

October 20, 1978

Professor Raymond Aron
Ecole des Hautes Etudes
en Sciences Sociales
54, Boulevard Raspail
75270 Paris, Cedex 06
France

Dear Professor Aron:

History and Theory, in collaboration with Wesleyan's Center for the Humanities, is planning a small conference for next March, to discuss issues raised in and by Hayden White's book Metahistory: The Historical Imagination in Nineteenth-Century Europe. Although one sees this book increasingly cited in articles and other books, we believe that it has not received the thorough critical examination which it deserves. It is highly original in its application of literary theory to the history of historiography, and radical in its reformulation of historical relativism and other classic issues.

The conference will be held in Middletown on March 16th and 17th, 1979. Main papers will be given by Maurice Mandelbaum (Philosophy, Johns Hopkins and Dartmouth), Hans Kellner (History, Michigan State), Paul Hernadi (Comparative Literature, Iowa), and Edward Said (English, Columbia). There will be critics of each paper, and we plan to leave plenty of time for both formal and informal discussion. We plan to limit the conference to forty participants, from history, literary theory, and philosophy.

We thought that as a member of the Editorial Committee you would like to know about the planning of this conference, and also to know that of course you are invited if you are interested in participating. Since the budget for the conference is very low we can't offer to cover travel expenses, as we would like to do, but if you expect to be in the vicinity of Middletown next March in any case, by all means do let us know. We shall also be happy to send copies of the main papers, at your request. Naturally we hope that they will later be published in History and Theory.

Sincerely yours,

Richard T. Vann
Richard T. Vann

RTV: jp