

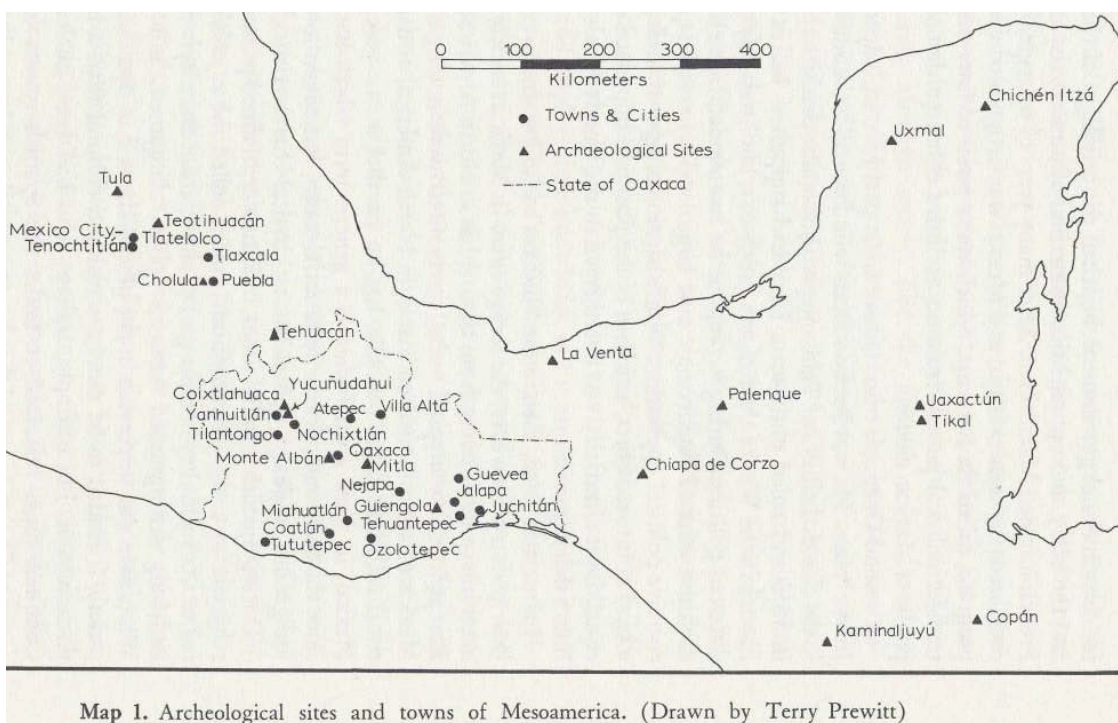
## Application Packet:

### "Oaxaca: Crossroads of a Continent"

A National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute  
for Community College and Four-year College and University Faculty  
Sponsored by The Community College Humanities Association

Held On-Site in Oaxaca, Mexico, from July 1 – August 1, 2007

Application deadline: March 1, 2007



### Project Directors:

Laraine Fletcher, Anthropology, Adelphi University

George Scheper, Humanities, Community College of Baltimore County, Essex

### Project Manager:

David A. Berry, Executive Director,  
Community College Humanities Association

## “Oaxaca: Crossroads of a Continent”

November 1, 2006

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for your interest in "Oaxaca: Crossroads of a Continent," a National Endowment for the Humanities summer Institute for college and university teachers sponsored by the Community College Humanities Association. This letter from the project directors will set out the general scope and aims of our project, and appended to the letter you will find an **Application Packet**, consisting of NEH's general "Application Information and Instructions" and an Application Cover Sheet. Please note that this Application Cover Sheet must be filled out online at the NEH web address < <http://www.neh.gov/online/education/participants/> >, submitted electronically, and then printed out and submitted in hard copy to us, with your full application, as explained below.

This project will be held on site for four weeks, from July 1 through August 1, 2007, on location in Oaxaca, Mexico. Institute sessions and field excursions will be conducted successively by eight distinguished scholars in the city of Oaxaca, and on field excursions to archaeological sites and indigenous community locations, including a three day overnight visit to the Mixteca Alta region and a four day overnight trip to the Zapotec region of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The seminars and field study are designed to enable faculty participants to explore the exciting and rapidly accumulating new collaborative and interdisciplinary scholarship on Mixtec and Zapotec history and culture, in the contexts both of archaeological site study and contemporary indigenous communities in the State of Oaxaca. [We are well aware of the current situation of civic unrest in Oaxaca initiated by a teachers' strike; we anticipate that the situation will be resolved well before our Institute begins.]

Our Institute will afford participants an exceptional opportunity for a group of twenty-four colleagues to travel and learn together, studying under the guidance of a group of distinguished visiting scholars and writers. We will visit many of the most important sites for the study of ancient and contemporary Zapotec and Mixtec cultures, including such important archaeological sites as Monte Albán, San José Mogote, Mitla, and Lambityeco, and indigenous communities in the Mixteca Alta and Tehuantepec regions.

The two of us who are directing the project -- Laraine Fletcher and George Scheper -- and our project manager, David Berry, Executive Director of the Community College Humanities Association, have worked together directing similar travel/study NEH Institutes. This is the sixth NEH Institute co-directed by Laraine Fletcher (Anthropology, Adelphi University). For more than twenty years Laraine has been involved in archaeological fieldwork, including analyses of the settlement patterns of the pre-Columbian sites of Cobá and Calakmul. She also conducted archaeological surveys in northern Nicaragua in the 1990s. Recently she began a photo-ethnographic project to document with photographs and oral histories changes in the lives of Maya women living in the villages near Valladolid, Yucatán. This is the tenth NEH Institute George Scheper has co-directed on topics related to New World cultural encounters. George coordinates an interdisciplinary program in humanities for adult learners at the Community College of Baltimore County and regularly teaches interdisciplinary courses for The Johns Hopkins University School of Professional Studies and Master of Liberal Arts program. His research and publications focus on studies in comparative religion and studies in religion and culture.

We've enjoyed great working relationships with our visiting scholars, and with the excellent travel agent who will be handling our logistics for the project. We trust that the experience we've gained as a team, along with the resources of CCHA, will translate into a fruitful, collegial and stimulating experience for our participants. We realize that the commitment to a four-week on-site project makes this a very intense travel/study experience, and that participants must be willing to be very flexible and to go with the flow as group arrangements demand. A generous spirit of collegiality and good will go a long way toward making a complex project such as this work successfully!

#### FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS, EXPENSES and STIPEND

Because "Oaxaca: Crossroads of a Continent" is being held on site in Mexico, with a full program of field-study visits, the grant monies usually allocated as stipends have been pooled to cover participant travel and lodging expenses within the Institute, all of which will be covered directly by CCHA (these costs per participant are equal in value to the current \$3,000 stipend for a four-week Institute). Participants will receive all lodging, internal travel and site-visit costs for all scheduled activities during the Institute, as is specified in the detailed Daily Schedule. Participants are responsible for their own meal expenses, for personal expenses and for their own travel arrangements to Oaxaca, Mexico on or before Sunday July 1, 2006 and for return from Oaxaca on or after August 1, 2007. Participants may wish to make these travel arrangements individually, but our designated travel agent will be pleased to assist participants with those arrangements.

Based on our past experience, participants should anticipate budgeting between \$30 to \$40 per day for meals and other personal expenses for the duration of the project.

#### STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The Institute will run for four weeks, from July 1 through August 1, based primarily in the city of Oaxaca, with additional field study in the Mixteca Alta and Tehuantepec regions. Sessions with Institute scholars will generally alternate between classroom seminars and field trips to archaeological and cultural sites. Because of the intense schedule of the "Oaxaca: Crossroads" Institute, participants should do as much of the required reading as possible prior to departure. There will be a core reading list of about a half dozen books which participants should acquire as soon as possible after their selection. In addition, we will supply a set of Readers consisting of duplicated materials assigned by the Institute scholars for their respective sessions; these Readers will be sent ahead to each selected participant upon our receipt of the agreement to participate. To help ensure a high level of informed discussion, the project requires of participants a substantial amount of reading in a variety of disciplines. So, once again, we'd like to stress how greatly it will contribute to the success of the project if accepted participants undertake as much of the required reading as can realistically be done in advance.

A typical working day of the Institute will consist of a seminar in the morning conducted by one of the visiting scholars, followed by lunch and informal discussion with that scholar. Days of field study either at archaeological sites or contemporary cultural sites will typically devote the full day to that activity. The visiting scholars will be available, during their respective scheduled days with the Institute, for consultation with participants about their individual research and curricular interests. Once a week the project directors will conduct a brief roundtable to review the proceedings and to discuss individual concerns and project ideas.

For a detailed day by day outline of the Institute, including seminars, site visits and reading assignments, please see the "Daily Schedule" posted on the Institute website at:

< [www.ccha-assoc.org/oaxaca07/index.html](http://www.ccha-assoc.org/oaxaca07/index.html) >.

## INSTITUTE FACULTY

The eight distinguished scholars who will be presenting at the Institute are uniquely qualified to address the subject of Oaxacan studies. All are in the forefront of their respective fields as researchers; their field work, papers and publications are at the heart of current scholarly enterprise and academic dialogue, and all are distinguished teachers as well, with unusual ability to communicate the substance of their expertise and to generate enthusiasm on the part of non-specialists.

The project begins with Selma Holo, professor of Museum Studies at the University of Southern California, and author of *Oaxaca at the Crossroads* (2004), discussing the many cultural crosscurrents manifest in Oaxaca at the present time, including the role of indigenous communities in the ongoing study and presentation of native culture, the impacts of international tourism and economic globalization, and the changing art scene in a notably and vibrantly art-oriented colonial capital.

We then begin our study of the rich archaeological heritage of Oaxaca with a week of seminar and field study with INAH archaeologist Marcus Winter, author of *Oaxaca, the Archaeological Record* (2004). Winter's seminars will focus on the origins of civilization in Oaxaca, the developments of early forms of urbanism and social stratification, and the characteristics of the major archaeological sites of ancient Zapotec culture. Winter will lead participants in field study at San José Mogote, Cuilapan, Zaachilá, Mitla, Lambityeco, and Monte Albán, as well as in a study visit to the Regional Museum, containing the spectacular treasures of Tomb 7 from Monte Albán. These studies are complemented by seminars on the painted tombs of the Oaxaca region, by art historian Arthur Miller (University of Maryland), author of *The Painted Tombs of Oaxaca, Mexico* (1995).

The next unit of the Institute focuses specifically on Mixtec cultural history, with an emphasis on Mixtec traditions of picture writing and the preservation of pre-Columbian Mixtec history in the form of painted codices, such as the Codex Nuttall. John M. D. Pohl (Art History, Princeton University and Curator, Princeton Art Museum), co-author of *In the Realm of 8 Deer* (1994), will begin this unit with a seminar on the origins of Mesoamerican writing, and on Mixtec codices. John Monaghan (Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago), author of *The Covenants with Earth and Rain* (1995), will introduce aspects of contemporary Mixtec culture, with a focus on traditions of exchange and sacrifice. Then Pohl and Monaghan will jointly conduct a three day field trip in the Mixteca Alta region, following up their scholarly research, respectively, in pre-Columbian and contemporary Mixtec studies.

After a re-cap of the Mixteca Alta experience, at a seminar with Pohl and Monaghan, and a free day in Oaxaca, we begin our next unit, on contemporary Zapotec culture, with seminars led by Lynn Stephen (Anthropology, University of Oregon), author of *Zapotec Women: Gender, Class, and Ethnicity* (2005). Stephen will also lead the group in field study to the towns of Teotitlán del Valle, Tlacoahuaya, San Bartolo de Coyotepec and Cuilapan, with a focus on women's roles in contemporary craft production.

Our second extended field trip, to the Zapotec region of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, will be led by Howard Campbell (Anthropology, University of Texas, El Paso), author of *Zapotec Renaissance* (1994). After an initial seminar in Oaxaca on the subject of Zapotec cultural revitalization, Campbell will lead a four day stay in the Zapotec cultural center of Juchitán,

leading seminars and roundtables with contemporary Zapotec writers such as Manuel Matus, Victor de la Cruz and Natalia Toledo.

Back in Oaxaca, after a wrap-up seminar with Howard Campbell on the Juchitán experience, our last unit will be conducted by Jeffrey Cohen (Anthropology, Ohio State University), author of *Cooperation and Community: Economy and Society in Oaxaca* (1999) and *The Culture of Migration in Southern Mexico* (2004). Cohen's seminars will focus on the town of Santa Ana del Valle as a case study of cooperation and community, and on the issue of Oaxaqueño diaspora. The project directors will conduct a final roundtable assessing the project, and CCHA will host a farewell reception.

This will bring our four-week project to a happily exhausted conclusion, as we all head home to digest and assimilate the proceedings, organize our notes, slides and photos, and gear up to use the material in future classes, and for presentations at upcoming conferences.

### INSTITUTE LOCATION AND FACILITIES

Our Institute focuses on the ancient, the colonial, and the contemporary Zapotec and Mixtec people, in some of the most important and distinctive regions of traditional Oaxaqueño culture. It is fundamental to the design of the project, especially for the components that involve archaeology, art and ethnography, that our classroom seminar sessions be held in close conjunction with on-site field experiences.

Our project is based primarily in the city of Oaxaca itself, an important colonial capital and world cultural heritage site. Our hotel, the Casona de Llano, is centrally located, near the zócalo or town square, and very near our seminar headquarters, the Instituto Cultural de Oaxaca, an institution that fosters cultural study of the Oaxaca region, and facilitates travel study experiences. Oaxaca is rich in museums, art galleries, scholarly bookstores, public and research libraries, language schools, markets, cyber cafés and, of course, fine restaurants based on a legendary local cuisine.

For our field trip to the picturesque Mixteca Alta region, we will be based in the town of Tlaxiaco, at the Hotel del Portal, right off Plaza de la Constitución. During our three day excursion, our group will have access to communitarian museums (administered by indigenous communities), to spectacular colonial churches and convents, as well as to archaeological sites that are central to pre-Colonial Mixtec history and contemporary Mixtec cultural life. For our four day stay in Juchitán, center of the Zapotec cultural revival movement, we will be based at the Hotel López Lena Palace for accommodations and seminar space, with nearby cyber cafés, restaurants and markets.

### APPLICATION

The Institute is intended to function as a stimulus to individual study and research and as a seedbed for course and curriculum development. In your application essay you should identify an area of personal research interest and/or of curriculum development that you intend to pursue during the course of the Institute. The semester following the Institute, participants will be asked to submit a report on the impact of the Institute on their research and teaching for the project directors' Final Report to NEH.

For the reasons indicated above, you should note that perhaps the most important part of your application is the essay that must be submitted as part of the complete application. This essay should include any personal and academic information that is relevant; reasons for applying to this particular

Institute; your interest, both intellectual and personal, in the topic; qualifications to do the work of the project and to make a contribution to it; what you hope to accomplish by participation, including any individual research and writing projects; and the relation of the study to your teaching.

Please follow the guidelines in the enclosed general "Application Information and Instructions" from NEH, and remember that your completed application, **in hard copy only** please, should be postmarked no later than March 1, 2007, and should be addressed to our project manager as follows:

David A. Berry, " Oaxaca" Project Manager  
Community College Humanities Association  
c/o Essex County College  
303 University Avenue  
Newark, NJ 07102-1798

email: [berry@essex.edu](mailto:berry@essex.edu)  
Tel: 973-877-3577

We wish you all the best and look forward to hearing from you. If you have additional questions about the structure or content of our Institute, please contact David Berry, above, or one of the project directors at either of our addresses below. For further information, please visit our project website at < [www.ccha-assoc.org/oaxaca07/index.html](http://www.ccha-assoc.org/oaxaca07/index.html) >.

Sincerely,

Dr. George L. Scheper  
Humanities  
CCBC--Essex  
Baltimore County, MD 21237

email: [shepbklyn@aol.com](mailto:shepbklyn@aol.com)  
Tel: 410-780-6539

Dr. Laraine Fletcher  
Anthropology  
Adelphi University  
Garden City, LI, NY 11530-4299

email: [fletcher@adelphi.edu](mailto:fletcher@adelphi.edu) -- or  
[larainefletcher@aol.com](mailto:larainefletcher@aol.com)  
Tel: 516-877-4114

## **NEH SUMMER SEMINARS & INSTITUTES FOR COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY TEACHERS APPLICATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS**

### **For the Summer 2007 institute "Oaxaca: Crossroads of a Continent"**

Summer Seminars and Institutes for College and University Teachers are offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide college and university faculty members and independent scholars with an opportunity to enrich and revitalize their understanding of significant humanities ideas, texts, and topics. These study opportunities are especially designed for this program and are not intended to duplicate courses normally offered by graduate programs, nor will graduate credit be given for them. Prior to completing an application, please review the enclosed letter from the project director (or letter downloaded from the director's website, if available) and consider carefully what is expected in terms of residence and attendance, reading and writing requirements, and general participation in the work of the project.

**Institutes** provide intensive collaborative study of texts, topics, and ideas central to undergraduate teaching in the humanities under the guidance of faculties distinguished in their fields of scholarship. Institutes aim to prepare participants to return to their classrooms with a deeper knowledge of current scholarship in key fields of the humanities. Please note: The use of the words "seminar" or "institute" in this document is precise and is intended to convey differences between the two project types.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

These projects are designed primarily for teachers of American undergraduate students. Qualified independent scholars and those employed by museums, libraries, historical societies, and other organizations may be eligible to compete provided they can effectively advance the teaching and research goals of the seminar or institute. Applicants must be United States citizens, residents of U.S. jurisdictions, or foreign nationals who have been residing in the United States or its territories for at least the three years immediately preceding the application deadline. Foreign nationals teaching outside the U.S. are not eligible to apply.

Applicants must complete the NEH application cover sheet and provide all of the information requested below to be considered eligible. Candidates for degrees are only eligible to apply if they are employed by an institution other than the one at which they are degree candidates and if their participation is intended to enhance their teaching of American undergraduates. Degree candidates can never use their participation in an NEH seminar or institute to meet a degree requirement, including work on masters' theses or doctoral dissertations. An applicant need not have an advanced degree in order to qualify. Adjunct and part-time lecturers are eligible to apply. Individuals may not apply to study with a director of a seminar or institute who is a current colleague or a family member. Individuals must not apply to seminars directed by scholars with whom they have previously studied. Institute selection committees are advised that only under the most compelling and exceptional circumstances may an individual participate in an institute with a director or a lead faculty member who has previously guided that individual's research or in whose previous institute or seminar he or she has participated. An individual may apply to **no more than two projects** in any one year.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

A selection committee reads and evaluates all properly completed applications in order to select the most promising applicants and to identify a small number of alternates. (Institute selection committees consist of three to five members, usually drawn from the institute faculty and staff members.) While recent participants are eligible to apply, selection committees are charged to give first consideration to applicants who have not participated in an NEH-supported seminar or institute in the last three years (2004, 2005, 2006). Recent participation in NEH's Landmarks of American History and Culture Program does not negatively affect eligibility or competitiveness.

The most important consideration in the selection of participants is the likelihood that an applicant will benefit professionally. This is determined by committee members from the conjunction of several factors, each of which should be addressed in the application essay. These factors include:

1. quality and commitment as a teacher, scholar, and interpreter of the humanities;
2. intellectual interests, both generally and as they relate to the work of the institute;
3. special perspectives, skills, or experiences that would contribute to the institute;
4. commitment to participate fully in the formal and informal collegial life of the institute;
5. the likelihood that the experience will enhance the applicant's teaching and scholarship.

When choices must be made among equally qualified candidates, several additional factors are considered: **Preference is given to applicants who have not previously participated in an NEH seminar or institute, or who would significantly contribute to the diversity of the seminar or institute.**

## STIPEND, TENURE, AND CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Stipends are intended to help cover travel expenses to and from the project location, books and other research expenses, and living expenses for the duration of the period spent in residence. Stipends are taxable. Applicants to all projects, especially those held abroad, should note that supplements will not be given in cases where the stipend is insufficient to cover all expenses. Individuals selected to participate in four-week projects will receive a stipend in the value of \$3,000. Because "Oaxaca: Crossroads of a Continent" is being held on-site in Mexico, with a series of field-study visits, the grant monies usually allocated as stipends have been pooled to cover participant travel and lodging expenses within the Institute, all of which will be covered directly by CCHA (these costs per participant are equal in value to the current \$3,000 stipend for a four-week Institute). Participants will receive all lodging, internal travel, site-visit and other program costs for scheduled activities during the Institute. NEH funds cannot additionally cover individual travel to and from the Institute. Participants will be responsible for meal expenses, for personal expenses, and for their individual travel arrangements to Oaxaca, Mexico on or before Sunday July 1, 2006 and for return from Oaxaca on or after August 1, 2007 (NEH funds cannot cover individual travel to and from the Institute).

Seminar and institute participants are required to attend all meetings and to engage fully in the work of the project. During the project's tenure, they may not undertake teaching assignments or any other professional activities unrelated to their participation in the project. Participants who, for any reason, do not complete the full tenure of the project must refund a pro-rata portion of the stipend.

At the end of the project's residential period, participants will be asked to submit on-line evaluations in which they review their work during the summer and assess its value to their personal and professional development. These evaluations will become part of the project's grant file and may become part of an application to repeat the seminar or institute.

## **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

This application packet should accompany a letter from the project director that contains detailed information about the topic under study; project requirements and expectations of the participants; the academic and institutional setting; and specific provisions for lodging, subsistence, and extracurricular activities. If you do not have such a letter, please request one from the director of the project in which you are interested before you attempt to compete and submit an application. In some cases, directors have websites for their projects and the information letter may be downloaded from their website. **All application materials for "Oaxaca: Crossroads of a Continent" should be sent to the project manager. Sending application materials to the Endowment will result in delay.**

## **CHECKLIST OF APPLICATION MATERIALS**

A completed application consists of three copies of the following collated items:

- the completed application cover sheet,
- a detailed résumé, and
- an application essay as outlined below.

In addition, it must include two letters of recommendation as described below.

### **The application cover sheet**

The application cover sheet must be filled out on line at this address:

<http://www.neh.gov/online/education/participants/> Please fill it out on line as directed by the prompts. **When you are finished, be sure to click on the "submit" button.** Print out the cover sheet and add it to your application package. At this point you will be asked if you want to apply to another project. If you do, follow the prompts and select another project and then print out the cover sheet for that project. Note that filling out a cover sheet is not the same as applying, so there is no penalty for changing your mind and filling out cover sheets for several projects. A full application consists of the items listed above, as sent to a project director.

### **Résumé**

Please include a detailed résumé (not to exceed five pages).

### **The Application Essay**

The application essay should be no more than four double spaced pages. This essay should include any relevant personal and academic information. It should address reasons for applying; the applicant's interest, both academic and personal, in the subject to be studied; qualifications and experiences that equip the applicant to do the work of the seminar or institute and to make a contribution to a learning community; a statement of what the applicant wants to accomplish by participating; and the relation of the project to the applicant's professional responsibilities. Applicants to seminars should be sure to discuss any independent study project that is proposed beyond the common work of the seminar. Applicants to institutes may need to elaborate on the relationship between institute activities and their responsibilities for teaching and curricular development.

**Reference Letters**

The two referees should be chosen carefully. They should be familiar with the applicant's professional accomplishments or promise, interests, and ability to contribute to and benefit from participation in the seminar or institute. They should specifically address these issues in their recommendations. Letters from colleagues who know the applicant's teaching and from those outside the applicant's institution who know his or her scholarship are often more useful than letters from college or university administrators. Referees should be provided with the director's description of the seminar or institute and the applicant's essay. If an applicant has previously participated in an NEH summer seminar or institute, a recommendation from the director or lead scholar of that program would be useful. Please ask each of your referees to sign their name across the back of the sealed envelope containing their letter, and enclose the letters with your application.

**SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS AND NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE**

Completed applications for "Oaxaca: Crossroads of a Continent" should be **postmarked** no later than March 1, 2007 and should be submitted **to the project manager**, as follows:

David A. Berry, " Oaxaca" Project Manager  
Community College Humanities Association  
c/o Essex County College  
303 University Avenue  
Newark, NJ 07102-1798

Successful applicants will be notified of their selection on April 2, 2007, and they will have until April 15 to accept or decline the offer. Applicants who will not be home during the notification period are advised to provide an address and phone number where they can be reached. No information on the status of applications will be available prior to the official notification period.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT**

Endowment programs do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. For further information, write to the Equal Opportunity Officer, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506. TDD: 202/606-8282 (this is a special telephone device for the Deaf).