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## History News

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## History News

### *Conferences*

“Visions of Paradise: Technology, Environment, and Culture in Florida” is the theme of the 102nd **Annual Meeting of the Florida Historical Society**, to be held in Melbourne from April 14 to 17, 2004. The conference will be sponsored by the Florida Institute of Technology and will convene at the Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place Hotel, 200 Rialto Place. Dr. Larry Rivers will be the Kathryn Prescott Scholar and Lecturer. For information, contact the Florida Historical Society at 321-254-9855.

### *Fellowships and Grants*

A Research Fellowship on the **History of West Florida, 1810-1812** utilizing the Louisiana State University Libraries collections will be awarded August 1, 2004. Graduate students, instructors, or assistant professors may apply. The application should consist of (1) a statement detailing the applicant’s research interests; (2) a curriculum vita; and (3) two letters of reference. Email Faye Phillips at [fphilli@lsu.edu](mailto:fphilli@lsu.edu). The Fellowship carries a stipend of \$2,700.00, to be used as needed by the award recipient. Half will be awarded at the beginning of the research period and the remainder will be awarded upon the completion of a manuscript on the topic deemed satisfactory by the selection committee. The research period may be at anytime during the dates August 15, 2004 and September 30, 2005.

Soliciting contributions for an anthology on children in colonial North America, which is to initiate a new series, **Children and Youth in America**, to be published by NYU Press. Essays will examine the unique experiences of European, African, and Native American

children and youth in North America between the early 16th and mid-18th centuries. Proposals will be considered on topics related to the British colonies as well as to the Spanish colonies in Florida and the Southwest and to the French colonies in Canada and the Great Lakes region. Acceptable topics will include but will not be limited to: raising, educating, and caring for children; children as slaves and as workers; the intersection of racial and ethnic cultures; differences and similarities in the experiences of girls and boys; and coming of age. Whenever possible and appropriate, the points of view of children and youth should be presented. Although interdisciplinary approaches are welcomed and, indeed, encouraged, the essays need to be framed with a historical sensibility. Final essays will run an estimated 6000-8000 words, including notes. The deadline for proposals is **March 31, 2004**. Interested scholars should email their one-page proposals, along with brief c.v.'s, directly to James Marten, james.marten@marquette.edu, who is editor of both the series and the proposed anthology. His email address is provided below. Final versions of the essays chosen for the anthology will be due on October 1, 2004.

### *Webpages*

The Library of Congress is pleased to announce the online release of **The Zora Neale Hurston Plays at the Library of Congress**, available on the American Memory Web site at (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/znhhtml>). The Zora Neale Hurston Plays collection at the Library of Congress present a selection of ten plays written by Hurston, author, anthropologist, and folklorist. She identified as her hometown Eatonville, Florida, the first African-American incorporated township. During the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, Hurston traveled the American South collecting and recording the sounds and songs of her people, while her research in Haiti is reflected in the voodoo scenes and beliefs woven into several of the plays. Deposited in the United States Copyright Office between 1925 and 1944, most of the plays remained unpublished and unproduced until they were rediscovered in the Copyright Deposit Drama Collection in 1997. The plays reflect Hurston's life experience, travels, and research, especially her study of folklore in the African-American South. Totalling seven hundred images, the scripts are housed in the Library's Manuscript, Music, and Rare Books and Special Collections Divisions. With the exception of Mule-Bone,

the plays presented here were all unpublished when they were rediscovered in the Library of Congress in 1997. At that time, only Polk County was at all familiar to scholars on the basis of copies in other repositories. Little was known about Hurston's theatrical career until 1998, when scholarly publications began to reflect the drama discoveries announced by the Library of Congress. The discovery of the scripts, added to those Hurston plays already known, firmly establishes their author, an African American woman, as a significant dramatist of the twentieth century.