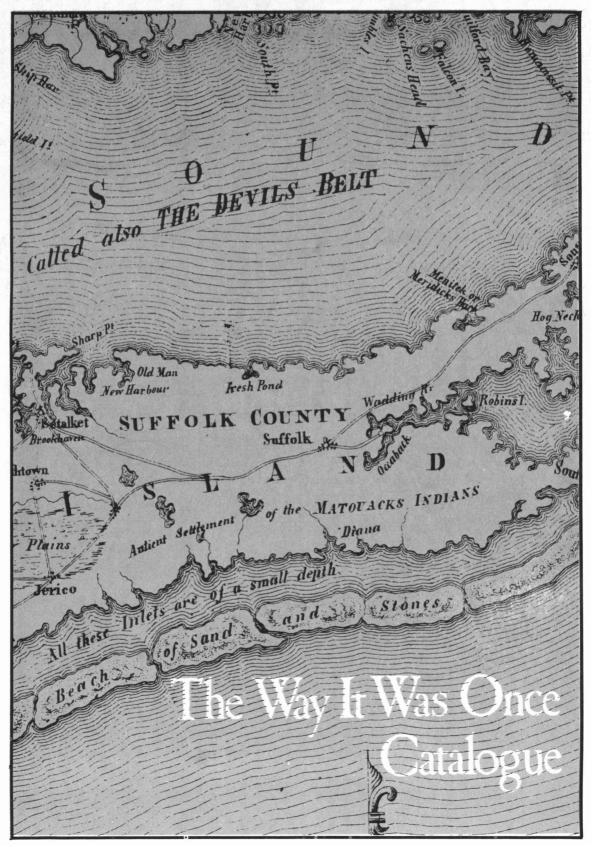


VOL. 9, NO. 2



1779 MAP OF LONG ISLAND

The covers of the University's 1975–76 catalogs featured the map on the cover of this issue of the *Stony Brook Review*. It is the Long Island portion of a British engraving made by William Fadden, geographer to the king, in 1779. The University is approximately where the word "Brookhaven" appears on the map.



INDIAN SITES

UNEARTHED

STUDENTS

2000 B.C.

BY PROFESSORS,

Dwellings used by the Montauk Indians from 1702

to 1850 were excavated by Stony Brook students

An Indian site at the foot of the Mill Pond in

and others last summer in Indian Field on Lake

Montauk. The project was begun by Dr. Philip

Setauket has been discovered by Steven C. Engle-

Weigand, associate professor of anthropology.

bright, curator in the earth and space sciences

department, Ceramics, arrowheads and shellfish

have been found at this site, which was used by

A third site, at the mouth of Pipe Stave

Hollow at Mount Sinai Harbor, was discovered by

Dr. Richard Michael Gramly, lecturer in anthropol-

the focus of archaeological field schools led by Dr.

Gramly this summer as part of the University's

continuing education Summer Session offerings.

The field schools will include excavation six days

each week from June 1 to July 15, laboratory work

and lectures. Students will be instructed in archae-

ological field techniques and their work will include

establishing the size of each site, the length of time

each was inhabited, the seasons of occupancy, and

whether the sites involved internal planning. After

only known revolutionary fort in Ohio. He led the

digging at Fort Laurens, used in skirmishes with

serve as a guide for future colonial excavations.

the British in 1778–79. He has written a book to

Dr. Gramly is responsible for unearthing the

studying their findings, the teams will donate all

artifacts to Suffolk County.

The Setauket and Mount Sinai sites will be

ogy. The date of this site is estimated at 1800 to

the Indians about 1300 to 1500 A.D.

LONG ISLAND DIALECT PRESERVED ON TAPE

As the mass media broadcasts a bland uniformity of speech and suburbia obliterates rural America, regional dialects are rapidly going the way of the horse and buggy. However, on Long Island, a handful of East Enders in the East Hampton area still speak a colorful form of speech known as Bonac. Isabel Spink, a graduate student in English, has been getting this Long Island dialect down on tape recordings for the benefit of posterity. She found she had to go to Bonackers 40 years old or more for her material.

One Bonacker from Springs explains, "You have to be born here to be a Bonacker. You got the ones coming out of the city. Well, even people that has been here for 20 years, they are not Bonackers . . . Went to a fair (in 1939) and a fellow was there and he would tell you where you came from. He would listen to you talk. If he couldn't guess, you would get a prize. . . He couldn't find out where I was from!"

DORMS HONOR EARLY AMERICANS

The University's 26 dormitories, called colleges, are named after prestigious New Yorkers of the past. The following Americans, whose lives were of particular relevance to the early history of the nation, are honored with colleges in their name:

- Frederick Douglass (1817-1895), below
- Horace Greeley (1811-1872
- Alexander Hamilton (1757-1804
- Washington Irving (1783-1859)
- William Sidney Mount (1807-1868)





Bicentennial Artickles of Intereft

The Bicentennial has spurred University students, faculty and staff to a high level of individual participation in history-minded projects and celebrations. On these pages are brief accounts of such activity in the following areas: anthropology, art, athletics, biological sciences, continuing education, earth and space sciences, education, English, history, library, marine sciences, music, sociology and theatre.

SEEKING THE ARCHIVAL KEYS TO LONG ISLAND'S PAST

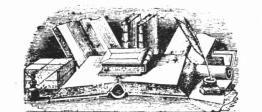
About three years ago, Evert Volkersz head of Stony Brook's special library collections and university archivist, became concerned about the difficulty in locating original historical materials on Long Island.

With others, he founded the Long Island Archives Conference of which he is chairman. The organization's goal is to identify and classify the countless individual documents and collections maintained not only in Nassau and Suffolk, but also in Brooklyn and Queens. Now dozens of historians, librarians, researchers, genealogists, and teachers have joined the cause.

At the group's latest meeting, held at Stony Brook, workshops were held that dealt with aviation and railroad archives, oral history and the use of maps in genealogical research.

So far, Mr. Volkersz has located over 100 archival manuscript collections and expects to double that number by the end of the summer. He has sent questionnaires to 500 libraries, historical societies, hospitals and other possible sources of material. He is hoping to print, by November, the first directory of Long Island Manuscript and Archival Repositories.

"Basically what we're looking for," he says, "are original letters, office correspondence, memoranda, papers generated by institutions and organizations, family papers, and various items of literary or historical figures. These are largely unpublished materials, items you would not normally find in a library."



AMERICAN HISTORY FROM FIRST-HAND SOURCES

Foundations of Colonial America: A Documentary History is the title of a three-volume collection of more than one thousand historic documents edited by Dr. W. Keith Kavenagh, former assistant professor of history at Stony Brook.

The 2,639 pages aim to present a complete picture of the 13 original colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries, while stressing the importance of primary materials for the study and teaching of American colonial history.

ELEANOR STEBER TO SALUTE BICENTENNIAL IN SONG

A Bicentennial Gala Concert featuring Eleanor Steber, "America's queen of song in an all-American program," has been planned by the Friends of Sunwood for 9 p.m., July 2.

The concert is at the Sunwood estate, the University's guest house in Old Field. Proceeds from the \$5 tickets will go for the maintenance and restoration of the estate.



The University provided parking facilities at its large P lot off Stony Brook Road for Festival '76, 'a demonstration of colonial Long Island folklife and craft activities,'' June 5–6.

Free buses carried hundreds of passengers to the displays of crafts, skills and trades of the 18th century at Forsythe Pasture, the Museums at Stony Brook, the Craft Center and the Grist Mill. The exhibits of candlemaking, soapmaking, spinning, weaving, broom making, shingle making, butter and cheese making, dyeing, pewtering and blacksmith's and cooper's trades attracted curious historyminded on-lookers.

WHAT WAS THE REAL JOHN ADAMS LIKE?

Was John Adams actually a failure as a President? Unsuited by temperament for politics? Frequently wracked by emotional breakdowns?

These are some of the questions raised in *The Character of John Adams*, a new biography published in March and authored by Dr. Peter Shaw, associate professor of English.

"He was explosive of temperament, corrosive when aroused, a man of extremes of temper," says Dr. Shaw. "He was not a likeable man."

Dr. Shaw has been studying the life and letters of the Adams family for more than a decade. On the recent television series, "The Adams Chronicles," Dr. Shaw says, John "was a somewhat selfdeprecating person, quietly humorous and essentially generous. My sense of him is very different."

In the fall, Dr. Shaw will teach a continuing education seminar on "The Real Adams Family."





STUDENT TEACHES COLONIAL FASHIONS Under the direction of Stony Brook student-teacher Jann Geyer, a first-grade class at Mills Pond Elemen-

tary School, Smithtown, presented a Bicentennial

Geyer wrote and directed the show, having guided the students in the research of the customs and

fashion show and songfest at the school. Mrs.

clothing of the period.

THREE VILLAGE 'FOUNDERS' HONORED BY ACUC

The Association for Community/University Cooperation (ACUC) honored Dorothy B. and Ward Melville as "founders of the Three Village Area as we know it today" at its May meeting.

The 1976 ACUC Service Award citation presented to the Melvilles read in part: "Three and a half decades ago, the Melvilles saw in Stony Brook the first alarming signs of what Mr. Melville termed "haphazard, shoddy and unattractive construction" unsuccessfully attempting to cope with the beginnings of our area's unexpected population growth. We are grateful that at that time the Melvilles also saw in Stony Brook what could be done to make it the superbly attractive place it is today. With remarkable foresight, they called local business leaders together and forged the re-creation project that transformed a suburban community on the verge of decay into our present Three Village Area. They worked untiringly to restore architectural beauty from the Early Republic 19th century days, preserving our local cultural heritage in a manner seldom seen elsewhere.

"The restoration project became but a launching point for unending community service by the Melvilles. Our widely admired museum facilities and collections bear their vivid imprint."

The Melvilles, in addition to organizing the reconstruction of the colonial-like shops clustered around the Stony Brook Post Office, are leading forces behind the construction of the Museums at Stony Brook – the Carriage House, Crafts Museum, Art Gallery, historic out-buildings, and History Museum.

Also honored was University President John S. Toll. His award citation read in part: "In little more than one short decade, he has made Stony Brook known throughout the academic world as the home of one of the nation's outstanding universities. And there is every sign that new lustre will be added to this reputation through his leadership in the years ahead; leadership which we believe will set new standards for harmonious relationships between a campus and community."

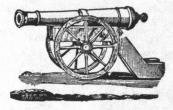


L.I. COLONIAL ARCHIVE NOW ON MICROFILM

On October 6, 1776, a John Sammis of Long Island brought suit against "the Government" for nonpayment of a loan that he had made to the British. The loan consisted of "fore Hundred Chestnut rails, fore Bushels of wheat, fore Bushels of oats, one Tun of English Hay, five Hougs and one cat."

The above record, handwritten and signed by Mr. Sammis, represents one episode among 600,000 which have been compiled on microfilm at the University. Original documents, letters, petitions and personal notes from past centuries have been compiled by Dr. Jackson Turner Main, professor of history and grandson of the famous American historian, Frederick Jackson Turner. This one-of-akind archive on colonial Long Island history offers not great documents but daily records of storekeepers, estate inventories, tax and land records, and the reports of travelers — an intimate, if not precise, little history of the life and times of the people who lived on Long Island during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

One researcher familiar with the data there said, "Most people think the founders of Long Island were somber, sober, upstanding men who went to church regularly, and most of them probably were. But then you check a local storekeeper's records and you find the amount of rum sold, especially at harvest time, was enormous. My God, they must have been floating in from the fields!"



JEFFERSON AND ADAMS BOTH DIED ON JULY 4 – WHAT OF IT?

John Adams and his fellow patriot and co-signer of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson, both died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration's signing. Was it coincidental?

Perhaps not, if the research of Dr. Kenneth Feldman, associate professor of sociology, and Dr. David P. Phillips, former assistant professor of sociology, is given credence.

The two researchers found that death apparently can be delayed before significant events such as a birthday, a religious holiday or an election — only to occur once the big moment has passed.

Studying the birthdays and deaths of 1300 famous people, they found that the death rate in the month preceding a birth month was less than statistical probability, while in the three months after the birthdate, the rate was higher. The celebration surrounding the birthdays of famous men, they reasoned, would normally be associated with public praise and gifts and, therefore, a day eagerly anticipated by a person so honored.

According to Dr. Phillips, "There are indications that some people postpone dying in order to witness events other than their birthdays. There are fewer deaths than expected before the Jewish Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, in New York, a city with a large Jewish population. In addition, there is a dip in U.S. deaths in general before U.S. Presidential elections."

Surely, the 50th anniversary of an event as momentous as the birth of a nation would be considered worth awaiting by two men who had been so instrumental in its founding.



YUP, WASHINGTON SLEPT HERE TOO

George Washington made a famous tour of Long Island in 1790, one year after he was elected President. Since it is known this tour took him from Coram to Setauket to Smithtown, it is inevitable he passed through the area now known as Stony Brook, and likely that he passed the very acres which now comprise the campus.

Jonas Smith, an 18th century seafarer, had built himself a home by the water's edge in Stony Brook five years earlier. The well-kept white clapboard structure, sheltered by locust trees and shrubbery, is now the Three Village Inn, which has for years offered overnight lodging and gracious dining in a hospitable setting to Stony Brook's faculty, staff, visitors, students and their families. Charming in nature, with a few colonial-style bedrooms upstairs and several rustic dining rooms downstairs, it is the type of place where thoughts that Washington may have stopped there find a warm reception, regardless of the lack of supporting evidence.

Actually, it was in Roe Tavern in East Setauket where Washington spent the night of April 22, 1790. Austin Roe, the innkeeper, had been one of the President's spies during the Revolution. The original inn was moved away in 1936, but a plaque at Route 25A and Bayview Avenue marks the spot.

AMERICA ON THE HALF SHELL, THEATRE WITH AN AMERICAN ACCENT

All year, the Theatre Department has been featuring American plays in honor of the Bicentennial. These have included: Eugene O'Neill's Fourth of July comedy, "Ah, Wilderness," Royall Tyler's 1787 comedy, "The Contrast," Megan Terry's "Comings and Goings," Tennessee Williams' "Small Craft Warnings," and "America on the Half Shell." The last mentioned was an evening of six one-act plays by noted American dramatists Tennessee Williams ("Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen"), Jean-Claude Van Italie ("Almost Like Being"), Lanford Wilson ("Wanderings" and "Home Free"), Terrance McNally ("Next") and Kenneth Koch ("Bertha").



SHIPBUILDING, LOCAL MARSH SUBJECT OF BICENTENNIAL LECTURES

A Bicentennial Lecture Series was sponsored this semester by the Association for Community/University Cooperation (ACUC).

"Environmental History of the Flax Pond Marsh, 1655-1976" was the title of the slide and lecture presentation by Dr. Karl Flessa, assistant professor of paleontology, held in the Emma S. Clark Library in Setauket in March. Dr. Flessa explained that the Old Field marsh, now owned by New York State and used for research purposes by the University, was first purchased from the Indians in 1655. At that time, and until the early 1800's when an inlet to the Sound was dug, the water was a freshwater pond, often used for watering cattle. The remains of freshwater plants can be found today a foot and a half below the mud.

"Shipbuilding in the Three Village Area to 1880" was the subject of the slide and lecture presentation by William Minuse, president of the Three Village Historical Society, held on the campus in May. Historical anecdotes accompanied Mr. Minuse's factual account.

Also in May, ACUC presented a free reading of "The Great American Fourth of July" by Archibald MacLeish at the Minnesauke Elementary School Auditorium in East Setauket.

COLONIAL EXPERT DESCRIBES AMERICAN REVOLUTION AS A DAILY GRIND

"Jackson Turner Main's book is a good example of the kind we *ought* to get out of the nation's Bicentennial," wrote Ivan R. Dee in the *New York Times* about *The Sovereign States, 1775–1783,* published in 1973.

"Main, who is professor of history at Stony Brook and probably our best man on the social structure of Revolutionary America," writes Mr. Dee, "has written the most informed and usable survey we have of the Revolution not as a grand struggle but as a daily grind. His story is how the states and their peoples brought a semblance of order out of truly chaotic conditions, and thereby laid a foundation for government, a national economy and the democratic idea. The perspective is refreshing."

Dr. Main, presently on leave continuing his research and writings on the Revolution, has been director of the University's Institute for Colonial and Intercultural Studies for many years.

BICENTENNIAL HISTORY CONFERENCE HELD IN MAY

A day-long Bicentennial Conference in American History, which featured lectures and a luncheon of popular dishes of the Revolutionary era, was sponsored by the University's History Department in May.

Dr. John W. Pratt, associate professor of history, spoke on "The Enemy Within: The Founding Fathers on the Death of Free Government." "The Centennial of 1876" was described by Dr. Wilbur R. Miller, Jr., assistant professor of history, and Dr. David F. Trask talked on "The American Revolution and the Strategy of Revolutionary War."

RUBBING ANTIQUE GRAVESTONES FOR CREDIT

Gaynell Levine, a continuing education student, has been rubbing gravestones for nearly a decade and has now compiled a photo-archive of colonialera gravestones on Long Island as an anthropology project.

Her advice for those interested in the hobby: "Firmly fasten a piece of suitable paper to the gravestone with masking tape. Newsprint is no good; use rice paper or hemp paper, or perhaps a thin cotton fabric, like organdy. Then rub with a crayon or graphite. My technique is to go over the whole stone lightly then go back and darken it uniformly. The skill comes in when you bring up the highlights."

LOCAL MEMORABILIA DONATED

Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy was a local naturalist who died in 1973 at the age of 86. Many of the books and other materials from his estate have been brought together by the Special Collections Department of the University's Library in a new Robert Cushman Murphy Collection. An invaluable source of local historical information, the Collection contains many photographs and slides of trips made both here and abroad. Mrs. Alison M. Conner, Dr. Murphy's daughter, also contributed five unpublished typescript travel journals written by her father.

Insight into Long Island's harness and wagon business from 1883 to 1905 can be found in an account book kept by a Greenport business and now in the University's Library. A few years ago Margaret O'Connor Bethauser, a Stony Brook undergraduate at the time, was doing research on the late Henry Augustus Reeves, Greenport newspaper editor, U.S. and New York State Congressman. Miss Bethauser interviewed May Hartley who gave her the items for the library.



UNIVERSITY ASSISTS BICENTENNIAL TREE-PLANTING

A gift of \$500 was made to the Three Village Bicentennial Committee's planting beautification project by the Stony Brook Foundation, the fund-raising arm of the University.

The project, called "The Greening of 25A," has already been responsible for the planting of over 75 trees, including Norway maples, red oaks and sweet gums, along Route 25A between the University and East Setauket. The project chairman is Dr. Robert DeZafra, associate professor of physics.

WHY STUDY AMERICAN HISTORY? THREE PROFESSORS RESPOND

America: A Portrait in History is the title of a 704-page history text published two years ago by Prentice-Hall and written by Dr. David B. Burner, associate professor of history; Dr. Robert D. Marcus, associate professor of history and dean for undergraduate studies; and Dr. Emily S. Rosenberg, who earned both her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at Stony Brook and teaches at Central Michigan University.

In the preface to their book, they offer this response to the question "Why study history?":

"Americans are a historically minded people. All over the country they invest money and energy in preserving the remains of a rapidly vanishing past. They designate buildings historic landmarks, restore old villages, collect "Americana." More important, in every national crisis arguments hinge on which precedent offers the best guide to present policy. Statesmen debate interpretations of the Constitution, a document nearly two hundred years old. Few people have ever believed more firmly in the moot doctrine that history has direct lessons to teach the present.

"This, however, is not the principal justification for studying the history of the United States. Historical study benefits us less as a guide to politics than as a goad to imagination. More than any other subject, history extends our vision of American life. With eyes fixed only on the present, we become slaves to our era. With our gaze ranging more widely through time, we develop a sense of the multiple possibilities of experience and of our institutions. History, paradoxically, sharpens our vision of the present by stripping away its inevitability, by suggesting all the possibilities for making a different life. To the present-bound American, automobiles are the mode of transportation, television the media for communication, ballpoint pens the way to write, Norman Mailer the reigning literary giant...The past is larger than this, crowded with people, and styles, and ideas. The hard journey through it returns the traveller to a present he did not fully see before his trip."

Drs. Burner and Marcus are also the editors of *Portraits from History* and, with Jorj Tilson, of *America Through the Looking Glass – A Historical Reader in Popular Culture.*



Back in 1966 in a Riverhead courtroom, a group of concerned Long Islanders won the first small battle in the global anti-pesticide war. The issue was DDT and ospreys. And one of the leaders in the fight was Dr. Charles F. Wurster, Stony Brook associate professor of biological sciences and a founder of the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF).

Scientific evidence was amassed which showed that the population of large carnivorous birds had been decreasing dramatically since the early 1950's. The osprey, the peregrine falcon, pelicans and eagles were laying inadequately decalcified, thin-shelled eggs that broke before they could hatch. Analysis of the eggs showed high concentration of DDT. With the ban on DDT, the growing numbers of these birds indicate signs of a comeback.

In the latest EDF newsletter, Dr. Wurster reports on the increased population of brown pelicans in California. Another article cites the return of the ospreys to Gardiners Island.

And now a survey reports that a significant increase in eagle nests have been discovered, appropriately enough, in the nation's capital. Experts believe this resurgence, too, may be credited to less pesticide pollution in the area.

THE SEAFARING RESTLESSNESS OF THE DUTCH RENEWED AFTER 361 YEARS



Last April, 361 years after the original ship Onrust was launched, its 20th Century namesake, a research vessel of the University's Marine Sciences Research Center, was christened at the Stony Brook Yacht Club.

Mrs. Deborah Toll, wife of University President John S. Toll, broke an ampule of Copenhagen seawater, recognized throughout the world as an oceanographer's standard of measure, across the bow of the 55-foot vessel to mark the occasion.

The R/V Onrust, one of the best equipped research vessels of her size, is particularly suited for work in New York's coastal waters, as was the original Onrust. The historical significance of the name Onrust dates back to 1614. The Dutch trader and explorer Captain Adrian Block and his crew became stranded on lower Manhattan when their vessel, Tiger, burned. During the winter of 1613– 14, these men constructed what is believed to be the first decked vessel built by Europeans in North America. They named their 44-foot vessel Onrust – Dutch for "restless."

The first Onrust was launched into upper New York Bay in April, 1614. Later that month she set sail to meet her first real challenge, the treacherous passage through Hell-gate in the East River. She sailed on to become what many believe to be the first European-built vessel to explore Long Island Sound. It later charted the American coast from Cape Cod to Delaware.

The marine sciences staff consider the name Onrust not only appropriate historically but because it also describes the spirit of restless inquiry that has always typified oceanographic research.

The R/V Onrust is equipped with radar and loran navigational systems, radio, autopilot, depth recorders, and diesel generators to produce both alternating and direct current electricity. A wet lab (with running sea water and elaborate plumbing) allows scientists to sample sea water at any depth automatically. This instantaneous reading/ recording system permits continuous horizontal or vertical sampling of water, and immediate analysis of its physical properties. An adjacent dry lab contains an auto analyzer which can measure the quantities and distribution of the nutrients in the water. All measurements can then be fed into an on-board mini-computer data acquisition system which will store the findings on magnetic tape for later analysis at the University's Computing Center.

The University's Onrust is now sailing the same waters as the original Onrust, with marine sciences faculty pursuing a number of projects of national as well as regional importance. Projects which have been researched by the University include the continual monitoring of the quality of Long Island waters; studies of the effects of sewage release on the New York Bight, an area in the Atlantic off the Manhattan harbor, a study of the disposal of dredged soils in the Sound; the possible effects of offshore oil spills; development of a pollution susceptibility map for the marine waters of Land Island; and the possible results of sewage outfall pipes from Suffolk on water quality.

OLD LONG ISLAND SHOW

"Long Island in Story and Song" was a free presentation offered at the Smithtown Library in June by storyteller Maureen Chapple, an undergraduate history student and caretaker at the Quaker Meeting House in St. James, and by fellow student and folksinger Patricia McKernon.



COLONIAL ARTIST'S WORK A CAUSE CELEBRE IN 1976

Two-dollar bills and 18-cent postage stamps are just two of the places we are seeing renderings these days of John Trumbull's famous painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

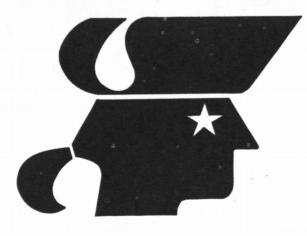
Until recently at least, Trumbull was "the most under-recognized artist in the history of the nation," according to Dr. Irma B. Jaffe, professor of art, who is the author of *John Trumbull: Patriot-Artist of the American Revolution.*

The book contains 205 black-and-white and 16 color plates of Trumbull's work. Trumbull's paintings of now-historic events, including Revolutionary War battles, were among the first artistic examples of the "current events" mode of painting – prior to Trumbull's work, classical and mythological depictions were considered the only "real" painting subjects by elitist cultural critics.

A sizable controversy has arisen over the signing of the Declaration of Independence

painting as it appears on the \$2 bill. It seems six figures on the extreme right and left sides of the painting were cropped out to simplify the painting for the engraving. "To wipe out six figures is a grotesque distortion of an artist's work," Dr. Jaffe was quoted in *New York*, "It's unfair to change the work of a dead artist who can't defend himself." Because state politicians from the home states of the missing signers objected, bills in the future will add the deleted colonists.

In June, much smaller cropped portions of Trumbull's Declaration of Independence scene are to appear on five different 18 cent postage stamps, and portions of his painting, "The Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown" are being printed on five other 13 cent stamps. On July 4, Trumbull's painting will be printed in full in four adjacent 13-cent stamps, triptych-fashion. Again, the artist will have no say in how his paintings will be distorted.



STONY BROOK PATRIOTS

About ten years ago, by a student vote, "Patriots" was chosen as the name for the University's athletic teams. Before then, the teams had been called by various names, including "LI", "State," "Stony Brook," and "Warriors." A Patriot symbol was designed in 1967 to express the colonial heritage, as well as contemporaneity, inherent in the new name. Ever since, the Patriot has appeared regularly on athletic programs and other University publications. Meanwhile, the Patriots, or Pats, have grown in stature, earning national reputations in some sports.

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