

# DESERT HARVEST

Newsletter of the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies

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College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

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## *From the Desk of the Director*

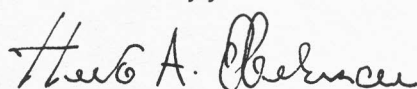
This has been an amazing year for the Division. To begin with and foremost, in January Professor Susan Karant-Nunn joined our team as Assistant Director. Her research interest in the social history of the Renaissance and Reformation ideally complements my work, rounding out the profile of the Division. In October 1998 her recent book, *The Reformation of Ritual*, won the Roland H. Bainton Prize in History and Theology -- named after the inimitable Yale Luther scholar. The immediate yield from her appointment was an impressive increase in the number of strong candidates applying for admission to our graduate program in the next academic year. What is more, the four admitted -- sought after by eminent history departments on account of their credentials -- decided to come to the University of Arizona for their graduate work in European history 1300-1700.

From an administrative point of view, equally important for the day-to-day operation of the Division is the appointment of Beth Carter. Beth assists Luise Betterton in her manifold roles as Administrative Associate. In short, in the space of a single year the Division has doubled -- in body and soul!

When this center of historical research has been poetically praised as a 'rare flower in the desert', I have always felt somewhat uneasy, mindful of the words of the psalmist about the fleeting nature of human success: "As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like the flower of the field -- the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more" (Ps. 103:15-16). With the commitment of Provost Paul Sypherd and Dean Holly Smith to seek a replacement for me upon my retirement (in the next millennium or so!), today the Division is firmly rooted, better prepared to withstand the 'desert heat' of future shifting academic moods and fashions.

In the past I have expressed on this very page my gratitude to the Friends of the Division for their ongoing generous support. For the year 2000 we have planned a novel "Thank You," a "Three-Week, Three European Capitals Lecture Tour" in April, with a week each in London, Rome, and Amsterdam (for details see p. 6). As in the case of the Sunday-Night Seminar (of ten years' standing) and the Annual Lecture (inaugurated 15 years ago), these 'joint' events are precious bridges between Town and Gown. Above all, I know that I can speak for all of us in expressing the special joy that we not only need but have also found one another.

Cordially yours,



P.S. You are warmly invited to visit us at our new website at  
<http://w3.arizona.edu/graduate/medref.html>

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

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Robert J. Christman  
Victoria Speder

## **Archive for Reformation History Comes to the Division**

Another journal joins the *Journal of Early Modern History: Contacts, Comparisons, Contrasts* in being edited in the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies. The Division's Assistant Director, Susan Karant-Nunn, is North American Managing Coeditor, along with Professor Anne Jacobsen Schutte of the University of

Virginia, of the venerable journal, *Archive for Reformation History*. Since its inception in 1903, the *Archiv für Reformationsgeschichte*, as it is titled in German, has been devoted to all aspects of Reformation studies. Currently it is published jointly in Germany and North America.

The *Archive's* presence at The University of Arizona affords our doctoral students another opportunity to witness the processes of manuscript submission, evaluation by experts, and revision and editing. Joel Van Amberg has served as Karant-Nunn's editorial assistant this semester. Among other tasks, he has launched the *Archive's* first web page, helping bring the journal into the world of modern technology. Readers may view this web page at <http://w3.arizona.edu/~archive/>

### **From the Assistant Director**

I am especially pleased and honored to join the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies as Assistant Director. I look forward to many years of cooperation in the Division's internationally known enterprise of educating dynamic new scholars and teachers in the fields we share. My pleasure and my labors extend to the Department of History, of which I am also a member.

Just since arriving in January, I have had an opportunity to become acquainted with the current doctoral students who are in residence. The first place where I saw them all in action was at the Thursday-evening seminar of January 21. Heiko Oberman welcomed me with a three-hour session devoted to my own work. I was surprised and impressed by Jonathan Reid's long, considered presentation on my recent book, *The Reformation of Ritual: An Interpretation of Early Modern Germany*. He had clearly put much effort into his paper. Most moving of all, he understood what I was attempting to do. One cannot always rely on that! All the students then plied me with probing questions about my book. I thank them all again for their kind attention. I shall repay them in the future by reading their seminar papers and dissertations very closely indeed!



Professor Oberman with Professor Susan Karant-Nunn, the newest faculty member of the Division.

Another surprise were the donors who, through their regular monetary gifts and their friendship, make a part of the Division's work possible. I have seen in very short order how indispensable this generosity of pocketbook and of spirit are. From the beginning, then, I want to join my expression of gratitude to that of the Director.

### **Reflections from Beyond**

by Sigrun Haude

It is hard to believe that I am already in my fifth year at the University of Cincinnati. When I left Tucson in 1993 with a Ph.D. in hand, I first took a one-year visiting professorship at Stockton State College in New Jersey before I accepted a tenure-track position in Reformation history at the University of Cincinnati.

The University, celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, is comparable in size to The University of Arizona. Like so many other state institutions, we are bogged down by budget cuts, and then more budget cuts, particularly in the humanities. However, the ten humanities departments here are blessed with being the beneficiaries of a large foundation (Taft) that cannot be touched by the administration. Whether undergraduates, graduates, faculty, or post-doctorates from elsewhere, competitive applicants here can find support.

The doctoral fellowships for our graduate students often remind me of the essential support I have received from the Division during my own formative years at The University of Arizona. Grants during the last few years have made it possible for me to do summer research and to attend conferences. I was able to build on my dissertation, expand its scope, and turn it into a wholly revised book manuscript (*Anabaptist Münster and Church Reform in Sixteenth-Century Germany*), which has been accepted by Humanities Press (Brill) and will go to press later this year. During the last two years, I have also begun to develop my next research project, which deals with the cultural history of the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). I am much interested in how people dealt with three decades of painful, repeated, sometimes catastrophic losses and everyday hardships.

Looking back at the history of the last 15 years -- from 1984, when I went to Tucson to study with Professor Oberman, until 1999, which sees me hovering on the edge of tenure -- I find much continuity. I like to think that we carry on the legacy of Professor Oberman in our careers, a legacy of rigorous historical research and analysis. But what I call the "spirit of Tucson" is only in part academic. Our mentor knew that without a good dose of joviality and collegiality, our future would be grim and lonely indeed. The yearly reunions at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, sponsored by the Division, are a lively testimony to that enduring spirit.

### **Division Graduate Updates**

**Robert Bast** (1993)  
University of Tennessee  
Department of History

**Curtis Bostick** (1993)  
Southern Utah University  
Department of History

**Andrew Gow** (1993)  
University of Alberta, Edmonton  
Department of History

**Brad Gregory** (M.A. 1989; Ph.D. Princeton, 1996)  
Stanford University  
Department of History

**Sigrun Haude** (1993)  
University of Cincinnati  
Department of History

**Marjory Lange** (1993 English major, History minor)  
Oregon State University  
Department of English

**Scott Manetsch** (1997)  
Northwestern College  
Department of Religion

**Michael Milway** (1997)  
University of Toronto  
Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies.

**Darleen Pryds** (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1994)  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Department of History

**Eric Saak** (1993)  
University of Groningen, The Netherlands  
Senior Fellow, Federal Research Institute for Medieval Studies

**Jeff Tyler** (1995)  
Hope College, Michigan  
Department of Religion



## A Week of Scholarship

by Victoria Speder

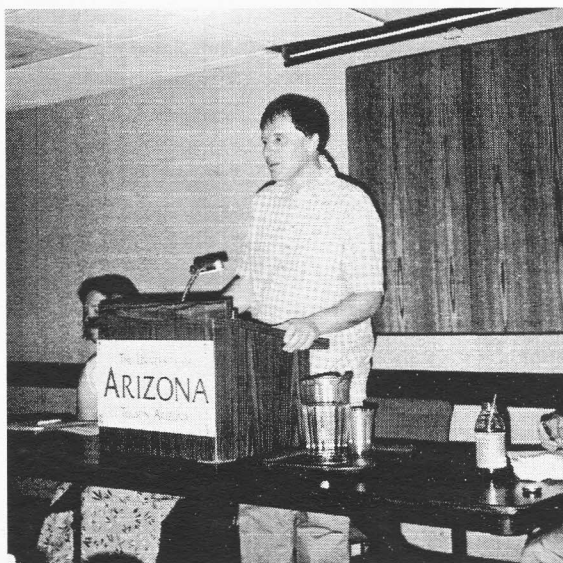
The week of March 22nd was a busy and stimulating one for the Division. We were fortunate indeed to host visits from two leading scholars in diverse fields of history. The first to arrive was Dr. Robert Wistrich, professor of Modern European History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The author of 15 books and more than 250 articles, Professor Wistrich's research interests range from the history of Central European Jewry since the Enlightenment to anti-Semitism, Nazism, and Jewish revolutionary activity. In addition to his prolific writing career, Professor Wistrich has also written two screenplays on anti-Semitism, and is an advisor to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the Council of Europe on Racism, Xenophobia, and Anti-Semitism.

Professor Wistrich delivered the Annual Town and Gown Lecture on the evening of March 24. Entitled "In the Footsteps of the Messiah: Herzl, Zionism, and the Millennial Fever," his lecture reached back into the nineteenth century to trace the roots of the Zionist movement, and drew conclusions pertinent to the tenuous situation in the Middle East today. He provided an overview of the life of Theodor Herzl, the founder of the Zionist movement at the end of the nineteenth century. Professor Wistrich aptly delineated the many and varied reactions to Herzl's message both in his own day and ours.

Professor Wistrich's visit culminated on March 25 with a roundtable discussion on "Eliminationist Anti-Semitism: Was there a Special German Road?" He was joined by a panel of two professors from our History Department, Susan Crane and Douglas Weiner, and the discussion was moderated by our own Professor Oberman. Commenting on Daniel Goldhagen's book, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, Wistrich pointed to a lack of historical contextualization in accounts that present the German variant of anti-Semitism as a predetermined path. He focused in particular on the ebb and flow of German anti-Semitism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the flourishing of the Jewish community prior to the Second World War, which are omitted from such accounts. This view was affirmed by Susan Crane, who stressed the importance of viewing history as a framework of contingent events, and by Doug Weiner, who added details about Russian and Ukrainian anti-Semitism,

which had been even more fervent than the German form in the years prior to World War Two. The session ended with a period of energized discussion by the audience.

Professor Wistrich's visit was followed by that of Dr. Robert M. Kingdon, Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, who was guest of honor at our Thursday-night circle. A prolific scholar of Early Modern Europe, Professor Kingdon has written extensively on Calvin, the Calvinist church in Geneva, and the spread of Calvinism into France. In answer to the question of what makes him "tick" as an historian, he shared generously with us regarding his own experiences. He described his childhood in Hawaii, his transition to the continental United States during the Second World War, and his undergraduate years at Oberlin College. He went on to tell us about his graduate study at Columbia University and the personal and professional ties he forged with Professor Roland Bainton at Yale, which he regards as a career-forming relationship.



Dr. Robert Wistrich speaking at the roundtable discussion on the topic "Eliminationist Anti-Semitism: Was there a Special German Road?"

Professor Kingdon's latest project is a nine-volume critical edition of the Genevan Consistory records, the first volume of which has already been published. This project, which will take at least ten years, will provide scholars with access to a fascinating array of documents on the disciplinary problems in the early Genevan Church under the leadership of John Calvin.

We offer our sincere thanks to both of these captivating scholars, and to those who made their fruitful visits possible.

## Graduate Study Here and There, a Comparison

by Nicole Kuropka

Graduate school -- most people have a clear idea of what it means to be a graduate student, as did I when I joined the program in the Division in the late summer of 1996. After all, I had passed my master's degree exams several months earlier in my native Germany and had already begun the research for my dissertation on the scriptural exegesis of Philip Melanchthon, the younger colleague of Martin Luther. Yet when I arrived, it immediately became clear that I had entered a different world. No wonder! Coming from a nasty, wet German summer, I had to survive the 40-degree rise in temperature; I had to adjust to a foreign language and clear bureaucratic hurdles; and of course I got lost more than once on a campus the size of a small German town. To my great good fortune, however, I got through all of that very quickly with the friendly help of the members of the Division.

Then the semester started, and I had to face a new set of challenges. While my colleagues back home were in the midst of their dissertation work, I was thrown into a different type of research: I had to learn to be a Ph.D. student in the U.S., and that meant course work and seminars. Whereas in Germany I had become used to attending this or that lecture at will, now a computer-generated set of numbers known as the "class schedule" dictated my days to the minute. Or so it should have, had I been able to understand it. Enter the "Graduate Advisor." Based upon my experiences back home, I hardly expected any help from such a bureaucrat. Much to my surprise, however, he proved to be of tremendous help, giving me good advice to follow during the upcoming semesters. All things considered, the preliminary tasks were handled easily. The big question now was what was I to expect in the classroom.

In my first seminar I was delighted by the small size of the courses, but this joy was short-lived: first, I was not prepared for the reading requirements (what would have been expected for a whole semester in Germany was demanded within one week); second, all courses were graded (whereas in Germany only seminar papers, which are written during the breaks, are graded -- written exams do not exist in graduate studies). In addition, I had to turn in more papers and give more oral presentations than ever before. The seminars covered a wider range of topics than

their German counterparts, which would have dealt in more depth with only one or two narrow questions. It is unnecessary to refer to the unexpected dimensions of Professor Oberman's Thursday-night seminar -- to be absorbed in primary sources and intriguing discussions well into the night is something rare on either side of the Atlantic. I began to appreciate both the system of American graduate education and those aspects of the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies that make an excellent system truly outstanding. In the following semesters, I had the chance to gain experience as a teaching assistant and to present my research findings at conferences -- both infrequent opportunities for graduate students in Germany.

All of this made leaving Tucson more difficult. Along with important items like my Arizona motorcycle license plate, I took a great many intellectual impressions back to Germany. After three semesters in the Division, the new questions I had learned to take to my work shaped me significantly as a scholar. How much so is best demonstrated by my dissertation topic. I still work on Philip Melanchthon, but no longer with the narrow question of his scriptural exegesis. I have broadened my task and the number of primary sources I am using in order to explain how Melanchthon viewed society -- and how his experience, not just with books but with life, helped him to reform and legitimate the relations between state and church as much as the duties and liberties of lay people, clergy, and rulers. Surely for the rest of my scholarly career, I will continue to benefit from the methods I learned in Tucson.

And I will also benefit from the scholarly contacts I made through the program. Each year I look forward to the Division-sponsored *Combibium* at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference. There I may discuss my work with those international scholars who are guests in Professor Oberman's seminar. More importantly, I get another chance to see those members of the Division who were a great help in making my time in Arizona so challenging and rewarding.

### The Sixteenth Century Studies Conference Toronto, October 1998

by Robert Christman

Each year scholars of early modern European history gather to exchange and discuss new ideas at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference. This

year's conference, held October 22-25, included a formidable contingent of current and former members of the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies who traveled north to Toronto to participate in the event.

Mike Milway, now curator at the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies at the University of Toronto, was one of the primary organizers of the conference. His monumental task consisted of supervising the logistics for 800 scholars to present over 600 papers. Partly through Mike's determined efforts, the entire conference ran smoothly.

Current Division member Robert Christman got his academic feet wet presenting his first conference paper, which focused on a series of mid-sixteenth-century parish visitations conducted in Mansfeld, Germany. Robert gave the paper in a session entitled *Parish Visitation Records and Their Use*, sponsored by the Division.

Professor Gerald Strauss, the session's commentator, offered a constructive critique of the papers, after which he proposed an exciting new agenda for future analysis of parish visitation records. The venerable expert recommended that historians shift their focus from the parishioners' responses to the visitors' questions, which offer a wealth of evidence as to their goals and priorities. The session was so successful that Professors Strauss and Oberman have decided to organize a panel on visitations for next year's conference.

Three other former members of the seminar teamed up to present papers on a panel entitled *Bibles and Bible Reading in the Later Middle Ages and Reformation: Popular Religion and Learned Discourse*. Curtis Bostick investigated the efforts of the fourteenth-century English reformer, John Wycliffe, to provide the English with a translation of the Bible. Brad Gregory traced the integration of biblical stories of sufferings into the hymnology of the persecuted Anabaptists, offering insights into our understanding of how social setting influences biblical explication. Andrew Gow presented an analysis of late medieval exegesis, demonstrating a shift between the theologians Nicholas of Lyra and Martin Luther to a more anti-Jewish biblical interpretation. Finally, in a session organized by Professor Oberman and chaired by Dr. Gow, Nicole Kuropka, who received her master's degree last spring from The University of Arizona before returning to her native Germany, presented a paper entitled "Melancthon and the Jews."

For members of the Division, the conference

provides more than just an opportunity to discuss academic matters. It affords an occasion to renew friendships forged during long years at graduate school. Over the past decade, this reunion has been formalized in a Division-sponsored reception and dinner attended by the graduates and a few close friends. The evening's topic for discussion was "problems faced by young professors." The responses from the Division's recent graduates included the burdens of juggling parenthood with the pressures of teaching and publishing, the impediments caused by administrative decisions to cut funding, and the lack of colleagues in one's own field available for scholarly discourse -- especially noticable to young professors at smaller colleges.

Elisabeth Gleason, Emerita Professor of History at the University of San Francisco, a friend of longstanding, concluded the discussion by relating her experiences in academia. Her career, we learned, was a model of persistence inspired by true love of scholarship. Faced with the pressures of family, interruptions in education and inconveniences caused by war, and an entry into teaching at a time when higher education was still male-dominated, Professor Gleason persevered to become a highly respected scholar of European history. Her success in overcoming each of these hurdles made her eloquent summation all the more credible. Regardless of where one's career path leads there is important work to be done. If young professors address themselves to the task at hand, they need never apologize for their station. Good advice, we think.

### The Way to Go

The Director will offer lectures to friends of the Division who take part in a three-capital European tour during the last three weeks of April 2000. The cities visited will be, in turn, London, Rome, and -- with tulip season in full flower -- Amsterdam. The lectures will present key points in the history of western civilization in each of these cultural environments. Based on current rates, coach airfare would be approximately \$1,850 (round trip and within Europe), and luxury accommodation would reach about \$2,900. The Division would not derive financial benefit from this tour.

Those who are interested should telephone Luise Betterton at 626-5448.





## Our Closest Campus Colleagues

Edited by Albrecht Classen, Professor of German, *Tristania*, vol. 18 (Lewiston, New York, 1998).

Richard Cosgrove, Professor of History, will become Head of the Department of History this summer.

Pia Cuneo, Associate Professor of Art History, *Art and Politics in Early Modern Germany: Jörg Breu the Elder and the Fashioning of Political Identity*, Studies in Late Medieval and Reformation Thought (Leiden, 1998).

Edited by Roger Dahood, Professor of English, *The Future of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance: Problems, Trends, and Opportunities for Research*, Arizona Studies in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance 2 (Turnhout, The Netherlands, 1998).

Helen Nader, Professor of History, will step down as Head of the Department of History this summer in order to devote her full attention to writing and teaching. A book edited by her, *The Mendoza Family Women in the Spanish Renaissance*, is in press with the Johns Hopkins University Press.

## Report from the Front Lines

**Mike Bruening** has spent his last year among the ivory towers of Princeton, where he has exploited that library's collection of the works of Pierre Viret. Mike hopes to pursue this close friend and colleague of John Calvin all the way to Europe next year, where he will conduct archival research in Switzerland.

**Robert Christman** was one of the representatives of the Division at this year's Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in Toronto, Canada. Robert presented a paper on sixteenth-century visitations conducted by the Saxon reformer, Erasmus Sarcerius. In April of this year, Robert faces the challenge of his comprehensive exams. After this, he hopes to travel to Germany to conduct dissertation research on Sarcerius.

**Peter Dykema** received his Ph.D. in the spring of 1998 and accepted a one-year teaching position here at The University of Arizona. It is not the sun that has encouraged him to linger in the desert. Last year, Peter became engaged to Rebecca Done, also of Tucson. Their extra year here was spent planning a lavish wedding, which took place on March 13, 1999. We send

our warmest wishes to the very happy couple!

**John Frymire** sends greetings from Mainz, Germany, where he has been a Research Fellow at the Institut für Europäische Geschichte since June 1998. There he continues to research and write his dissertation on popular Catholic preaching from the beginnings of the Reformation up to the Peace of Augsburg (1555). In September his wife Christina finished -- cum laude! -- her studies in genetics and microbiology at the University of Tübingen. They and their two children continue to appreciate their good fortune, most recently manifested in their finding affordable housing in Mainz.

**Jonathan Reid** returned from his research in Paris to rejoin the Tucson crew in the fall of 1998. Jonathan is leading our Thursday-night seminar this year, which is concerned with Calvin, and with the proliferation of Reformed communities throughout Europe. During his time in Europe, Jonathan lectured at the Institut d'Histoire de la Réformation at the University of Geneva. His topic was Marguerite of Navarre, who is also the focus of his dissertation research.

**Victoria Speder** successfully completed her master's exams in November 1998. Since then, she has kept busy working on a translation of a treatise by the fifteenth-century Dutch reformer, Wessel Gansfort († 1489).

**Joel Van Amberg** has had a busy and productive year. In November, there was a second new addition to the family. Weighing in at over nine pounds, Samuel Joseph Albert Van Amberg is keeping his parents and his sister on their toes! After his comprehensive exams in April, Joel and his growing family will travel to Germany. In Erlangen, Joel will do further research on social aspects of the eucharistic controversy. He will work with Professor Berndt Hamm, a former student of Professor Oberman in Tübingen.

Finally, **Derek Halvorson** and **Atila Vékony**, both former Division members, received their master's degrees during this last year. Derek moved on to Loyola University in Chicago to work on Carthusian monasticism. Atila, hoping to return to Hungary in the future, has moved into the field of library science. Unwilling to relinquish his interests in our fascinating period, Atila continues to attend the Thursday-night seminar. Our Thursday evenings are further enriched by the continued participation of **Michael Crawford** and **Aurelio Espinosa** (students of Helen Nader, History Department Head and scholar of early modern Spain), and **Scott Taylor** (student of medievalist Alan E. Bernstein).