

DESERT HARVEST

Newsletter of the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies

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UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

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From the Desk of the Director

Since the "Desert Harvest" reaches out to donors and supporters of the Division, it is tempting to fall in line with high sounding vocabulary developed for the self-fashioning of academic institutions operating today in an increasingly critical environment. The search is on for language which articulates pride without boasting. However, the nationwide rise in tuition, coinciding with a sharp reduction in federal and state support for higher education, is forcing universities not only to articulate but also to rethink their 'mission.' As recent dramatic changes in our most prestigious universities have shown, there is no alternative but to abandon the strategy of across-the-board funding and to redirect resources to areas of national excellence.

This high standard of selection could well have come prematurely for such a young institution as the Division, established only in 1989. Not unexpectedly, a year ago voices were raised calling for its dissolution. It is therefore with particular satisfaction that I can report that this danger could be averted by pointing to the well-documented national and international standing of the Division, achieved in an amazingly brief period of time. In comparison with programs in other history departments in this country, the graduates of the Division have the unique record of a hundred percent success rate in winning coveted Fulbright fellowships for study abroad, and in securing a total of 15 externally funded years. The reputation of the Division suggested by these awards is confirmed by the fact that all eight of our first harvest of graduates were called to university positions in a fiercely competitive market (see box to right).

Success has many mothers and fathers — but there can be no doubt that without the support you have given so generously, this report would have to resort to the soft rhetoric of fund-raising rather than the hard facts of achievement.

With a sense of true gratitude,
Cordially yours,

Heck A. Oberman

Appointments of Division Graduates

Andrew Gow

University of Alberta,
Edmonton, History Department

Sigrun Haude

University of Cincinnati;
History Department

Robert Bast

University of Tennessee;
History Department

Curtis Bostick

University of Arizona;
History Department

Eric Saak

University of Groningen, the
Netherlands; Senior Fellow,
Federal Research Institute for
Medieval Studies

Marjory Lange

Viterbo College, OFM, La Crosse,
Wisconsin; English Dept.:
History and Literature of the
Renaissance

Brad Gregory

Harvard University, Cambridge,
Massachusetts; Junior Fellow,
Society of Fellows

Jeff Tyler

Hope College, Michigan;
Department of Religion

• • •

Darleen Pryds (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin at Madison)

A two-year member of the Division and former editor of the "Desert Harvest," Darleen is now the Assistant Director of the Center of Renaissance Studies at the Newberry Library, Chicago.

Jaroslav Pelikan Launches *Town and Gown's* Second Decade

The Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies and the Program for Religious Studies were honored to welcome world-renowned scholar Dr. Jaroslav Pelikan to Tucson in February to deliver the 10th annual 'Town and Gown' lecture. Over the course of his long and distinguished career, Dr. Pelikan, currently the Sterling Professor of History at Yale University, has made many important scholarly contributions in nearly every area and era of the Christian tradition, including the daunting tasks of writing a five-volume series on the

(cont'd on page 4)

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*the Annual Newsletter of the
Division for Late Medieval and
Reformation Studies*

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SPANNING THE GLOBE: Division Members Report From the Field

Peter Dykema: Mainz, Germany

In reflecting on my current research year in Germany, one recent memory weighs significantly on my mind. Just days ago, the residents of Mainz, Germany — my home and workplace for the year — commemorated the 50th anniversary of the bombing of the city on February 27, 1945: a devastating twenty-minute attack which left 1,200 persons dead, tens of thousands homeless, and which utterly levelled a third of the old city, one of the most ancient in Germany. Along with nearly 3,000 residents of Mainz, I experienced this day at a special memorial concert held in the cavernous 1,000 year-old Romanesque cathedral. Never before had I seen the cathedral so full. Side chapels, stairwells, aisles, even the floor — every available space was taken. Although February 27 was a day of special local significance, it fell among a series of other 50-year anniversaries: D-Day last summer, the liberation of Auschwitz in January, and the fire-bombing of Dresden in February. There will be more to come. These days Germany is actively engaged in historical memory, seeking to understand its past even as it strives to build a self-conscious unified future.

Watching a society wrestle with its past brings many a lesson to this observer, an historian by trade. My own research interests focus on a more distant past: the parish clergy and their training and troubles during the century of reform and Reformation 1450 - 1550. Local priests and vicars were at the bottom of the enormous ecclesiastical hierarchy of the Middle Ages, yet they wielded an array of powers — sacral and legal — over their parishioners. As I work through their training manuals and their notes for liturgical services, as well as letters of complaint filed against them by villagers, city councils, and princes, I am awed by the fragile nature of the historical craft, amazed that — after so many years — I am even able to reconstruct what I can from the surviving documents. To take the information gleaned from this lucky set of coincidences and shape it into a compelling narrative, one which ignites reflection and reaction, is a scary task.

I carry out this research as a Fellow of the Institute for European History in Mainz, working alongside young historians from Germany, Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Russia, and Bulgaria. To this international community I bring an expertise and a curiosity groomed and supported by our special program at the University of Arizona. Upon my return, I will carry with me not only bundles of notes and microfilmed texts, but also a deeper appreciation for the human ramifications of history.

Mike Milway: Toronto, Canada

Toronto may seem a peculiar destination for a Tucson Ph.D. candidate on his way to writing a dissertation about Reformation Salzburg. In fact, the opposite is true. Toronto is one of North America's richest cities regarding hard-to-find collections for Late Medieval, Renaissance, and Reformation studies. In addition, with icy-cold winters and the Blue Jays on strike, Toronto provides a perfect environment for long hours of productive research.

Two institutions in particular attracted me to Toronto. The Pontifical Institute for Mediæval Studies houses one of the world's largest collections of medieval sources outside Europe. Adjacent to the Institute is the Center for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, to which I belong as a Graduate Visiting Fellow. The 'Center' is — if you will — a double entendre: both a 'central meeting place' for international Renaissance and Reformation researchers, and the world's 'epicenter' for Erasmus studies. In fact, one of my colleagues who hails from the Netherlands came to the Center to study Erasmus of Rotterdam (!) in Toronto of Ontario (!).

The differences between the Institute and the Center epitomize the very idiosyncracies in historical research which the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies in Tucson is working to change. Geographically speaking, only one city street separates the two buildings, but ideologically speaking, a vast and stubborn distance of traditions separates the Middle Ages from the Renaissance and Reformation. By crossing the street, I can physically bridge the two in a mere few steps. It took me several years at the University of Arizona in the Division, however, to appreciate the difficult but important task of needing one foot in each world. Therefore, as the 'Center' is a double entendre, the Division is an oxymoron (a contradiction in terms: like 'jumbo shrimp'); nowhere else are graduate students and professors working together so single-mindedly to unite the study of Late Medieval, Renaissance, and Reformation history, as we in Arizona who comprise the Division.

I am leaving Toronto for Salzburg this fall as a Fulbright scholar, in order to investigate documents available only in Austria. If the Blue Jays go back to work by then, I should escape the city just in time to miss the embarrassment of seeing the World Series champions outside the U.S. — like having to leave the Netherlands to study Erasmus in Canada!

Scott Manetsch: Geneva, Switzerland

Geneva in winter is cool, gray, and gloomy. The Salève across the border in France and the towering white cap of Mt. Blanc are frequently hidden in the thick fog that settles over the city this time of year. The *jet d'eau* is turned off until spring, with the tourists (and, it seems, most Genevans as well) migrating to the sun and snow of the great Alpine ski stations. Even the dark, sullen Rhone River, which divides the 'old city' from the Palais des Nations, swirls out of Lake Léman and flees south to the warmth of the Mediterranean.

And yet, this winter my wife Cathy and I are quite content to remain in Geneva. After five years in the Arizona desert, I have come to Switzerland not to play in the snow, but to complete research for my dissertation, which examines how political events in France during the thirty years leading up to the Edict of Nantes (1598) shaped, and in turn were shaped by, the attitudes and behavior of French refugees living in Geneva. It is Geneva's fascinating history, and in particular the treasures of her archives, which have lured us to 'Calvin's city' for our Fulbright year.

Each day I make a 25 minute journey by foot from the university dormitory where we live to the Institute d'Histoire de la Réformation at the University of Geneva, within eyesight of the steeples of St. Pierre's and the 'Reformation Wall' (where the large stone figure of Calvin recently received a fresh coat of black paint from a prankster). The Institute itself is squeezed into two small, poorly-lit rooms, where rare sixteenth-century books, fragile manuscripts, and hard-to-find bibliographical resources are arranged on shelves reaching to the 20 foot ceilings. Here, in the somber quiet of musty old books and modern laptop computers, I am transported into a fascinating world, so similar and yet so different from my own. This afternoon, I am reading a collection of unpublished letters dating from 1589, written by Théodore de Bèze: teacher, preacher, and power-broker in Geneva between 1559 and 1605. The hand of Bèze trembles with age and excitement on the yellowed parchment: the Protestant prince Henry of Navarre is marching on Paris with his Huguenot army, seeking to grasp the throne left vacant by the assassination of Henry III two weeks before. Meanwhile, Geneva, besieged by the armies of her arch-enemy Savoy, is in dire straits: she is flooded with refugees,

abandoned by her allies, and deprived of grain and wine as the harvest burns in the surrounding fields.

Even as the Genevan archives introduce me to this distant world of princes, castles, and harquebusiers, dozens of conversations, newspaper articles, and graffiti messages expose Cathy and me to another world, much more immediate and pressing. Switzerland in 1995 continues, reluctantly, to be a home for refugees and foreigners. We have been the rich beneficiaries of this cultural diversity, deeply moved by the 'histories' of new friends from Rwanda, South Africa, Romania, Poland, and Russia. Long after we flee the fog of Geneva and return to the warmth of the desert sun, we will be challenged and, hopefully, changed by our year spent in Europe.

Pelikan in Tucson (cont'd from page 2)

history of Christian thought and editing the American edition of Martin Luther's works.

On February 22, Dr. Pelikan kicked off the second decade of the 'Town and Gown' lecture series, with "From Russia with Love — Russian Roots of the American Spirit: Jewish and Christian," a lecture that reflected Dr. Pelikan's broad range of scholarly interests, as well as his own Slavic roots. Dr. Pelikan drew attention to several important Russian influences on American culture which surprisingly have gone unexamined in this age when the terms 'diversity' and 'multiculturalism' echo through the halls of college campuses all over the United States. From Tolstoy and Dostoevsky to Horowitz and Stravinsky, from Russian Orthodox monks establishing churches in Alaska to Russian immigrants founding communities in America's heartland, the Russian influence on the American spirit has been profound.

The following evening, Dr. Pelikan met with members of the Division to answer questions about his work. Forthcoming in his answers, he related a great deal about his life and writings — what makes him tick as an historian — in a session which allowed for more critical dialogue than in the packed auditorium the previous evening.

As the 'Town and Gown' lecture series enters its second decade, it will continue to expand the horizons of the University and community well beyond the Catalina Mountains.

One of the imaginative initiatives of the newly appointed Chair of the History Department, the Renaissance scholar Helen Nader, was the First Annual History Graduate Studies Conference held on February 4, 1995. Cathy Pomerleau, a first year student in the Division, won first prize for European History with a paper entitled "An Analysis of Luther's Scatology."

Where Are They Now? Division Success Stories

Dr. Sigrun Haude

It has been almost two years since I left the desert with a Ph.D. in hand in the spring of 1993. The following fall I took a visiting professorship at Stockton State College in New Jersey. My experiences in South Jersey made me look back in gratitude at the intense training I received under Professor Oberman, which seems to have prepared me for all the eventualities of life — be it a twelve-hour teaching load (including the challenging subject of the History of Science), continuing research, presentations at conferences, the frustrations of dealing with the administration, or the New Jersey accent and the characters behind it. Even when the ocean flooded my apartment building, my desert training proved pertinent: I kept my eyes focused on my books rather than on the waves splashing against my windows — and thus maintained my calm!

In the fall of 1994, I accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Cincinnati in Reformation history. During the past few months I have been struck time and again by the realization of how much my 'high-powered' training, which took both scholarship and teaching seriously, has enabled me to survive in my new career. And it has prepared me for more than just survival: I have found my own place, which is a wonderful experience.

Being 'let loose' on students and scholars after many years of graduate training has had an immensely invigorating, rather than intimidating, effect. Thanks to the constant, unfailing support of the Division, I have been able to acquire a foundation that allows me to create and discover exciting avenues in research and teaching.

Dr. Eric Saak

On November 1, 1994, I began a four-year appointment in one of three post-doctoral positions at the Netherlands Research School for Medieval Studies. Based in the Department of Medieval Studies and in the Center for Oriental, Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the University of Groningen, I am leading a team of scholars in editing the *Chronicle* of the early thirteenth-century Cistercian monk, Hélinand de Froidmont, which will be published by Brepols in the series *Corpus Christianorum*. I am also responsible for organizing workshops, colloquia, and symposia related to my own line of research. Together with two other colleagues, based in Leiden and Utrecht respectively, I am organizing a national congress on Medieval Studies to be held on June 17, 1995. I will also be teaching courses on editing medieval texts and on medieval intellectual history. Moreover, I am continuing my work on Jordan of Quedlinburg and hope to have my dissertation and the first volume of my planned edition of Jordan's *Opera Omnia* ready for publication in the near future. During the next several months I will be presenting papers on Jordan and Hélinand at various international conferences.

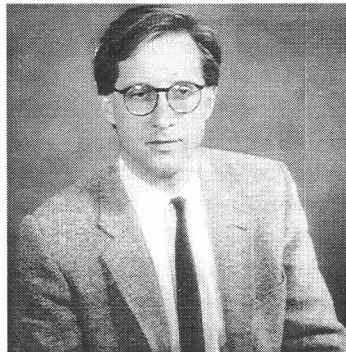
I love my position and Groningen, but I look back on my years in Tucson with great fondness. Every Thursday evening a strange feeling comes over me, and then I realize, "Ah yes, it is Thursday, and I'm not at seminar!" While I am a bit overwhelmed by my new responsibilities, I am facing these challenges with gusto. It is only due to the training I received in Tucson that I have the confidence and courage to do what I am now doing. My time in Tucson was special indeed. The preparation I received in the areas of Medieval, Renaissance, and Reformation history was truly unique, and I can say for certain that it is a training no longer to be had in the Netherlands. *Tot ziens!*

Dr. Robert J. Bast

Greetings from Knoxville. We arrived in July of last year and were pleased to discover that it didn't take long to become a part of this new community. Our children found numerous opportunities to meet friends and stay active: swim teams, soccer clubs, and Church organiza-

tions have kept them busy and happy. My wife Sarah will begin work on her Master's degree in Guidance and Counselling here at the University of Tennessee in the fall. Right now she has her hands full with our youngest daughter Emily (age 2); they both have enjoyed a rare break from the Working Parents' Syndrome.

The University has kept me very busy. I've settled into a routine of teaching, writing, and advising students, and I will even manage to give three conference papers this academic year. My courses on the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Politics of Religion in Early Modern Europe have been rewarding and very well received — save for one student who complained that my teaching of history would be improved if I would "stop giving so much interpretation. Just give us the facts(!)." My research interests continue to be drawn to the convergence of religious reform and political power; I am working on a paper tracing the monastic roots of social discipline. The project may expand into a book.



Bob Bast, proud new professor at the University of Tennessee

Other responsibilities have given me ample occasion to reflect on my years of training in 'our' Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies. The department here is in the process of hiring three new historians, and I've spent much of the last six weeks meeting with a steady procession of nine candidates from some of the most highly regarded universities in the country. As we made our choices this week, our faculty passed over people trained at Yale, Harvard, Berkeley, and Brandeis. That tells me several things. First, while the University of Arizona may not have the cachet of other institutions, pedigree will only get one so far. Second, Professor Oberman is providing the kind of training that has few if any equals. The breadth and depth of the knowledge acquired through the Division's foundations in Medieval, Renaissance, and Reformation history make us more than a match for students who come from universities with higher profiles. In short, being 'out in the field' has heightened my appreciation both for the training that got me here, and for those of you who so generously support our program.

Dr. Andrew Gow

In June of 1993, I left Tucson and Heiko's programme to return to my native Canada and a position as Assistant Professor of History at the University of Alberta. The resemblances between my new academic home and the University of Arizona go well beyond the shared abbreviation 'U of A': a sprawling campus with around 25,000 students in the middle of a big western city, a large research library, and the funding problems that seem to be plaguing all public institutions. A few major differences, however, are worth noting: as I write, it is — in our lingo — a crisp minus 17° C (0° F) outside, and Alberta houses no such stellar programme, at least not in the Faculty of Arts, as the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies. Settling into my new job was easy in the first months, but some difficulties cropped up as the budget axe started to fall. The main point, though, is that I have an academic job, and I get paid to do the things I love to do best: teach, read, and write!

I cannot emphasize enough how unique the training was that I received in the Division. Few scholars of Heiko's stature give as freely of their time to their students. His Thursday night doctoral seminar beats all records, not merely for length, but for its high intellectual and scholarly level. Many 'Obermaniacs' (as we are called by less-fortunate colleagues) have asked, "Is there life after Thursday night?" The answer is yes, but I am not sure it will ever again seem so rich and intense, or as challenging and exhausting. As I have discovered since graduating, our training in the three fields of Late Medieval, Renaissance, and Reformation history sets us apart from other recent graduates, including European and British scholars. This is not just another graduate programme! The proof is in the pudding: five full-time tenure-track positions, one four-year post-doctoral fellowship and two visiting assistant professorships, all at research universities in the last two years alone! And these successes were achieved in an extremely tight job market. No other scholar teaching today in this or related fields can boast a record as good as Heiko's at placing students. Congratulations and best wishes for coming 'harvests!'

Books and More Books *The Oberman Oeuvre*

Some Sober Reflections by Henry Weiss

The literary output of Prof. Dr. Heiko A. Oberman (a moniker too long for this one-finger typist; in order to avoid serious carpal injury he will hereinafter be referred to as P.D.O., in capitals, *natürlich*) comes to some thirty-odd books. His articles are too numerous to count. It may properly be asked — "To whom are these addressed?" A handful of serious academics and students — themselves in need of affirmative action. Forget advances; this is not a readership geared to roll up royalties.

Stroll past the book racks at Whelans drug store, the shelves of books in Safeway or Smith's — do you see one Oberman? There are Louis L'Amour, Judith Krantz, their covers glowing phosphorescent colors — P.D.O.? *Nyet!* Get with it P.D.O.! Remember, Newt's first printing is 750,000 copies (it is true the advance is a slight problem, but it will no doubt be adjusted in the fine print of the CONTRACT).

As an eminent historian you know the present time has no monopoly on moral turpitude. Let us have a taste of Reformation scandal. Now please understand it must be done with strict regard to the moral standards and family values that we all observed not too long ago. All the interesting and bad words must be strictly in Latin (in that way only a few academics and some clergy, both beyond corruption, can chuckle knowingly).

Instead of being embarrassed at having to raise money to help your doctoral candidates and fund your program, take a tack to more modern ways. Get those students turning out the kind of stuff we devour at the supermarket check-out counter. Indeed, you should lead the way. In no time your budget will be balanced, and you won't need an amendment.

From the Editors

Thus far we have heard from Division graduates and members studying abroad, but no mention has been made of the faithful students whose daily toiling forms the life-blood of the Division here in Tucson. We feel that we would be remiss in our duties as editors if we did not offer a brief statement about each of our colleagues sweating hard under the desert sun in pursuit of their own interests, academic and otherwise.

It was encouraging for us all that one of our own, *Jeff Tyler*, was called to a tenure track position, even before completing his dissertation. In August Jeff will begin his career as a Professor at Hope College.

The biggest non-academic news in the Division this year has been the announcement of marriage engagements by two of our members. *Jonathan Reid*, our resident rugby player, is engaged to be married this summer and hopes to go to Paris in the fall for his honeymoon — pretty exotic for a graduate student, we think — and to continue his research on religion and politics in sixteenth-century France. *John Frymire* returned to Tucson this past fall with his girlfriend-turned-fiancee after spending three years in Germany. John is continuing his research into medieval sexuality, which includes deviancies such as castration — we can only hope he doesn't bring his work home with him.

Last fall, *Cathy Pomerleau*, a first year student in the Division, left rainy Washington state for the desert. Since making the climate adjustment, Cathy has been looking at the issue of anti-clericalism — we hope she doesn't get any ideas concerning the present authorities in the Division.

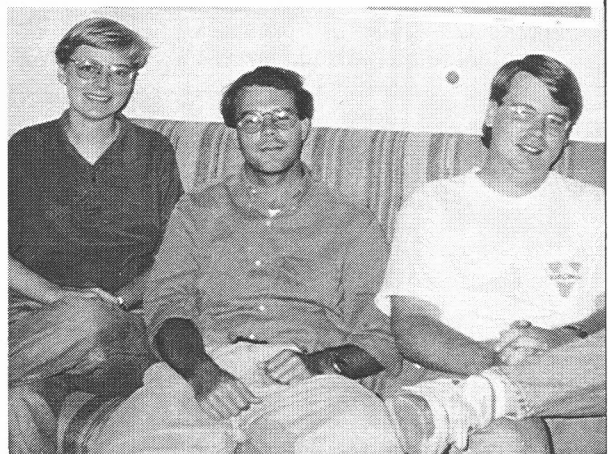
As for your humble editors, both first year Division members, *Robert Christman* is researching Reformation ideas concerning marriage — maybe he'll be able to give Jonathan and John some good advice. Our resident bar expert, *Mike Bruening*, is combining his social and academic interests in looking at the problem of drunkenness in the Middle Ages.

We have also enjoyed the company of *Aurelio Espinoza*, specializing in early modern

Spanish History under the guidance of Dr. Helen Nader, *Rebecca Walker*, a student of the University's medieval history expert, Dr. Alan Bernstein, and *Steve McClean*, currently a non-degree seeking graduate student who is considering joining the Division.

Of course, no discussion of the Division would be complete without mentioning our *Doktorvater*, *Professor Oberman*, who, in spite of his current research on John Calvin, continues to foil the allegations made by "60 Minutes" about deadwood tenured professors. Recipient of the 1989 Five Star Faculty Award for best undergraduate educator, Professor Oberman is hard at work preparing lectures for an undergraduate course that he volunteered to teach on World Wars I and II. As always, Professor Oberman is also busy keeping tabs on us students, posing penetrating questions in our regular meetings with him, dispensing words of wisdom and sage advice (whether we ask for it or not), and ensuring that idleness never becomes a factor in our lives.

Like our colleagues studying abroad and past members of the Division now historians in their own right, we already recognize the unique experience of studying at the University of Arizona and we anticipate with excitement our future years in Tucson.



The newest members of the Division: first year students Cathy Pomerleau, Robert Christman, and Mike Bruening.