

Dear Subscriber,

On 23 December 1977 Bob Wheeler died an untimely, tragic death. As most of you know, Bob founded and almost single-handedly sustained this journal. His dedication and intelligence yielded a publication of high quality and growing distinction; his devotion to labor and working-class history went a long way toward securing its place as a respected field of study. His death is a terrible loss to his many friends and colleagues.

To commemorate Bob's life and work, the Department of History at the University of Southern California has established the Robert F. Wheeler Memorial Fund, dedicated to furthering the educational and scholarly values Bob held. This aim can best be supported by your contributions, and we urge all subscribers to give generously. Checks should be made out to the University of Southern California, with a note specifying their donation to the Robert F. Wheeler Memorial Fund, and sent to:

Dean John Marburger
College of Arts and Sciences
University of Southern California
University Park, Los Angeles, CA 90007

In addition, we are asking subscribers to enclose a brief letter to Dean Marburger attesting to the quality and importance of ILWCH. This will encourage USC to continue its valuable support and enable all of us to continue to benefit from this publication.

This, the November 1977 issue (#12), was delayed due to Bob's illness and death. As of early January, I have taken over as interim editor, responsible for this and the next issue at least. Your continued support for ILWCH will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Gary P. Steenson, editor