Fierst To Address Meeting--"Hatred Closed Around Him: The Editing and Restoration of John Tanner's Narrative"

The annual meeting of the Minnesota Independent Scholars' Forum will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, November 16, 1991, at the Minneapolis American Indian Center, Two Rivers Gallery, 1530 Franklin Avenue East (at Bloomington Ave.), Minneapolis. Immediately following the business meeting (11:00 am), John Fierst, MISF member, will discuss his project to produce a new edition of the captivity narrative of the life of John Tanner. Commentary by center staff member Robert Blackdeer and an open discussion will follow. Two Rivers Gallery is handicapped accessible with ample parking.

"This meeting is significant for several reasons," says president David Wiggins. "In the first place, Fierst is undertaking the project as an independent scholar. Secondly, his work deals with multicultural aspects of contacts between Indians and whites. It's a very lively issue, especially as we approach the Columbus Quincentennial year."

Fierst's grant application to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to edit and publish a new edition of A Narrative of the Captivity and Adventures of John Tanner was endorsed in February, 1991. In 1789, Tanner was abducted by Ojibwe and Shawnee Indians from his father's home in Kentucky when he was nine years old. He was taken to Saginaw, Michigan, where he was purchased by an Ojibwe woman from the Red River Country, who subsequently raised him as her own son.

Tanner lived with the Ojibwes for thirty years, until his Indian mother died. In 1817, he returned to his white relations in Kentucky, but found that he was unsuited to life there. Subsequently, he settled in Sault Ste. Marie and worked as an interpreter. In 1846, after he had allegedly murdered Henry Schoolcraft's brother, Tanner disappeared.

While Tanner was working on Mackinac Island, he met Edwin James, an army medical officer. Tanner told the story of his life to James, who transcribed it and published it in 1830. The Narrative is considered to be one of the richest of the captivity narratives. It is sympathetic to the Indian and critical of government policies. It has been published in several editions but no edition has appeared in English since 1975. Fierst will produce a new, scholarly edition with maps and indices. In addition, the project staff includes two specialists in the Ojibwe language and culture. These scholars will transcribe the material that is in the Ojibwe language and point out cultural patterns that can be discerned in the Narrative.
Somewhere along the line, I heard about the Minnesota Independent Scholars’ Forum. A scholar, me? That word still brought up visions of white-bearded (male) sages.

When I finally plunked down my $12 limited income membership, I did it as an isolated individual, reaching out to an address on a brochure and a vision of potential community such as that I had witnessed, and to some extent was part of, in the arts community. Though a writer, I considered myself a journalist, not an artist. (That internal struggle is another story.) Thirty was fast approaching, and it was easier to see the graduate school work, writing, and radio career as scholarship.

Like artists, scholars do not directly contribute to the gross national product, yet we currently live, as Madonna sings, in a material world. Validation for one’s work, even encouragement to begin it, when you are part of the academy, is especially hard to come by. It was that elusive thing called community that was my unspoken hope when I joined the Forum, even though the prospect of U of M Library privileges was an important perk.

In my first year as a member, I attended one program, ("Godzilla Meets Mona Lisa") … with trepidation. I brought along a non-member friend. The program was interesting but I didn’t connect with any of the members.

Not too long thereafter, I received a call asking me to consider serving as a member of the Board of Directors. How odd, I thought. It was obviously not because of my active member status. The explanation was that my (then) boss’s husband was a member of the Nominating Committee. Almost three years have passed since I accepted the board nomination.

I’m telling this story, because it wasn’t until I was a member of the board that I actually became active and

VP - Continued on page 4
Chaos Group Explores New Applications of Mathematics to Social Systems

The MISF Chaos discussion group has been reading a collection of papers edited by George P. Scott titled *Time, Rhythms, and Chaos in the New Dialogue with Nature* (Iowa State University Press: Ames, 1991.) The papers explore the fuzzy edge of applications for this new science of complex dynamics or "self-organization." Examining everything from China's evolution to defense strategies of the Romans, this book is a good example of the sort of discipline-blurring that this new science is bringing about. "It is finding new facts and generating a burgeoning mass of literature. It represents a major long-range advance in human thought, however, not primarily because of the magnitude or direct applicability of the new facts discovered by the research. Rather it is because of the new coherence it potentially gives to life studies of all kinds. That is, it promises a new coherence to vast interdisciplinary knowledge that we already have, provided we can successfully interpret its concepts across disciplinary lines." (op.cit. p.18)

Independent scholars are playing a major role in finding these interdisciplinary connections. This summer Forum members Tom Abeles, Glenda Eoyang, and Vic Ward visited the Santa Fe Institute, the major research center for self-organizational studies. Glenda Eoyang also attended a conference in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Chaos Network, which explored social, economic, and management applications of these ideas. The papers and ideas that these explorers have been sharing with the group are making for a lively discussion on the nature of change and on our ability to describe, predict, and control it.

Women Scholars Share Historical Research

A panel of women humanities scholars discussed their work-in-progress and shared with the audience the problems and successes they have encountered, in a program called, "Still, Breaking Ground" that took place October 3, 1991.

The lead speaker was Carol Chomsky, Associate Professor of Law, University of Minnesota, who spoke about her recent work "The United States-Dakota War Trials: A Study in Military Justice," recently published in the *Stanford Law Review.* Also on the program were University Ph.D. candidates Elizabeth Pruden, who spoke on colonial women in the Carolinas and Barbados; Sheri Bartlett-Brown, who discussed her work on gender analysis in colonial America; Louise Edwards, who presented Italian immigrant women in New Orleans at the turn of the century; and Mari Trine who talked about lesbian issues in a closed society.

Also presenting was Sarah Bradley, a middle school student and National History Day 1991 winner, who won national acclaim for her work, "Women's Fights for Rights in Rochester."

Susan Gross, Director of the Upper Midwest Women's History Center, told how the Women's History Center
uses scholars’ research to develop curricular material.

The program was co-sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society, the MISF, the Center for Advanced Feminist Studies, the Upper Midwest History Center and the Department of History, University of Minnesota.

Finnish Conference to Explore Ethnic Adaptation

“THE MAKING OF FINNISH AMERICA: AN ETHNIC CULTURE IN TRANSITION” will bring together an interdisciplinary group of scholars from the United States, Finland, and Canada to explore questions of ethnic identity and culture among second, third, and fourth generation Americans of Finnish descent. The conference will take place November 6-9, 1991, at the Cowles Auditorium, Hubert Humphrey Center, University of Minnesota.

Four keynote speakers (two historians, a folklorist, and an American Studies expert) will assess and evaluate past scholarship on Finnish Americans, placing it into the context of American society and culture. The aim of the conference is to move beyond a focus on the immigrant generation to concentrate, instead, on the process of transformation that is undergone by the descendants of immigrants living in a multicultural society. By examining the culture and lives of subsequent generations, the conference will emphasize a key component of Finnish American history that has yet to be dealt with: the many varied forms and gradations of interaction with American society and with other ethnic groups and communities.

The conference is open to the public. For more information contact Registrar, Professional Development, 235 Nolte Ctr, 315 Pillsbury Drive SE, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 55455-0139. Registration for the daytime sessions is $40 until October 30, 1991. After that date, call (612) 625-5813 to confirm availability. No registration is required for those attending only the evening sessions.

VP Message - Continued

set out to meet other Forum members. Surprisingly, they didn’t appear to be white bearded sages. I’ve made a few good friends and even presented a program of my own. Even so, community feels hard to attain. The Forum has no staff members; it depends instead on a working board. In trying to carve a niche for my work, earn a living, and maintain personal and family relationships, the Forum often comes out on the bottom of my list of things to do. Creating a sense of community in these postmodern, fragmented times seems to require the skills of a magician.

When I look at the membership roster I see many names that I cannot connect with a face. Why did you join the Forum? I wonder. Have you ever come to a program or joined a study group? Or was it just the library privilege? In despairing moments, I wonder if the idea of a community of independent scholars is as archaic as a medieval guild or a ladies’ auxiliary. Even though aware that to get something out, one must make an effort to put something in, I sometimes find it difficult to stay motivated (even as vice-president) and I remember how detached I was as an individual member.

These words are not written to despair or to blame, but out of reflection as the autumn season once again draws us inward. Perhaps you’ve had similar thoughts. We have the structure of an organization; now we face the work of building community. I’m not sure of the “how to’s.” Please accept these thoughts as an invitation to discuss and to initiate new ideas.
COPIES & PROOFS

by Dacy Brunck

It's been an exciting year of MISF growth and diversification... a period of organizational reflection and challenge... a period during which independent scholars have gained in numbers and recognition. In today's Journal we learn of the growing number of, and increasingly varied, member projects, programs, productions, and grants. The MISF family is alive and... well, ... BUSY! The action has not been reserved for us only, as the world has changed significantly in the last 12-15 months. Who would have guessed, a year ago, that the 159 UN signatory countries could increase in number and that significant numbers of US citizens would have made it known that a new view of women's issues was in order - including an increased sensitivity to sexual harassment.

A is for apple....

Lucy Brusic, a member of the MISF, received a grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council to produce a traveling photographic exhibit about apple-growing in Connecticut. The exhibit is called "Apples of Our Eyes" and is based on photographs and interviews collected by Brusic under an earlier research grant from the NEH, the AASLH, and the Connecticut Historical Society. The photographs show how apple growing and harvesting have changed over the past century. The exhibit is accompanied by a catalog written by Brusic. Brusic had previously lived in Connecticut, where she was the market manager for an apple orchard.

B is for body....

Jill Waterhouse and Morgan Grayce Willow, members of the MISF, produced Body/Language, an experimental installation at Intermedia Arts Gallery in downtown Minneapolis. The installation (Oct. 18-22) opened with a performance merging sculpture and poetry with improvisational theater.

Waterhouse is a sculptor whose commissions include six sculptures for the IDS Crystal Court and set design and construction for the premiere of Ballet Harren's Life and Death at Walker Art Center. Morgan Grayce Willow has received a 1990 Loft-McKnight Award for Poetry and a 1991 Minnesota State Arts Board Fellowship. She is the author of several collections of poetry.

C is for Cooperating Fund Drive....

If you participate in charitable contributions payroll deduction programs at your place of employment, consider this opportunity to support the Forum through the Cooperating Fund Drive (CFD).

Cooperating Fund Drive is an alternative to United Way, a supporter of grassroots, self-help organizations. Like United Way, United Arts, the Combined Health Appeal and others, it divides donated funds to its various constituent organizations. FURTHER, you can choose to have all or part of your CFD contribution directed to specific nonprofit organizations. As of last year, MISF is included on the list. Just indicate on your pledge form the amount of your CFD contribution that you wish to go to the Forum per paycheck. It's an easy and effective way to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Forum.

"Terri invited me over. We're going to play doctor of humane letters!"
Study Groups

Study groups provide members the opportunity to explore ideas through reading and discussion. Depending on the group’s interests, a familiar topic may be studied in depth, or an unknown topic may be investigated. The ideas offered by group members are often thought-provoking and helpful to the independent scholar.

You are invited to "sit in" or join an established study group. Membership is not mandatory. If you are interested in convening one or more of these groups or starting a group of your own, pending Board approval, please contact David Wiggins. 722-8643. Following is a list of active study groups:

Chaos Study Group, Host and Convenor Dave Megarry, 3641 Bryant Ave S., MPLS 55409

This group is composed of engineers and scientists, linguists, dramatists, business consultants and musicians. We have discussed Gleick, viewed graphics programs, and conducted an "open forum" on our interests in chaos theory. Many attended the October 1990 Nobel Conference in St. Peter. Following the Nobel, our study group organized a mini-conference with the Science Museum, St. Paul. The group is now discussing Time, Rhythms, and Chaos in the New Dialogue with Nature, by George P. Scott.

Intercultural Diversity, Convener Lucy Smith 698-9671

Discusser from social work communications, history, interreligious communication propose: awareness of each other’s pursuits, help with problems with those, a reading list to discuss, and explorations of perspectives. No longer melting in a pot, Americans now confront a "fashionable" concept of cultural diversity, but does preservation of one’s culture imply isolation? hostility? the right to judge? What aspects of preserved diversity can smoothly cohabit?

Science and Humanities
Convener Huldah Cull, 625-8322
or 926-5988; Hostess Ginny Hansen, 374-5505

Over the years, a varying group has discussed Jones, Physics as Metaphor; Hofstadter, Godel, Escher, Bach; Bateson, Mind and Nature; Bohm/Peat, Science, Order & Creativity, Whorf, Language, Thought and Reality, and many other books exploring the common ground of science and the humanities.

The group is now discussing Elisabet Sahtouris' Gaia: The Human Journey from Chaos to Cosmos.

The following groups are currently inactive:

18th/19th Century Study Group
Contact Joyce Fullard 333-4605

This study group's multidisciplinary interests include art history, literature, philosophy, history, and political science, from the Restoration period to the early 19th century. Anyone interested in sampling the activities of the 18/19th century is invited to call 377-0866 for time and location.

Patterns in Women & Spirituality, Convener Susan Smith 871-1125

Wishes to discuss the book:
Weaving the Vision: Patterns in Feminist Spirituality

Art Historians Study Group
Contact Catherine Vesley 789-5888

International Feminism Group
Contact Susan Smith 871-1125

Philosophy and Cultural Criticism Study Group
Contact Patrice Koelsch 722-3813

Social History Study Group
Family History Study Group
Contact Susan Smith 871-1125

Writing Support for Women Group Contact Susan Smith 871-1125
Auction & Picnic

The October Board meeting was held at Dave Juncker's home just prior to the scheduled auction. By the time the fall MISF planning was finished, and the chips & beer consumed, it was apparent that we needed to gather additional donated services. Many excellent services have been donated, but we could use a few more and a wider understanding of how a skill auction helps MISF. The board will put the donated objects, services, lessons, excursions, etc., together in pamphlet form for the annual meeting and for general distribution to all members. In this way, we can increase communication among members, raise needed funds and have some fun getting to know each other better.

Friends of the Forum

The following individuals have given money for the publication and distribution of the newsletter: Eleanor M. Anderson Victor P. Caliri John Carmichael Rhoda Gilman David Megarry Brian Mulhern Magnus and Norma Olson Susan Margot Smith Wm. K. & Jean Smith Robert Timmish David Wood James Youngdale

Wish List

The Forum could make good use of the following as donations in kind:
File cabinet
Computer (IBM & Mac)
Laser printer
Typewriter
Postage Stamps
Kinko's Copy passes

Opportunities

If you hear of jobs, conferences, grants, internships, and other opportunities that might be of interest to independent scholars please send the information to the editors.

Current services for the members of the Minnesota Independent Scholars' Forum include:

• Public programs.
• Study groups that informally explore subjects such as 18th century studies, relationships between science and the humanities, and others.
• Access to the University of Minnesota Libraries.
• A quarterly newsletter.
• Cooperative arrangements with other organizations to promote independent scholarship.

Membership Application

The Minnesota Independent Scholars' Forum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>$15.00 (under/unemployed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>between $15.00 and $36.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$36.00 (regularly employed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td>$18.00 (under/unemployed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>between $18.00 and $40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$40.00 (regularly employed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining</td>
<td>$50.00 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donor</td>
<td>$75.00 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefactor</td>
<td>$100.00 or more</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name__________________________
Address__________________________
City__________________________State_________Zip_________
Telephone (home)______________Telephone (work)__________
Mail to: David Wiggins
4340 41st Avenue
Minneapolis MN 55407