

Desert Harvest

News from the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies

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Division continues to enjoy Fulbright Fellowship success

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In a singular show of confidence in our program and in the promising young scholars of the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies, the national Fulbright committee this year recommended all three of our highly-qualified applicants to the German Fulbright Committee for full fellowships.

Peter Dykema, Eric Saak and Jeff Tyler carry on the impressive tradition of personal achievement set by the Division's 1990-91 Fulbright Fellows, Robert Bast and Curtis Bostick. As these five students enter their final stages of doctoral work, they demonstrate that the rigorous training provided by the Division produces scholars to rival the country's -- and indeed the world's -- top historians.

The members of the German Fulbright Committee will compare our applicants' resumes and proposed programs of study to those of the foremost candidates from other nations. It is an exceptional honor for our students to be solid contenders at

this level of competition.

Although full details of the final Fulbright decisions are not yet available, Jeff Tyler has been advised that his application to study and conduct research at the University of Tübingen has been accepted. Hearty congratulations are extended to Jeff and

his wife Beth who will accompany him to Germany later this summer. On page three of Desert Harvest Jeff

explains what makes him 'tick' as a historian, and outlines the work he plans to do in his year abroad.

Robert Bast, currently in Tübingen, has been accorded the rare honor of a seven-month extension of his fellowship. Bob and his family now plan to return to Tucson late in 1991. Curtis Bostick also won a coveted extension. The Bostick family will remain in Cambridge, England until late summer.

*Congratulations
to Jeff Tyler,
91-92 Fulbright
winner!*

Archbishop Tutu unable to visit Tucson

Careful plans had been laid to bring to Tucson the Archbishop of Cape Town, Desmond Tutu. Tutu had accepted an invitation to come for three days, during which time he would deliver a public lecture and meet with the Division's many supporters and friends.

When Professor Oberman flew to South Africa in January for a series of nine lectures, the final dates were to be settled. Unfortunately, due to the important and promising breakthroughs in the wake of the historic changes announced by President de Klerk, Tutu's role in South Africa itself was so dramatically broadened that he had to cancel all travel plans outside his country. The Archbishop has expressed his firm intention to visit Tucson and hopes that this can be achieved in the coming year.

With this news comes the realization that the Division will not have a spring guest lecturer this year. In the past years we have hosted such honored guests as Martin Marty, Hans Küng and Krister Stendahl. This fine tradition will be resumed in the spring of 1992.

Summer Lecture Series

Already the heat of summer has briefly descended to remind Tucsonans of what lies around the corner. We at the Division believe that our community needs more occasions for rewarding adult education when the thermometer rises. The Summer Lecture Series was initiated in 1988 to meet this need.

This year, senior doctoral students will again be sharing their expertise and training with audiences in several venues. Initial contacts have been made with St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and a coalition of north-west Lutheran churches. Historical in content, these lectures provide an opportunity for community groups to explore themes of special interest in the history of western culture. Further information regarding this series will be circulated as it becomes available.

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Tyler to travel to Tübingen

In order to give our readers a better idea of who Jeff Tyler is, and what makes him 'tick' as a historian, we asked Jeff to prepare this statement.

How did a small boy who once aspired to be a septic tank man end up with a Fulbright Fellowship? I have considered that quandary often in the last month. I suppose that impulse has resurfaced at the University of Arizona as I anticipate digging through dusty documents in German archives.

But why forsake my earlier career plans in order to compete for a Fulbright? First, it allows me to pursue a problem in late-medieval and Reformation history which drives me to my desk and sometimes wakes me in the middle of the night. In part, I have been asking, why did so many bishops fail to crush the Protestant Reformation in Germany? As both princes and pastors, as administrators and inquisitors they collectively blanketed every foot of German soil with their authority; they ruled over an army of priestly underlings.

As you may have already thought to yourself, this topic is much too large for a dissertation, let alone a lifetime. I have focused on the relationship between bishops and cities. From 1250 to 1555, bishops progressively surrendered control of urban life, even in most cities we call "episcopal" (which means bishops once ruled them as political overlords). Citizens initially broke episcopal power by driving their bishops outside the city walls. Over nearly three centuries bishops lost many of their political, economic, and even religious rights in the city. Many of those cities would subsequently recognize the Protestant Reformation. I hope to begin my investigation of episcopal decline and Reformation influence by studying two cases -- bishop and city in Augsburg and Constance.

This Fulbright fellowship comes at the end of almost thirteen years of preparation, the final five here at the Division. In nearly every one of the 26 semesters since high school, I have studied either a foreign language or history. Now at the end of three years of dissertation research the Fulbright allows me to take a crucial step. It makes possible a year in Germany. My background has never afforded me the chance to travel to Europe. In fact, as an undergraduate, after taking an 18 credit course on Classical Greece, I was offered a scholarship to spend 6 weeks in the eastern Mediterranean region. I had to turn it down in order to earn tuition money for the following academic year. This grant provides a financial base for travel and for 9 months in Germany; it offers an additional six weeks of language study and the support of the University and an academic advisor.

Most of all, the Fulbright relieves a severe and gnawing itch in my soul. Now at last, I will walk through the cities I have previously experienced from my desk in Tucson. I will spend long hours in the archives, deciphering and analyzing documents which have appeared to me only as titles in the teasing script of footnotes.

I came to the University of Arizona in 1986, believing I would receive the training and the opportunity to compete effectively for grants such as the Fulbright. (Continued on page 4.)

What's happening?

Professor Dr. Hans-Christoph Rublack spent the past academic year in Tucson as a sabbatical replacement for Professor Oberman. Teaching undergraduate and graduate students both semesters, he masterfully prepared the advanced Division students for reading the difficult sixteenth-century hands awaiting them in the European archives. A 'good bye' garden party was held on April 14 for Professor Rublack, his wife Elizabeth and baby Argula just before their return to Germany.

Student funding

We are happy to acknowledge a generous gift of \$5,000 from Dr. Morris Martin and Mrs. Ora DeConcini-Martin, which will give a good start to our program for 1991-92.

Peter Dykema has been awarded a summer archival tour fellowship offered by the Volkswagenstiftung through the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC. Along with other American graduate students, Pete will tour central European libraries and archives, including visits to Leipzig and Dresden.

Sigrun Haude left for Germany in February to spend several months conducting research for her dissertation topic: the impact of the 'kingdom of God' in Münster (1534/5). As a German citizen, Sigrun was not eligible for a Fulbright Fellowship to finance her travel.

Eric Saak will present a paper titled "Beginnings of the *via Augustini*: Jordan of Quedlinburg" in May at the annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America.

Andrew Gow has been awarded a fellowship to pursue his study of late medieval anti-semitism and apocalypticism, at the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel, Germany.

Mike Milway has been invited to spend next year at the Sorbonne to study -- under the tutelage of Professor Bernard Roussel -- the episcopal reform in the diocese of Meaux (1500-1525).

Professor Oberman appreciated the page-long article "Social mission of education is his interest" which appeared in the January 28 edition of *Lo Que Pasa*. The article was researched and written by **Marjory Lange**, a student of Professor Oberman for several years, who is working toward a Ph.D. in English with a minor in history.

Tyler

(Continued from page 3.) I have discovered more than Professor Oberman originally promised. During the past year, I have served as research assistant to Hans-Christoph Rublack, Professor of Modern History at the University of Tübingen, and this year, visiting lecturer at the University of Arizona. Next fall, he will serve as my Fulbright advisor. This October I will begin my first year in Tübingen, but my second with Professor Rublack. Even before I submitted my formal application to the Fulbright foundation in September 1990, my journey to Europe had already begun.