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NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

1800 G STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

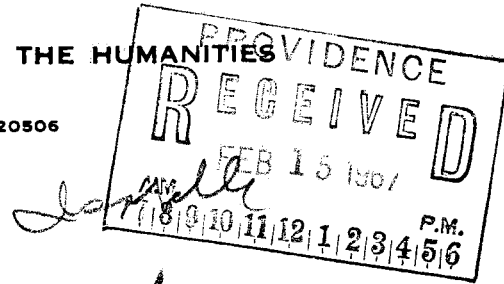


National Endowment for the Humanities

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Ans'd.....



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HUMANITIES ENDOWMENT SETS UP MUSEUM TRAINING PROGRAMS

The National Endowment for the Humanities has initiated two programs to expand the knowledge of museum and historical society curators in the field of the humanities and to encourage more students to make their professional careers in museums and historical societies, and has allocated approximately \$213,000 for their support.

The new programs are closely related in purpose to grants recently announced by the Endowment totaling approximately \$65,000 to the American Association for State and Local History in Nashville and the State Education Department in Albany. These recent grants were to support seminars, institutes and conferences to bring about a better understanding of state and local history on the part of directors and staff members of historical societies.

Museums and historical societies are the most effective vehicle we possess for teaching the present generation of children brought up in an urban, industrial, power-driven society what life was like in a rural, animal-powered society. For the 5,000 museums and the more than 3,500 historical societies in the United States which are trying to preserve this heritage for our children's education, a critical problem is improving the competence of their professional staffs. Although these

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museums and historical societies represent a major resource of humanistic education at both the school level and the level of the general public, this resource will remain only partially available without well-trained staff. The goal of the new Endowment programs is to train members of the staffs of these organizations to use their historical and cultural materials so that they may more effectively make the public aware of what America is and the past that made it so.

Museum Internship Program

The internship program will enable curators in small museums and historical societies to study in large teaching museums where, for a designated time, they can broaden their knowledge and develop the understanding necessary to disseminate this knowledge through more effective use of their local collections when they return to them. Interns will be appointed by the participating museums and will receive stipends on a salary matching basis.

The following museums will participate in the new program: Colonial Williamsburg; The University Museum, University of Pennsylvania; Ohio Historical Society; Lowie Museum of Anthropology; New York State Historical Association; Old Salem, North Carolina; Bishop Museum, Honolulu; Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago; Smithsonian Institution; Winterthur, Delaware; and the Museum of Northern Arizona.

Museum Fellowship Program

The fellowship program is designed to interest graduate students in pursuing professional careers in museums and historical societies and, at the same time, to make museums more active in graduate education. Through this program, the Endowment hopes to attract to the field a new generation of young people well grounded in the humanities and their relation to museums.

Fellowship appointments in museum-related graduate programs will be supported at the following institutions: University of Maryland; University of Delaware; State University College, Oneonta, N. Y.; and George Washington University.

Under both programs, applications are to be made directly to the museum or university.