten page guide is a good reference tool for any researcher; it includes information on archives, internet sources, CD-ROMs, newspaper indexes, etc. For more information contact the State of Alaska Office of History and Archeology, 3601 C St., Suite 1278, Anchorage, AK 99503-5921 or phone 907-269-8721. If that doesn't help Nancy Lethcoe of Valdez has compiled information on 3,000 people in her *Annotated Database of Participants in the Prince William Sound, Valdez, and Copper River Area Gold Rush* (these were the folks that got lost or misled on their way to the Klondike). It is available for \$24.95 from Prince William Sound Books, P. O. Box 1313, Valdez, AK 99686 or look for it on the Valdez Museum's homepage: www.alaska.net/~vldzmuse/index.html

Bisbee Thankyous.

MHA members had a great time in Bisbee much to the credit of the local organizers and hosts. Thanks also to reporter Cindy Hayostek and other friends at *Pay Dirt* for the coverage of our event at Bisbee. *Pay Dirt* has been supportive of MHA since our founding.

North Carolina Gold

In 1999, North Carolina will observe the bicentennial of the first gold rush in what was then the United States. Gold was discovered in Cabarrus County, the first of the Appalachian gold fields. From September 17 to 19, 1999, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte will serve as host for "Gold in Carolina and America: A Bicentennial Perspective," a symposium sponsored in part by the University, Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site, surrounding counties, and the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. Sessions will examine the history of gold in North Carolina and beyond, as well as gold's impact on society, culture, economics, geology, and technology worldwide. For more information call 919-733-7305 or write NC Department of Cultural Resources, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27601.



President's Page

On a spring morning, with lace curtains blowing at the windows of the Copper Queen Hotel and birds singing in the trees, one relishes a side of mining history much sweeter than typing footnotes. I doubt that the MHA will ever meet in a more charming and perfectly preserved mining town than Bisbee.

Thanks to the untiring efforts of Mason and Janice Coggin, Carrie Gustavson, our program committee, and others, we enjoyed an outstanding conference, with a trip to the impressive Cananea Mine in Mexico and many excellent talks. We were especially fortunate that several of our speakers had exceptional expertise on mining in Bisbee.

Next year we will meet in Ouray, Colorado, where Duane Smith will guide a tour to a number of old mining camps -- sure to be a treat. In 2000 we convene in Tonopah, Nevada, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate the centennial of the central Nevada mining boom.

The reports we heard at Bisbee on the state of the MHA were generally encouraging. Editor Chris Huggard now has a hefty stack of submissions to the journal; Treasurer Jay Fell finds us solvent; Secretary Bob Spude reports considerable recovery in our membership. Nonetheless, increasing our membership -- especially bringing in more young members -- should be a high priority. Each one of us needs to publicize the MHA whenever opportunity offers.

The Ouray meeting will mark the tenth anniversary of our organization, a good time to reflect on how far we've come and where we intend to go. I'd welcome comments on ways to increase membership, criticisms of our present course, and suggestions on future directions. Please write to me at:

Sally Zanjani
4360 Slide Mountain Cir.
Reno, NV 89511

Organization Notes:

Ouray, Colorado in 1999

At the Bisbee meeting Duane Smith, Mark and Karen Vendl and others presented the latest on plans for next years conference in Ouray, Colorado. The old silver and gold camp snuggled into an incredible, beautiful niche in the San Juan Mountains will host our event June 3-6, 1999. The event will include tours to famed gold mines, ghost towns and scenic sites, maybe even a railroad. So stay tuned. For information on giving a paper contact one of the program committee members: chair Duane Smith, Southwest Center, Reed Library, Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO 81303; Eric Clement, Western Museum of Mining and Industry, P. O. Box 629, Monument, CO 80132; and Mark Langenfeld, 2020 Harley Drive, Madison, WI 53711-4350 or e:mail: MLANGEN@EXECPC.COM

Tonopah in 2000

The board also voted to meet in Tonopah during that old mining town's centennial year. Tonopah's history has been preserved by the Central Nevada Historical Society.

Townley Award

Michael Ripmeester of Brock University in St. Catherines, Ontario was this year's recipient of the John Townley Award for the best essay on mining history published in the MHA's *The Mining History Journal*. His essay, "Placed on the Margins: The Idea of Chinatown in Rossland, British, 1890-1902," appeared in the 1997 journal.

Rodman Paul Award

President Sally Zanjani awarded the MHA's Rodman Paul Award for contributions in mining history to Mason Coggin. Mason is the driving force behind the Arizona State Mining Museum and has been instrumental in the revival of that organization located within eye sight of Arizona's state capitol. Nearly single handedly, he

relocated a Coronado Railroad locomotive from the head of the Longfellow Incline near Clifton and moved a headframe from Bisbee to the museum grounds in Phoenix (he did have help with these herculean tasks from the Seabees and a few other people good with moving equipment, as well as a host of volunteers and corporate sponsors). Mason has written about the history of his hometown, Bisbee, especially the Calumet & Arizona mine, has orchestrated the recent publication of Arizona mining history volume III by the Mining Club of the Southwest and the local chapter of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, and is active in the mining industry as Director of the Arizona Department of Mines and Minerals. He is also a poet, not a bad thing for a mining historian.

MHA Officers:

Sally Zanjani, President
Don Hardesty, vice-president
Bob Spude, Secretary
Jay Fell, Treasurer
Council members: James Egerly,
Richard Francaviglia, Lynn Langenfeld,
Ed Hunter, Lysa Wegman-French, Roger
Burt, Eric Clements, and Robert
Trennert (past president).

1998 Nominating Committee:

Mason Coggin
James McBride
Eleanor Herz Swent

**The Mining History Association
Newsletter
Denver, Colorado**

Distributed to association members; membership is open to all interested in the history of mining. Dues are \$25 per year. Please send dues to MHA, Post Office Box 150300, Denver, Colorado 80215.

Submissions for publication in the newsletter are welcome. Write to Robert L. Spude, Editor.

THE MOST RECOMMENDED MINING HISTORY BOOKS

"The Year of the Reader"

As part of the MHA's continuing "Year of the Reader," a group of senior mining history specialists were asked their opinion about the twenty best books in mining history, or, more precisely, they were asked what books would they recommend to someone beginning in the field or just interested in reading the best introductions or case or regional studies on the topic. They responded with an array of titles, but most lists contained many obvious duplicates, which led to our Top Twenty. There was almost unanimous selection of the top five.

There are no surprises here. The authors are well-known to members of the association. To have our Top Twenty start with a book by Clark Spence is appropriate -- as one of the panel said, "everything by Spence should be on the list." The following should be a good introduction to mining history.

The Top Twenty

- 1) Clark Spence, *Mining Engineers and the American West: The Lace-Boot Brigade, 1849-1933* (Moscow: University of Idaho Press reprint 1993, originally 1970)
- 2) Duane Smith, *Rocky Mountain Mining Camps: The Urban Frontier* (Niwot: University Press of Colorado reprint 1995, originally 1967)
- 3) Mark Wyman, *Hard Rock Epic: Western Miners and the Industrial Revolution* (1979, out of print)
- 4) Otis Young, *Western Mining, An Informal Account of Precious-Metals Prospecting, Placering, Lode Mining, and Milling on the American Frontier, from Spanish Times to 1893* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1970, in print)
- 5 & 6 tie) William Greever, *Bonanza West: The Story of the Western Mining Rushes, 1848-1900* (Moscow: University of Idaho Press reprint, originally 1963)
- 5 & 6 tie) Rodman Paul, *Mining Frontiers of the Far West, 1848-1880* (1963, out of print)
- 7) Richard Lingenfelter, *Hard Rock Miners: A History of the Mining Labor Movement in the American West* (1974, out of print)
- 8) Malcolm Rohrbough, *Days of Gold, The California Gold Rush and the American Nation* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997 in print)
- 9) Sally Zanjani, *A Mine of Her Own: Women Prospectors in the American West, 1850-1950* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997 in print)
- 10) Michael Malone, *Battle for Butte: Mining and Politics on the Northern Frontier, 1864-1906* (Seattle: University of Washington Press reprint, originally 1981)

Because the next ten books were very close in terms of numbers of recommendations by the group, it was decided to list them together without priority. They are listed alphabetically by author. They are:

- Ronald Brown, *Hard-Rock Miners: The Intermountain West, 1860-1920* (1979, op)
- James E. Fell, Jr., *Ores to Metals: The Rocky Mountain Smelting Industry* (1979)
- J. S. Holliday, *The World Rushed In, The California Gold Rush Experience* (1981)
- Larry Lankton, *Cradle to Grave: Life, Work and Death at the Lake Superior Copper Mines* (1991)
- Ralph Mann, *After the Gold Rush: Society in Grass Valley and Nevada City, California 1849-70* (1982, op)
- Richard Peterson, *The Bonanza Kings: The Social Origins and Business Behavior of Western Mining Entrepreneurs* (1977)
- A. L. Rowse, *The Cousin Jacks: The Cornish in America* (1969)
- Duane Smith, *Mining America: The Industry and the Environment, 1800-1980* (1987)
- Clark Spence, *The Conrey Placer Mining Company, A Pioneer Gold-Dredging Enterprise in Montana, 1897-1922* (1989)
- Sally Zanjani, *Goldfield: The Last Gold Rush on the Western Frontier* (1992)

There were 63 other books recommended by the group, all good and valuable. The above Top Twenty shows a Western U. S. bias; unfortunately there are so few good, well-known books on mining in the East. Although they did not make the list here there are Eastern mining history books among the sixty-three others. If a reader is interested in the entire list of 83 please send a stamped self addressed envelope to the MHA, P. O. Box 150300, Denver, CO 80215 and it will be forwarded to you.