

basis to the Society. Membership and subscription fees are collected by the Society's fulfillment agent, who deposits them directly into a New York City bank. The agent cannot remove funds from that account. In addition to this account, the Society maintains 4 other commercial accounts and a brokerage house account to maximize short-term gains on the collected funds. (2) IRS reporting and contract approval. An accurate report of Society activities on IRS forms 990 and 990T is an essential activity. It requires an appreciation of tax rules governing private, non-profit corporations (most of this information is readily available through IRS). Since the Society operates on a fiscal year basis (July to June) this report is due by October 15th. The information must be reported in several different ways, all of which need to sum the same way. The Treasurer is the official contract agent for the Society and all contracts must be approved by him. Such contracts must be consistent with HSS policy, so the Treasurer needs to be aware of past practice and viable alternatives. With rare exception these contracts concern Society publications. (3) The HSS Endowment Fund. Following the successful first three years of the Fund, the promotion and maintenance of the Fund were placed in the Treasurer's office. The size of the Fund necessitates that it be managed by the treasurer under the oversight of the Society's Finance Committee and the authorization of the Council. At any time half of the Fund capital may be in traded securities. (4) Membership on the Executive Committee and the Council. The Treasurer is an active member of the Council for all Society affairs. The officer is charged especially with informing Council members about the financial implications of proposed actions. But many issues come before the Council and a broad view should be taken of them, and not simply a myopic financial view. Handling of these affairs requires about one day per week on the average. The work load cycles, being heavier when reports to the Society or the IRS are due. Most of the work needs to be done by the person, rather than being turned over to a secretary, because it involves the records and check writing. If done on a weekly and monthly basis, the task runs smoothly and the work does not get behind. Because of the personal commitment, a great amount of institutional support is not required for this office. Access to a secretary for the typing of letters and a few hundred dollars for postage and telephone will suffice. The number of letters is small and could be typed by the officer. Attendance at meetings of the Council and Executive Committee is required.

HSS NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the History of Science Society is published in January, April, July and October. Special subscription to the Newsletter is \$5.00. Regular issues are sent free to individual members. Airmail is available for foreign members by paying yearly postal costs of \$5.00 (Western Europe) or \$6.00 (elsewhere). The deadline for receipt of news is the 10th of the month prior to publication. Send news items to Dr. Sally Gregory Kohlstedt, Maxwell School, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York 13210. As Secretary of the Society and Editor of the Newsletter she is interested in membership opinion about coverage and welcomes suggestions. Occasional supplements containing job information are sent to departments and to individuals who request them on an annual basis.

The spring meeting of the West Coast History of Science Society will be held in Southern California. Those wishing to present papers should write to Judith V. Grabiner, Program Chairperson, 424 W. Seventh Street, Claremont, California 91711.

The Committee on Women has completed its job market survey of positions which were advertised for the 1977-78 and 1978-79 academic years. Kathryn Olesko of Cornell University reports that of the institutions which advertised 21 positions for the 1978-79 academic year, 13 or 62% responded. For those positions which opened up for the 1977-78 academic year, information was received from 7 out of a total of 15, or 47%. Both years represent a decrease both in the percentage of responses received and the total number of available positions from 1976-77, when 24 positions were advertised and 17, or 70%, of the search committees surveyed responded to the Committee questionnaire.

Women were offered and accepted 3 out of 13 positions (23%) for 1977-79 openings where they constituted 0%-30% of the applicant pool for each position. For 1977-78 women took 1 out of 7 positions (14%) and made up 0%-38% of the applicant pool. Here again the statistics show a steadily decreasing trend from a peak in 1976-77 when women made up 0%-40% of the applicants and accepted 5 out of 15 positions (30%). Insufficient data on the number of women at all levels of the profession make it impossible to say whether or not the percentage of women who are in the applicant pool, who accept positions each year, and who are academically employed, actually reflect the total percentage of women in the profession.

Respondents stressed that all those applying for teaching positions, particularly tenure track ones, should be aware of the increasing competition for those positions. Some went so far as to suggest that all but the most highly qualified applicants should be discouraged from applying. That many institutions were willing to consider Ph.D.'s from fields other than history or history of science only intensified the competition for positions which were difficult to obtain even without that additional applicant pool. Suggestions were made as to how an applicant could cut through this competition. Many considered versatility an asset, especially where competence in non-Western science could be demonstrated. Some respondents considered brevity on the curriculum vitae and other credentials to be an asset in cases where many dossiers had to be read by the search committee. But, in spite of the highly competitive nature of the job market, many institutions, while preferring the Ph.D. in hand, were willing to hire highly qualified ABD's, especially for temporary positions.

Serious faults in the hiring process worked against the potential applicant as well. Some positions continue to go unadvertised. It is well known that more than a few positions acquired by recent Ph.D.'s in the past few years were acquired through private arrangement and not by applying to a publically advertised position. And, in the case of some advertised positions, the selection occurred before active recruitment began. The "search" then

constituted little more than the compilation of applicant data for affirmative action and equal opportunity programs. The committee also received reports of some institutions whose interview practices openly violate HEW guidelines for equal opportunity. Campus affirmative action officers can assist search committees in avoiding these violations. Much work needs to be done to remedy the problems in these three areas of advertising, interviewing, and recruitment. Complaints about the red tape and forms that were required for affirmative action, equal opportunity programs, and surveys were common. However, the persistence of certain search practices make necessary surveys such as this one. The History of Science Society Committee on Women will be exploring new means to conduct their survey which will ensure more complete results and will provide the history of science

profession with a more accurate picture of trends in job openings. Knowledge of these trends is important for an honest assessment of the feasibility of certain graduate programs and of the possibilities of employment for the younger members of the profession. Contraction in the number of open positions continues. This, along with the search practices that aggravate that contraction, threatens the revitalization of the discipline that is usually brought about by the entry of younger scholars into the profession through open, honest, and fair competition on the academic job market. The Committee on Women thanks those who responded to the survey. Those with comments should contact Kathryn Olesko, Department of History, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853.

JOB MARKET STATISTICS 1977-78

| <u>Institution</u> | <u>Field</u> | <u>Level</u> | <u>No. Appl.</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Ph.D.</u> | <u>ABD</u> | <u>Hired</u> |
|----------------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|
| <u>Permanent Positions</u> | | | | | | | | |
| U. Calif., Berkeley | Biology | Asst. Prof. | 47 | 29 | 18 | | | Male, Ph.D. |
| Eisenhower College | Chemistry | Asst. Prof. | 12 | 12 | 0 | 10 | 2 | Male, Ph.D. |
| Naval Research Lab. | Physics | Historian | 100 | 73 | 17 | 28 | | Male |
| <u>Temporary Positions</u> | | | | | | | | |
| AIP Ctr. for Hist. Physics | Physics | Research Asst. | 6 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 2 | Male, ABD |
| MIT | General | Archivist | 74 | 49 | 25 | 20 | 9 | Male, MA |
| Univ. of Minn. | General | Asst. Prof. | 11 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 4 | Male, ABD |
| US Dpt. of Energy | Physics | Historian | 12 | 10 | 2 | 8 | 4 | Female, Ph.D. |
| <u>Not Responding</u> | | | | | | | | |
| Univ. of Chicago | Medicine | Asst. Prof. | | | | | | |
| College of Physicians | Medicine | Archivist | | | | | | |
| College of Physicians | Medicine | Full Prof. | | | | | | |
| Univ. of Pittsburgh | General | Asst. Prof. | | | | | | |
| Stevens Inst. of Tech. | General | Asst. Prof. | | | | | | Male, Ph.D. |
| Texas A & M | General | Asst. Prof. | | | | | | |
| Virginia Polytech | Technology | Asst. Prof. | | | | | | |
| Virginia Polytech | General | Asst. Prof. | | | | | | |
| <u>1978-79</u> | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Permanent Positions</u> | | | | | | | | |
| Case-Western Reserve | Technology | Asst. Prof. | 11 | 11 | 0 | 8 | 3 | Male, Ph.D. |
| Eisenhower College | Biology | Asst. Prof. | 73 | 64 | 9 | 56 | 9 | Male, Ph.D. |
| MIT | Technology | Open | 57 | 51 | 6 | | | Male, Ph.D. |
| Univ. of Michigan | Technology | Asst. Prof. | 38 | 37 | 1 | 33 | | Male, Ph.D. |
| Univ. of NC, Greensboro | Physics | Asst. Prof. | 67 | 56 | 11 | 59 | | Male, Ph.D. |
| Dibner Lib-Smithsonian | General | Librarian | 75 | 55 | 20 | | | Female |
| U. of Wisc., Madison | Sci. Ed. | Asst. Prof. | 154 | 136 | 18 | 122 | 32 | Male, Ph.D. |
| U. of Wisc., Madison | Biology | Asso. Prof. | 33 | 23 | 10 | 19 | 14 | Male, Ph.D. |
| <u>Temporary Positions</u> | | | | | | | | |
| U. of Calif., Berkeley | Med. Physics | Editor | 36 | 26 | 10 | 4 | 2 | Female, Ph.D. |
| UCLA | Technology | Asst. Prof. | 10 | 10 | 0 | 7 | 3 | Male, ABD |
| Cal Tech | General | Post Doc. | 7 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 0 | Male, Ph.D. |
| Harvard | General | Asst. Prof. | 50 | 38 | 12 | 50 | 0 | Female, Ph.D. |
| Harvard | General | Lecturer | 50 | 38 | 12 | 50 | 0 | Male, Ph.D. |
| <u>Not Responding</u> | | | | | | | | |
| Franklin Inst. Res. Lab. | | Archivist | | | | | | Position Unfunded |
| Kenyon College | General | Asst. Prof. | | | | | | |
| MIT | Biology | Open | | | | | | Search Postponed |
| Physics Today | Physics | Asso. Ed. | | | | | | |
| Princeton | General | Instructor | | | | | | Position Unfunded |
| Princeton | Open(?) | Asst. Prof. | | | | | | Male, Ph.D. |
| Stanford | Open | Asst. Prof. | | | | | | |
| Stanford | Open | Full Prof. | | | | | | |