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THE DIVISION FOR LATE MEDIEVAL AND REFORMATION STUDIES

VOL 18, NO 2

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"... the premier place for Reformation studies" —Lyndal Roper, Professor of Early Modern History, Balliol College, University of Oxford



We have achieved something lasting!

by Susan C. Karant-Nunn, Director



used to fantasize about the day when we could announce, "The Oberman Chair Endowment is complete!

A senior colleague's presence here is ensured! Heiko Oberman's personal library can become the property of the UA Libraries!" That day has come. Indeed, it came in June, when an anonymous donor stepped in and gave the amount that remained between what we had gathered, about \$1,743,000, and the \$2 million target set by the UA years ago.

On Sunday evening,

October 24, 83 contributors and officers of the university gathered at the Arizona Inn to celebrate. Mrs. Toetie Oberman, three of hers and Heiko's children, four of their grandchildren, and other relatives from The Netherlands were in attendance. We might have danced, but we staid academics preferred to express our satisfaction verbally. Ute Lotz-Heumann, the first and current Oberman Professor, thanked Luise Betterton for her full partnership in fund-raising, and Sandra Kimball for her unstinting, artistically gifted

devotion to the cause at

every turn. Dean John Paul Jones III referred to the

Division as a "name-plate" of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Jane Dempsey Douglass recalled studying under Oberman's direction at Harvard Divinity School—she was his first Ph.D. student and the first female teaching assistant there. Richard Duffield, chair of the Division's Advisory Board and convener of its Fundraising Committee, turned attention to the labors of those bodies-not to mention the rich contents of certain envelopes that arrived in the Division from their hands. He thanked all donors for their indispensable part in our collective triumph. The Obermans' son, Raoul Foppe Martin Luther Oberman, interjected the thanks of his family and a toast to his mother.

Toetie Oberman reviewed the significance of this achievement for her and her family, and the importance for the University of Arizona of the successful endowment by the community of another academic chair. The era of Heiko's specialization was indeed one in which paradigms took shape that are still recognizable as marks of the Western world. Because of the chair, a

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A SEMI-ANNUAL **NEWSLETTER OF** THE DIVISION FOR LATE MEDIEVAL AND REFORMATION **STUDIES**

Founded in 1989 by Heiko A. Oberman (1930-2001), Regents' Professor of History

Director and Regents' Professor of History: Susan C. Karant-Nunn

Heiko A. Oberman Professor: Ute Lotz-Heumann

Program Coordinator, Sr.: Luise Betterton

Managing Editor: Sandra Kimball

Associated Faculty: Alan E. Bernstein, Emeritus Pia F. Cuneo David L. Graizbord Kari McBride Helen Nader, Emerita Cynthia White

Board of Advisors: Richard Duffield, Chair Luise Betterton Stanley Feldman Sandy Hatfield Jennifer Carrell Helenbolt Hester Oberman Toetie Oberman George Rosenberg Helen Schaefer John Schaefer Bazy Tankersley Danielle Thu

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Arizona's First University.



Sean Clark



Tom Donlan



Elizabeth Ellis-Marino



Mary Kovel

Division News

Congratulations

Sean Clark, Division doctoral student, won a six-month doctoral fellowship from the Dr. Günther Findel-Stiftung / Rolf und Ursula Schneider-Stiftung to conduct research at the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel. His chosen dissertation topic is the shift in Protestant rationale after the Reformation in continuing to advocate trips to the Holy Land, particularly Jerusalem. Sean passed his comprehensive exams in August.

Additionally, he was awarded a third annual scholarship through the Borders Foundation for \$5,000.

Tom Donlan, Division doctoral student, was awarded travel grants from both the UA History Department and the Division Ora DeConcini Martin and Morris Martin Endowment to present papers on François de Sales in October at both the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference in Montreal (below) and the Salesian Scholars Conference in Stella Niagara, New York.

Elizabeth Ellis-Marino, Division doctoral student, was awarded a travel grant from the American Friends of the Herzog August Bibliothek to conduct preliminary research this summer on her chosen dissertation subject of "Noble Self Image and its Potential as a Tool of Resistance." (Read about her summer on page 8.)

Julie Kang, Division doctoral student, defended her dissertation this October on "Winning the Catholic Reformation through the Conversion of Female Protestants: The Education of Les Nouvelles Catholiques in Seventeenth-Century France."

Mary Kovel, Division doctoral student, won a travel award from the UA Graduate and Professional Student Council to present a paper (below) at the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference in Montreal in October.

Conferences/Publications

Tom Donlan and Mary Kovel, Division doctoral students, presented papers at this October's Sixteenth Century Society and Conference in Montreal: the former on "François de Sales and Religious Emotions in Post-League France," and the latter on "Religion, Headcoverings, and Heritage in Early Modern England. Professor Susan C. Karant-Nunn gave a paper in a session devoted to Thomas A. Brady, Jr.'s, new book, "German Histories in the Age of the Reformations: 1400-1650," and chaired a session on "The Pursuit of Peace, Compromise, and Unity in Early Modern and Modern Europe." Professor Ute Lotz-Heumann chaired a session on 'Horses in the Field (of Art History)" with UA Division-associated faculty, Professor Pia Cuneo, as organizer and presenter. Other Division alumni who



Julie Kang, second from right, with doctoral committee (L to R), Professors Paul Milliman, Ute Lotz-Heumann, and Susan C. Karant-Nunn.

participated in this year's conference are: Robert J. Bast, Michael W. Bruening, Victoria Christman, Adam Duker, Aurelio Espinosa, Andrew C. Gow, Brad S. Gregory, Sigrun Haude, and Jonathan A. Reid.

Professor Susan C. Karant-Nunn,
Division Director, is on leave this
semester in Berlin conducting research
on her new book. Earlier in May through
July she had two months funded research
from the Deutscher Akademischer
Austauschdienst (DAAD) to work on the
relationship between religion and ruling
power.

She was chosen by a nominating committee to be vice-president and president elect of the Society for Reformation Research, 2011-2013.

She spoke locally on Sunday, October 24, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on "Martin Luther and the Love of Neighbor."

Professor Ute Lotz-Heumann, Heiko A. Oberman Professor, earned the Habilitation on June 23 from Humboldt University, Berlin, the highest academic degree a person can achieve in her native Germany. Earned after the doctorate, the Habilitation requires that the candidate independently write a second professorial thesis to be reviewed by an academic committee and give a lecture on a subject in modern history not previously covered in their research. Her habilitation manuscript is entitled "Der Kurort als Heterotopie des 18. Jahrhunderts und der Sattelzeit: Die Entstehung einer bürgerlichen Kultur und Gesellschaft [The German Spa as a Heterotopia of the Long Eighteenth Century: The Development of Bourgeois Culture and Society]" and she gave a lecture on belief in witchcraft in nineteenth-century Europe.

She published "Wie kommt der Wandel in den Diskurs? Die Heterotopie Kurort in der Sattelzeit [How Does Discourse Change? The Spa as a Heterotopia of the Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth

Centuries]," in "Diskursiver Wandel," edited by Achim Landwehr (Wiesbaden 2010). Additionally, she has been asked to serve on the steering committee for the UA Group for Early Modern Studies.

The 2010 Summer Lecture Series at St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church in August was on the subject of religion and violence. *Professor Susan C. Karant-Nunn* spoke on the Thirty Years' War, *Professor Ute Lotz-Heumann* on Ireland, *Rebecca Mueller* on the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, and *Dan Jones* on the Sack of Rome.

Honoring Professor Thomas A. Brady, Jr., First Visiting Heiko A. Oberman Professor, with a symposium in October at the University of Notre Dame were Professor John M. Frymire, University of Missouri; Professor Sigrun Haude, University of Cincinnati; and Professor H. C. Erik Midelfort, University of Virginia. The event was organized by Professor Brad S. Gregory.

Alumni

Dr. Nicole Kuropka, Max-Weber-Berufskolleg, Düsseldorf, has just published a book in German entitled "Melanchthon" as part of Mohr-Siebeck's UTB Profile series (Tübingen 2010).

Professor Eric Leland Saak, has been appointed as Professor of Church History and Head of the Department of Theology, Philosophy and Religious Studies at Liverpool Hope University in England, establishing a Centre for Augustinian Studies there.

Professor Marjory E. Lange, Western Oregon University, has published "A Reading of Ælred of Rievaulx's De Anima: Through Ciceronian Dialogue to Personal Testament" in Cistercian Studies Quarterly (vol. 45.4).



A word from the Chair

Team effort behind endowment

by Ute Lotz-Heumann, Heiko A. Oberman Professor



n the website of the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies, there is a

little graph that shows where the Oberman endowment stands at any given time. Thanks to our donors, as of this summer, it is completed and stands at over \$2 million! I still remember quite vividly that some years ago, I think it was in 2003 or 2004. I looked at this graph online. and it showed \$300,000 out of this goal of \$ 2million. I remember thinking that the \$2 million was a very ambitious goal. Today, we all know that the seemingly impossible has been achieved!

As most readers of our "Desert Harvest" know, there were only three people working in the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies at the time: Susan C. Karant-Nunn, the director and the only professor in the Division, Luise Betterton, the program coordinator senior, and Sandra Kimball, the administrative assistant. With the unstinting help and dedication of the members of the fundraising committee and the board of advisors, the three glorious women of the Division have completed the Oberman chair and library endowment.

Over the years, I went back to that online graph from time to time and saw it rise continually. And I kept wondering how this was possible. Since I came to the UA in the fall of 2008, I have discovered how. The Division's fundraising committee meets at least twice during each semester, and the board of advisors meets once a year. Both groups have provided ideas, help and unflagging support to the effort.

And Susan Karant-Nunn, Luise Betterton, and Sandra Kimball have been incredibly dedicated: They have worked very hard at achieving this goal, and they have one of the best working relationships that I have ever seen. They complement each other in various ways. Let me talk just a little about the everyday work that went into finishing this enormous task.

I can only offer a glimpse here of what Susan, Luise, and Sandra do on a daily basis: Susan's vision for the overall endeavor (which, by the way, earned her the Faculty Fundraising Award of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences in spring 2010), her countless community talks, and her dedication to the graduate students; Luise's excellent organizational skills, financial management, her eye for details, and her ability to keep ten balls in the air at the same time (as a result, every single one of our events goes ahead without a hitch)-not to mention the fact that she teaches French to our graduate students; and Sandra's unique

combination of organizational and artistic skills (not only does she keep track of everything that we need to do next, she is also the creator of our website, the editor of our newsletter, and she is responsible for all the wonderful cards and invitations that have come out of the Division over the years). It's all a huge team effort!

Without so much dedication and hard work it would not be possible to organize a spring and a fall fundraising event, a donors' appreciation luncheon, a town-and-gown lecture, the St. Philip's lecture series, a Division seminar visitor, and our semi-annual newsletter—to mention only the events that take place on a regular basis year after year.

From the moment I arrived in the fall of 2008, I have been welcomed into this incredible team, both in the Division and in the fundraising committee. I am happy and proud to be a part of it. I am full of admiration for all your dedication and hard work. Congratulations on the completion of the endowment! And a big THANK YOU to all our donors!

On the website of the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies, there is a little graph that shows where the Oberman endowment stands at any given time. Thanks to our donors, as of this summer, it is completed and stands at over \$2 million!



THE \$2 MILLION GOAL for the Heiko A. Oberman Chair Endowment has been attained

We can all be proud together. We wish to express our deep appreciation to those named below—and to those who have asked to remain anonymous—who have supported the Division in its efforts over the years. With your help, we have reached the \$2 million goal needed to secure the Heiko A. Oberman Research Library for the UA Libraries (search the UA Libraries Catalog online using keywords: Heiko A. Oberman Library) and to endow the Heiko A. Oberman Chair in Late Medieval and Reformation History, now filled by accomplished scholar Ute Lotz-Heumann.

There are some people
who live in a
dream world, and
there are some who
lace reality;
and then there are
those who turn one
into the other.
—Erasmus



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At the feet of visiting scholars

Miriam Bodian, University of Texas, Austin

by Hayley Rucker, master's student



he Division, in cooperation with the UA Arizona Center for Judaic Studies, hosted a visit from

Protessor Miriam Bodian, a distinguished scholar of early modern Jewish studies from the University of Texas at Austin, on Wednesday, November 3. Professor Bodian has published numerous articles and two monographs on ethnicity and identity within Sephardic Jewish communities of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Her 1997 publication, "Hebrews of the Portuguese Nation: Conversos and Community in Early Amsterdam," won the 1998 National Jewish Book Award and the Koret Jewish Book Award.

Professor Bodian delivered a fascinating lecture on the trial before the Portuguese Inquisition of Isaac de Castro Tartas. A well-traveled and intelligent son of crypto-Jewish parents, Castro argued the principle of freedom of conscience in his defense against the inquisition. Although he was eventually convicted of judaizing, Castro distinguished himself from hundreds of other victims of the Inquisition by drawing upon this elite philosophical ideal. Instructive in content and approach, her lecture illustrated the ability of even the marginalized to access elements of elite culture, and use them to interpret their own identities. In articulating the relationship between



Miriam Bodian

greater cultural movements and an individual's struggle for self-definition, Professor Bodian never simplified her subject's experience. She evokes Castro not just as a cog in the wheel of culture but as a thoughtful, clever young man who sought common understanding in a time of conflict. Her ability to make her argument without losing any sense of the complexity of human experience was perhaps the most intriguing aspect of the lecture, and hints at her approach to history.

Division students were especially delighted to welcome Professor Bodian to the Division seminar that evening. Professor David Graizbord, who leads the seminar on Iberian religion and ethnicity this semester, asked the time-honored question, "What makes you tick as an historian?" In response, Professor Bodian described the years between her graduation with a B. A. from Harvard and the beginnings of her graduate career. In emerging movements of American

ethnic pride, she found inspiration for historical inquiry. Put simply, it was the messiness of this modern process of reclaiming and redefining the self that she found most compelling. Her curiosity about ethnicity and identity led her to the Hebrew University in Israel, where she completed her dissertation on the Sephardic Jewish community of seventeenth-century Amsterdam. For all of us in the seminar, her insight into this unique community widened our perspective on evolving European dialogues between faiths.

Professor Bodian's work reminds us of the permeability of boundaries. She calls the community of Sephardic Jews in Amsterdam alternately, "Europe's first modern Jews" and "Europeans who want to be a little bit Jewish." These two definitions remind us that identity, today and centuries ago, is a constantly negotiated condition. While she warns against using historical case studies as models for understanding recent events, it seems her insight into early modern identity draws from and reflects eloquently back on the similarly complex issues of identity we face today. This reminder of the complexity of life prompts us to look deeper into history, and to approach a more sensitive understanding of our subjects. •

Professor Bodian
delivered a fascinating
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de Castro Tartas. A
well-traveled and
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crypto-Jewish parents,
Castro argued the
principle of freedom of
conscience in his
defense against the
inquisition.



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Carl and Carol Fetkenhour Dorothy H. Finley Richard and Catherine Firth Mark D. Fischer Milly Flannery Andeas Flitner Peter Foley and Pia Cuneo Harry E. Fonseca John P and Lorraine Frank Marianna Frech The Friedrich Family of Filderstadt, Germany Grete A. Fulton Joseph V. and Rubina Gallo John and Carol Garrard James and Betty Geehan Eugenia C. Gengler James T. and Joan Gentry Harry George and Cita Scott Sally Gething Hugh and Shirley Gibson Howard J. Godfrey and Zora E. Herrick Godfrey George Goldsmith and Emily Erwin Mary A. Goodman Edward Gordy Marion Gordy Andrew C. Gow and Heather McAsh David L. Graizbord and Michelle Michelson William M. and Shirley K. Griffin Gordon Griffiths Joseph F. Gross and Suzarine Werbelow Laurence P. and Patricia B. Guggino Jewel Gurian Kenneth Hagen Neel and Ellie Hall Martin C. and Erin L. Haluza Stephen and Marion Halvorson Libby Hankin Marilyn Harran F. S. Harris Jessica Harrison Leo M. Hartke Nils and Patricia Hasselmo C. Donald and Sandra Hatfield Sigrun Haude Sam L. and Sara Hauert Randolph C. Head Ginny Healy Thomas B. Healy Virginia A. Hecht Johnny Helenbolt and Jennifer Carrell Helenbolt

We have achieved

Oberman Chair & Library Gala on October 24 celebrates



We have achieved something lasting!

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a specialist in the history of that foundational age will always be present at this research university. Her four grandchildren, Dariin and Toetie Zwart and Ruben and Noah Oberman, each bore forward one volume of Heiko's most valuable title, "Opera d. Huldrychi Zuinglii," (1545) and placed it in the hands of Dean of the Libraries Carla Stoffle. Stoffle has lent the Division her moral support and advice since our very first fundraising reception, in the fall of 2001. She added that the Library wishes to add to the Oberman Collection by means of the Morris Martin Endowment in the UA Libraries.

John P. Schaefer, former UA president, noted scientist and photographer, and firstclass bibliophile, spoke about the advent of printing with movable type as a revolution in communication. He had been reading, he told me beforehand. Elizabeth Eisenstein's book on early printing—the longer version! He agreed with her on the centrality of printing for the notable advance of scientific interchange in the early modern period, as well as for the dissemination of novel religious ideas. He showed numerous photos that he had made of beautiful Oberman volumes and other valuable works in the UA Special Collections Library.

I wish you could all have been present. The fact is that the majority of you who have contributed to this endowment live impossibly far away, throughout North America and in Europe. Colleagues from many other institutions have added their monetary and psychological support. I could tell stories about a number of you related to your gifts but must, along with Luise and Sandra. guard these forever. Some statistics can be released. Sixty-one percent of our alumni gave, which is an astonishingly high rate of participation. The Division is the third highest fundraising unit in the College; it has produced the only cashendowed chair in the College. In the end, we are collectively triumphant. We can all be proud together. Not even fiscal hard times have stopped us. I personally lift my glass to you and you and you! .

Christopher and Donna Helms

David O. Hendrickson

Scott and Emilee Hendrix

something lasting!

the completion of \$2 million fundraising endeavor



Four of Heiko A. and Toetie Oberman's grandchildren, (L to R) Ruben Oberman, Darijn Zwart, Toetie Zwart, and Noah Oberman, ceremonially present sixteenth-century volumes from the Oberman Research Library to Professor Carla Stoffle, Dean of UA Libraries

Dirk Heumann The Heuser Family of Filderstadt, Germany The Hewlett Foundation Howard Higgins Langdon Hill and Victoria Congdon John C. Hirsh Daniel A. and Jane A. Hodgson John and Diane Hoelter Marilyn C. Hogan Robert H. and Katherine Ann Hogan Wallace R. and Dorothy E. Hoggatt John and Sara Holup Tiaard G. and Anne Hommes Searle and Hilda Hoogshagen William Hunt William R. and Virginia Hutchison L. V. Hylckama Thomas M. Izbicki Bill and Gloria Jackson Jack and Barbara Jaffe Werner Jetter Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Wenjie Jin and Han Song

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Elisabeth Müller Jerry and Rebecca Mullins Howard and Gerhard and Jean Mundinger Shirley G. Muney Randal H. Munsen Helen Nader Tibor Nagy Jr. and Denise Nagy Gisele Nelson Joy Neverman Richard T. and Marcia Newcomb Roger L. and Marilyn Nichols Gerhard Nicklaus John Nighswander Allan J. and Alfie Norville Harry Nungesser Frederick M. Nunn Bora Oberman Foppe Oberman Gerrit Willem and Ellen Oberman Heiko A. and Toetie Oberman Heiko J. Oberman Ida Oberman and Lis Cox Noah Oberman Raoul and InHee Oberman Ruben Oberman Simon Oberman Wija M. Oberman Arthur L and Ruth A. Olsen John Olsen and Ovadan Amanova-Olsen T. K. Olson Lois Olsrud John W. O'Malley Charles Ott Jr. and Susan Ott Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Linda Pace Margot Panofsky Lyn Papanikolas Louis B. Pascoe Ralph M. and Cynthia Pattison Marian E. Penny Kent P. Pflibsen and Mary Durham-Pflibsen Louis and Rebecca Phillips Ray and Edi Pierson Howard and Lillian Podell John and Lyn Pohlmann continued on page 8

Michael E. Moody William and

Grace E. Moremen

M. F. H. Nicolette Mout

Battling bookworms in Wolfenbüttel

by Elizabeth Ellis-Marino, doctoral student



orking in a research library, one quickly grows to despise bookworms. I doubt I will ever get over the

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Matt Polbloske and Sigrid Hooymeijer Esther T. Potts Donna Powers Stephen and Susan Przewlocki Raytheon A. Odilia Reesink Sarah Drew Reeves Jonathan A. Reid and Laura Williamson Malcolm and Dolores Reid Mel and Sharron Riise Joseph and Melinda Rogers Donald and Nan Rollings Frank E. Romer Marilyn Ronstadt Lyndal Roper George and Bobbe Rosenberg Rita Rosenberg Maxwell Rosenlicht and Carla Zingarelli Rosenlicht Christopher B. and Kelly L. Ross-Davis Merrill Rubinow and Ann Orlov Rubinow Erika Rummel Arndt Ruprecht David and Shelley Russell Paul A. Russell Robert E. Saak Adib and Entisar Sabbagh Harold J. and Barbara M. Sack Robert Salvatore and Sally Drachman Salvatore Karl L. and Rosa Leah Sandwell-Weiss Henry B. and Claire K. Sargent Curtis Scaife John P. and Helen S. Schaefer Heinz Scheible Norman L. Schickedanz Johann Schlichtig Martin Anton Schmidt Mia Schnaible

fact that one bored a perfectly circular hole through the center of a highly abbreviated Latin funeral sermon I was reading. Whole words were missing from the text. Although my knowledge of the language was sufficient to guess the likely missing words, the experience was infinitely frustrating. That this happened on my third day in Wolfenbüttel was an eyeopening experience. Clearly, there was a lot more to library and archival research than sitting and transcribing.

Thanks to the generosity of the American Friends of the Herzog August Bibliothek, I spent a month in Wolfenbüttel working in the world's greatest research library for medieval and early modern Germany. In addition to braving some very un-Tucson-like weather (it rained nearly every day I was there), this stipend allowed me to carry out preliminary research for my dissertation. While in

Wolfenbüttel, I read books geared towards the nobility, such as hunting books, tournament books, and riding manuals. I also read books that discussed the nobility. whether as individuals or as a group. In trying to get a sense of the place of the nobility in early modern Europe, I learned a great deal about subjects as obscure as the best way to kill a boar, who the best jousters were in the seventeenth century, and what to do with a horse that bites (one writer suggests putting garlic under the horse's tongue). My research also showed me the complex and often contradictory position of the nobility in the Early Modern Empire. Their public image, designed to impress their elite status on the lower orders but also on members of their estate, was often a reflection of the ideal rather than the reality.

In addition to providing me with invaluable information for my dissertation, my time at the Herzog August Bibliothek (HAB) allowed me to meet researchers from around the world. At the traditional afternoon coffees,

I chatted with researchers from places as far away as Japan and Finland, and people in different stages of their careers. I am sure that some of the colleagues I met I will know for many years. In the evenings, I attended events as diverse as a lecture on Melanchthon's thoughts on education, and a concert featuring works by female court composers. At no other time in my life have I been so immersed in the culture of the period I study. As I walked into the reading room (located in a centuriesold building) I even passed a portrait of Machiavelli.

I am grateful to the American Friends of the Herzog August Bibliothek for their financial support, and to the staff at the library for their invaluable help. The research I did this summer will doubtlessly help me in the next stage of my graduate study. Without the experience of working in such a phenomenal library, I would still be ignorant of that bane of scholars, the bookworm.

25TH ANNUAL TOWN & GOWN LECTURE • FEBRUARY 23, 2011 • 7:30 PM

BARBARA DIEFENDORF

BOSTON UNIVERSITY, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

Inventing a Catholic Reformation

UA Student Union Catalina/Tucson Room Reception to follow in the Ventana Room.

St. John of the Cross

Robert V. Schnucker

Entering Vienna

by Paul Buehler, doctoral student







n 6 July 2010, I arrived in Vienna, Austria, for the first time. My reason for visiting the former

imperial capital was to conduct pre-dissertation research at the Haus-, Hofund Staatsarchiv. Housed at that archive are the records for the Imperial Book Commission. In 1579, after nearly six decades of struggling to control the dissemination of books and pamphlets that fomented religious dissent, Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II created the commission and established it in the city of Frankfurt am Main. The underlying purpose of imperial print controls was to preserve social stability, which amounted to maintaining political peace between Lutherans and Catholics. This involved creating a system of oversight that guaranteed these groups equal freedom to print and sell their books as long as they complied with standards codified in imperial law. The commission's chief task was to ensure that book printers, publishers, and sellers, both

foreign and domestic, had obtained permission to produce the titles they sold. This task quickly expanded to include censorship of socalled famosi libelli, notorious books whose content was libelous or seditious. Frankfurt am Main was then the site of arquably the most important book fair in the empire, thus rendering the city a natural base for carrying out the commission's mandate. Sadly, what records existed for the commission were lost in the course of World War II. Because the commission was not its own master, its commissioners were obliged to report to the governing body in Vienna, making the Austrian capital and the Haus-, Hof und Staatsarchiv the most relevant repositories for imperial censorship in existence today.

Each day until closing, I sat in the archive's reading room and slowly turned page after page of commission letters and reports from 1579 to 1650. This was my first experience in an archive. It is difficult to accurately capture my excitement as I handled

these documents. Though my project with the Imperial Book Commission might be described as institutional history, I was nonetheless struck by the fact that these documents came from the pens of individuals. And while most of the content of these pages was businessrelated, scattered throughout these official letters were bits and pieces of personal information unrelated to the commissioners' activities. On the reverse of one such folio, for instance, Commissioner Johann von Hagen mentioned in a particularly moving passage his sadness at the loss of several of his family members during the Thirty Years' War. I was awestruck by the presence of this intimate, intensely personal information in a letter otherwise concerned with conveying official imperial business. This served for me as an important reminder that the institutions and other political structures that often appear to us as impersonal forces in the past are in fact comprised of individuals with cares and concerns all their own •

Entrance, Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv

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Barbara Diefendorf is author of From Penitence to Charity: Pious Women and the Catholic Reformation in Paris (2004), winner of the American Historical Association's J. Russell Major Prize for the best book in French History.





The Nord-Pas-de-Calais Rich in Sites, Sounds, and History

by Tom Donlan, doctoral student

iven the rich archives located in Paris, I did not anticipate seeing other parts of France during my year of dissertation research. To my

surprise, I ended up spending two months in one of the hidden gems of the country: the Nord-Pas-de-Calais. Here, at the "top" of France, this region bordering Belgium offered a rich history and stunning country-landscape which had been unknown to me.

In March I moved in with a French family living in Santes, a tiny country town ten kilometers from Lille. In exchange for giving the children of the family English lessons, I hoped to sharpen my French and see if I could find any archival material related to François de Sales and the Sisters of the Visitation, my dissertation topic. From the start, however, it was World War II which thrust itself into my purview, for in my host family's backyard stood an imposing, immovable blockhouse. Built by German troops during the war, these concrete fortifications remain throughout the Nord-Pas-de-Calais. Just as striking, one finds in many French cemeteries of this region scores of tombs for German soldiers who had died here during the war. Visual remnants from this era of European conflict remain for all to see.

Agriculture is also a hallmark of the Nord-Pas-de-

Calais. Each day that I stepped outside I beheld cows, horses, and other animals. Families here have been farming for generations and continue to do so. Interestingly, one of the

children to whom I taught English took horse riding lessons and offered me a turn. That was my first (and probably last!) ride on a horse. The culture of farming also shapes much of the daily conversations. My "host father" was in charge of a dozen produce delivery trucks and could talk at length about fruits, vegetables, and the world of agri-business. (My French vocabulary was growing daily, though not in ways I expected!) Nothing, however, was as visuallystunning in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais as the fields of tournesol. These beautiful yellow plants (from which oil is extracted) blanket the landscape for miles and miles leaving the viewer breathless.

After a few weeks in Santes, I learned that a small community of Visitation nuns resided in Lille. Once again the Nord-Pas-de-Calais offered me a surprise, for this community possessed a number of texts from the



Tom Donlan on horseback in Nord-Pas-de-Calais

sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, including biographies of François de Sales and writings of early Visitation sisters. The nuns of this Lille convent not only permitted me to take digital photos of these works but brought me tea and cookies as I did so. They were also eager to teach me a few words in ch'tis, a dialect of the Nord-Pas-de Calais both mocked and celebrated in the popular 2008 film Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis.

When my two months had come to a close it was time to head to Paris where I would spend the rest of the year studying in the larger-than-life Bibliothèque Nationale and living among the indefatigable Parisians. While the capital city no doubt offers unmatched attractions, I often missed the simplicity and hospitality of the Nord-Pas-de Calais. •

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Introducing graduate student

Patrick Meeks, M.A., Miami University, Ohio

by Amy Newhouse, doctoral student



atrick Meeks hails from Miami, Ohio. He has come here, with his 16-year-old dog, Roscoe, to pursue a doctoral degree in early

modern German history. His first historical interest bloomed during a viewing of *Saving Private Ryan*, when he realized that history was more than simple dates and events, a view that stuck with him.

While an undergrad at Miami University, his historical fascination landed on the Reformation. He was captured by the role of religion in early modern

society and decided that he wanted to study this issue more intensely. His historical quest then led him to



Patrick Meeks

Germany for intense language training, a historian's most important skill. His current arsenal of languages includes German, Italian, and Farsi. His particular scholarly interests have settled on heresy in Reformation/ Post-Tridentine Germany.

This semester Patrick is preparing seminar papers on inquisitorial handbooks. In understanding these handbooks he hopes to investigate how leaders were advised to teach.

Patrick is currently a teaching assistant for a Europe in the modern world course. Through this course he hopes to instill in his students the same love and fascination for history which first inspired him. •

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Introducing graduate student

Hayley Rucker, B.A., University of California, Berkeley

by Rebecca Mueller, doctoral student



ayley Rucker joins us from the San Francisco Bay area where she received her B.A. in history and art from the

University of California,
Berkeley. She was awarded
Highest Honors in History for
demonstrating academic
excellence in her senior
thesis, "Les Saints de la
Terre: The Creation of
Spiritual Community Through
Written Experience." Hayley
is fluent in French and was
already able to use these
language skills to read
primary sources as an
undergraduate.

Hayley thoroughly enjoyed the intellectual challenge of her college experience. As a sophomore she took an American history class in which she was confronted

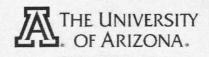


Hayley Rucker

with primary sources and political propaganda that questioned some of her fundamental assumptions about the American past. She experienced moments of disconnect from an ideal she had been taught and

believed. How could John Adams firmly believe, as evidenced in one of his letters to Abigail, that American women would never be given the right to vote? It was this fascination with primary sources that determined the remainder of her college years. "Interacting with primary sources changed history for me," Hayley says. "It changed it into something I could participate in."

Her current research interests focus on the idea of religious community, the meaning of the act of writing, different interpretations of writing, and associations of mysticism and religious text.



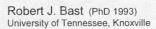
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Michael W. Bruening (PhD 2002) Missouri University of Science & Technology

Robert J. Christman (PhD 2004) Luther College, Iowa

Victoria Christman (PhD 2005) Luther College, Iowa

Adam Asher Duker (MA 2009)

Peter A. Dykema (PhD 1998) Arkansas Tech University

John Frymire (PhD 2001) University of Missouri Andrew C. Gow (PhD 1993) University of Alberta, Edmonton

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J. Jeffery Tyler (PhD 1995) Hope College, Michigan

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Atilla Vékony (MA 1998) Wheatmark, Inc.



The Hunters in the Snow, detail, Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1565.

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