

Conference May 12–14, 2005, at Andersen Library**Immigration history conference and banquet educate and entertain participants**

A conference on the history and current direction of immigration studies and celebrating the career of Rudolph J. Vecoli, IHRC director and professor of history (who retires at the end of July after 38 years as director) was held May 12–14, 2005, cosponsored by the Department of History and the IHRC. The conference drew both academics (including many of Vecoli's former students), and ethnic community members to learn about current research and ideas for the future.

Conference sessions, held at Andersen Library, explored the research of a mix of established scholars and graduate students. The conference showcased historical and contemporary experiences as well as academic and public perspectives. Films shown Thursday and Friday evenings were also chosen to reflect the "new" and "old" immigrant groups.



Jon Gjerde, professor of history at UC-Berkeley, who received his PhD in history at the U of MN in 1982, was the opening keynote speaker Thursday evening, May 12 (photo at left). He spoke about the place of immigration, ethnicity, and race studies in the historical profession: "My argument is rather simple," he said. "I believe that the image of the immigrant is a powerful symbol in American life, particularly in recent decades."

The evening began with a reception and also included a poetry reading by Ibé Kaba (originally from Guinea and Sierra Leone and now residing in Eagan, MN), and a mini-art exhibition of paintings by Koffi Mbairamadji (an artist from Chad who now lives in the Twin Cities area). For

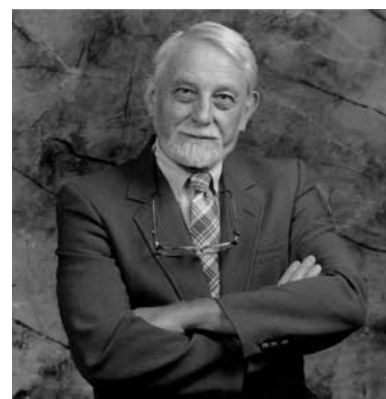
more about the conference program, including speakers and films, see its Web page, <<http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/pastfuture/>>.



Enda-Mai Michelson-Holland, director of the Estonian Archives in the U.S., Inc. (standing center), and Juhan Simonson, former head of the Estonian American National Council, Inc. (far right), presented a plaque to Rudy Vecoli on behalf of the Estonian American community.

Retirement Banquet

A gala banquet held at the Hubert H. Humphrey Center atrium Saturday evening, sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, honored Professor Vecoli's career as well as the many individuals and organizations that have supported the IHRC through its first 40 years. Entertainment included readings from memoirs in the archives by members of the Board of Directors of Friends of the IHRC, researched and compiled by playwright and actress Celeste Raspanti.



Prof. Rudolph J. Vecoli

Representatives of several ethnic organizations that have given collections and monetary support to the Center provided testimonial letters and awards to Vecoli. These included the American Latvian Association, the Minnesota Hungarians, the Estonian Archives of the U.S., and others. The formal program of speakers included College of Liberal Arts Dean Steven Rosenstone; History Department Chair M. J. Maynes; IHRC Curator and Asst. Director Joel Wurl; Vecoli's daughter, Lisa Vecoli; one of Vecoli's early PhD students, June Granatir Alexander; and Rudy's friend and fellow historian Joseph Amato.

An album of snapshots taken at the conference and banquet is posted, beginning at <<http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/news/Album5-05confdinner/Album-1.htm>>. Sets of note cards developed for the occasion are for sale from the IHRC. Contact the office for more information (ihrc@umn.edu).

Inside...

Announcements/Events.....	2, 3
Collection Development.....	2
Endowment Update.....	3
Friends of IHRC.....	4
Researchers & Visitors.....	3

Collection Development

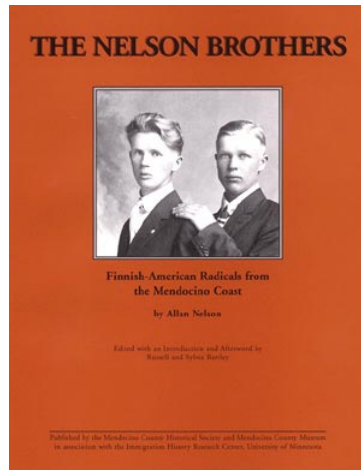
Victor Greene collection, 10 lin. ft. Greene, an emeritus professor of history at the U of WI-Milwaukee specializing in American immigration, was also president of the Immigration (and Ethnic) History Society, 1985–1988. He is author of *For God and Country: The Rise of Polish and Lithuanian Ethnic Consciousness in America, 1860–1910*, and *A Passion for Polka: Old-time Ethnic Music in America*. Collection (contributed in both 2004 and 2005) includes monographs on immigration history (largely Polish and Czech), jubilee albums of East European American parishes, ethnic community periodicals, research files, and numerous sound recordings (78- and 45-rpm records) of immigrant and ethnic bands. Also includes files pertaining to his service as president of the Immigration (and Ethnic) History Society.

Herbert Michelson papers, 4 lin. ft. (supplement to 11 lin. ft.) Michelson was a leading figure in the Estonian American scouting movement during the mid-late 20th century, as well as a journalist, author, and activist in the Estonian American community. Records pertain chiefly to his service as director at the Breyer Scout Training Area in Elkins Park, PA, which attracted participants from throughout the United States and other countries. Included are correspondence, organizational meeting materials, articles, and clippings.

Announcements/Events

***The Nelson Brothers: Finnish-American Radicals from the Mendocino Coast* available from IHRC**
The IHRC is pleased to announce that *The Nelson Brothers: Finnish-American Radicals from the Mendocino Coast*, by Allan Nelson, has been published and is now available from the Center. Download the information flyer / order form from <www.ihrc.umn.edu/marketplace/nelsonbkorderform05.pdf>. The book is "an important and engaging work," according to one of the reviewers,

Dr. Alexis Pogorelskin, professor of history at the U of MN-Duluth, who adds that it is an "important contribution to the unique history of Finnish Americans."



One of the rare and fascinating things about this story is that both sides of an exchange of letters were available to the author, because his father, Arvid, copied the letters he sent to his brother Enoch in Soviet Karelia and kept the copies along with the replies. The IHRC holds Arvid Nelson's papers, donated by Allan. Publishers are the Mendocino County Historical Society and Mendocino County Museum in association with the IHRC. Editors of the book are Russell and Sylvia Bartley, who also provide an Introduction and Afterword that help to put this history in context.

Sponsors of new guide to microfilmed Ukrainian and Carpatho-Rusyn publications recognized

On the afternoon of Sunday, May 15, members of the Ukrainian community in the Twin Cities gathered at the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center hall of St. Katherine Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Arden Hills, MN, to meet with and recognize John Hynansky (president and CEO of Winner Automotive Group) for his financial sponsorship of Phase II of the Ukrainian Microfilming Project and to acknowledge Prof. Leonid Rudnytsky (president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society - World Council, recognized in absentia) for the society's sponsorship of the resulting soon-to-be-published book, *A Research Guide to Ukrainian and Carpatho-Rusyn American Newspapers, Periodicals, and Calendars-Almanacs on Microfilm, 1886–1976*. This event also was a forum to inform the Ukrainian community about the Ukrainian Microfilming Project and the two institutions under whose auspices it was conducted, the Shevchenko Scientific Society-World Council and the IHRC. A prototype of the new publication was on display.

In addition to those pictured below, other attendees were Dr. Myron Kuropas (scholar of Ukrainian American history) and his wife, Lesya; Julian Kulas (president, Heritage Foundation); and the MC, Friends Board member Walter Anastas.



Photo courtesy of Oleh Gregoret

(Left to right) Mary Lushnycky (project assistant), Alexander Lushnycky (co-compiler of the guide), John Hynansky, Halyna Myroniuk (IHRC senior assistant curator, co-compiler of the guide), Prof. Rudolph J. Vecoli, and Joel Wurl.

FEEFHS Conference 2005: "Dare to Discover: Exploring Central and Eastern European Ancestry" to be held in St. Paul Aug. 19–21

The Immigration History Research Center is a supporter of a conference for genealogists to be held Aug. 19–21, 2005, at the Four Points by Sheraton St.



Paul-Capitol, 400 N. Hamline Ave., with over 90 presentations covering a wide variety of ethnic topics and 20 different ethnic groups. The sponsor, FEEFHS (Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies), is a major international genealogical federation. Participating societies represent 25 different ethnic, religious, and regional interest groups. For more information, see the Web site of cosponsor The Society for Germanic Genealogy in Eastern Europe, at <www.rootsweb.com/~mnggs/FEEFHS.html>. Early registration at a discount is available until July 16.

Vecoli and IHRC archives featured in alumni magazine

The May-June Issue of *Minnesota*, the U of MN Alumni Association magazine, features "Immigration Authority," a profile of retiring IHRC director Rudy Vecoli and his passion for "rescuing treasures of immigrant history—and securing a safe haven for them." Contact the Center if you would like a copy of the article.

Researchers & Visitors

Maria Iliou, from Greece, spent several days investigating immigration of the Greeks in America for a film.

Benjamin Alexander, a new PhD from New York, did exploratory research on International Institutes and in related materials, for possible future in-depth research leading to publications.

June Alexander, history professor at the U of Cincinnati, visiting to participate in the May 12–14 conference and banquet honoring her one-time PhD adviser, did

research on the history of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society for the *Journal of American Ethnic History*.

Kathryn Tull, a Master's degree student at Northern Illinois U, did research for her thesis on Finnish cooperatives in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

William Samonides and Regine Johnson of Canton, OH, researched the history of the Canton chapter of the Greek American fraternal organization AHEPA for a book.



Endowment Update

College of Liberal Arts and IHRC thank Latvian government for contribution to ALA fellowship fund

On May 31, the College of Liberal Arts hosted a garden party reception at Eastcliff, the U of MN president's residence, to honor the contribution of \$81,000+ by the Latvian government, completing funding of the American Latvian Association (ALA) Graduate Fellowship in Latvian American Studies. Members of the Latvian American community, Friends of IHRC Board of Directors, and CLA and IHRC staffs joined Ainars Latkovskis, Minister for Special Assignments, Social Integration Affairs, Government of Latvia, and Maris Selga, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Latvia, at the event. The IHRC, represented by Director Rudolph Vecoli and Curator and

Asst. Director Joel Wurl, presented certificates of appreciation to representatives of the ALA, which contributed much of the rest of the \$150,000 that funds the fellowship, and the Latvian government representatives. An album of photographs taken at the event has been posted. Look for it at <<http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/news/graphics/05may31reception/album05may31-1.htm>>.

Daughters of Penelope chapters contribute to IHRC endowment

At the May meeting of the Friends of IHRC board of directors, Tessie Bourdamis, representative of the Minneapolis area chapter of the Daughters of Penelope on the board, presented Dir. Rudy Vecoli with donations for the Greek American Studies Fund of the IHRC endowment (totaling \$1,075 so far) (photo above). The funds were collected from Daughters of Penelope chapters around the country in connection with the Greek American women's current project to collect information about each of the chapters for a permanent book. Bourdamis is national archives chair for the organization.



(Left to right) Janis Kukainis (president of the World Federation of Free Latvians), CLA Dean Steven Rosenstone, Minister Latkovskis, Deputy Chief Selga, Sarma Liepins (head of cultural activities for the American Latvian Association), Joel Wurl, and Rudolph Vecoli.

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Friends of IHRC

State History Day

The theme for 2005 National History Day (NHD) was Communication in History: The Key to Understanding. Minnesota's State History Day took place in Coffman Memorial Union, U of MN Minneapolis Campus, on Sunday, May 1, 2005. For the 13th year, the Friends have participated, as topical award presenters, with two prizes available to the outstanding junior and senior high school projects relating to immigration history. Participating students are invited to contact the Center and to visit the IHRC to use its resources for their projects, which can be a written paper, a display, a performance, or a video—individual or group.

Volunteer judge for the Friends this year was Marko Kirn, representative of the Croatian Cultural Society of MN on the Friends Board of Directors. He awarded one prize (on the junior high school level) to Maggie Nolting (Breck School, Golden Valley; teacher: Carrie Lennox) for her Individual Performance project "Hmong Culture Clash: Communication or Confrontation?" See more about History Day awards at the Friends Web site, <<http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/friends>>.

Use the enclosed envelope to contribute to the IHRC's general fund and/or its endowment campaign. Be sure to indicate your intended fund on the memo line of your check(s). **Thank you for your support.**

Visit the IHRC Web site:
<http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/>
The Center's *IHRC News Online* is posted monthly, usually at mid-month. To be notified by e-mail when the issue has been posted, register at <www.ihrc.umn.edu/about/e-notice.htm>.

Immigration History Research Center

The IHRC enriches society by preserving and promoting understanding of the history of the American immigrant experience. In doing so, it acts in partnership with various ethnic communities, historical agencies, research specialists, educators, and many others. It develops and maintains a library and archival collection, provides research assistance, produces publications, and sponsors academic and public programs. Its work supports the tripartite mission—teaching, research, and service—of its parent institution, the University of Minnesota.

Judith Rosenblatt Editor

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About this newsletter. This *News* issue is also accessible at the IHRC Web site. The paper version is sent to selected and prospective members of the Friends of the IHRC, donors, U of MN colleagues, and exchange publications. **Please notify the IHRC if you no longer wish to receive a paper newsletter or you want to be removed from its mailing list.**

DEADLINE for monthly online issues is the last day of the previous month. E-mail or send news to Judy Rosenblatt, <rosen015@umn.edu>. The IHRC publishes two printed *News* issues a year, spring/summer and fall/winter.

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