



DESERT HARVEST

NEWSLETTER OF THE DIVISION FOR LATE MEDIEVAL AND REFORMATION STUDIES

Vol. 9, No. 1

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

April 2001

From the desk of the Associate Director



ur spirits were at the mountaintops; so soon are they cast down. In the autumn newsletter, we joyfully described the highlights of the international conference, held at Hacienda del Sol, in honor of Prof. Dr. Heiko A. Oberman on his seventieth birthday. Today I have the somber, indeed the grievous task of announcing that Heiko will die shortly, of melanoma. **[At press time, we received the sad news that Heiko A. Oberman passed away on April 22.]**

Heiko's and my shared concern is to facilitate the students' smooth continuation of their studies. I am devoting myself foremost to this task. My own expertise in the social and cultural history of the German-speaking lands remains a strength of the Division. Of additional crucial importance, Dean Holly M. Smith has authorized the Division and the History Department's search for a historian of the French Reformation. As chair of the search committee, I am delighted to report that we have a pool containing a number of exemplary applicants. In 2002 we shall add a truly luminous colleague to our ranks.

As part of its ordinary operation, the Division has always brought the great minds of our profession to Tucson so that our students might hear and consult them. In the past two years, quite in addition to the luminaries who spoke at the Symposium last October, we have had the honor of receiving among us Prof. Dr. Bernard Roussel, Director of Studies at the École Pratique des Hautes Études, the Sorbonne, Paris; Prof. Dr. Andrew Pettegree, Director of the St. Andrews Reformation Studies Institute, Scotland; Prof. Dr. Brad Gregory of Stanford University; Prof. Dr. H. C. Erik Midelfort of the University of Virginia; Prof. Dr. Irena Backus of the University of Geneva, Switzerland; and Regius Professor Emeritus Patrick Collinson of Cambridge University, England. The result of our own teaching and professional entertaining is a wealth of opportunity and advice for the future alumni of the Division. Heiko Oberman and I are enthusiastic members of the international community of learning. Using your gifts, I shall continue to bring stellar visitors to campus.

A further jewel, as was announced at the Symposium, the Obermans have magnanimously given Heiko's vast and valuable library to the Division. The University will house this separately, in close proximity to our offices, so that students may have ready access to it. Once again, Dean Smith has demonstrated her support by providing a stipend for a graduate student to work on the Oberman collections.

Under my stewardship, and incorporating Heiko's legacy, the Division will unquestionably retain its position among the handful of top centers for the study of the late Middle Ages and the Reformation. The underpinning of all will be the endowment of the Heiko A. Oberman Chair in Late Medieval and Reformation Studies. While it is clear that not everyone can make a gift that constitutes a high percentage of the \$2 million required to endow a chair, all gifts add up. Achieving this endowment is a high priority of the Division. It will put us in first place in the field. It will enable us to suitably perpetuate the ideals of our matchless founder by bringing an additional internationally acclaimed colleague here to help us keep the desert in bloom.

We grieve . . . and with your help we shall continue to build.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA.

DESERT HARVEST

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

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"You make it possible"

by Victoria Clisham

Each year those members of the Tucson community who have helped us through their financial and moral support of our work come together for lunch and an update on the life of our Division. We gathered, as we have many times in the past, at the beautiful Arizona Inn for two hours of conversation and celebration of the achievements and developments of the past year. As the student representative at this year's luncheon, I truly came to realize that our work here in the Division is very much part of a larger, joint venture.

The afternoon began with a welcome address by the Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Dr. Holly M. Smith. Dean Smith's continual support of our work and mission is a constant reminder that we are part of a larger academic community that values our work and goals. She stressed the development this year of the campaign to endow a chair, named for the Director of the Division, Prof. Dr. Heiko A. Oberman, the proceeds of which will enable us to provide a professorial salary sufficient to attract an eminent historian to this post. Professor Oberman followed with his own rousing speech, noting in particular the importance of the rigor of our academic program. He expressed his appreciation for the Classics Department here at The University of Arizona which continues to be incredibly supportive and demanding of all the Division's students. He also expressed his enormous gratitude to the financial supporters of the

Division, whose contributions make such language instruction possible and enable students to visit foreign archives in order to conduct intensive dissertation research. Professor Oberman pointed out that it is opportunities such as these that set our program apart from others of its kind.

Professor Oberman's speech was followed by that of the Associate Director of the Division, Professor Susan C. Karant-Nunn. She emphasized this year's exciting developments in the Division, the highlight of which is the search for a new professor of French Reformation history. As chair of the search committee she was able to share her excitement over the applications she has reviewed so far, assuring us all that this new addition will be truly stellar in the field of the French Reformation.

Before we adjourned for another year, I had the opportunity to speak on behalf of the graduate students. I talked about my own five years in Thursday-night seminars, and my upcoming research journey to The Netherlands and Belgium to conduct research on the Dutch Inquisition. I was encouraged by the enthusiasm of all present, not only for what I personally am doing, but for the continued vitality of all that we are about in the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies. On behalf of all the graduate students, I thank those of you who were present and those of you who could not be, for your continued support of our work. Without your emotional and financial assistance, none of this would be possible. *

ANNUAL TOWN AND GOWN LECTURE 2001:

Professor Patrick Collinson:

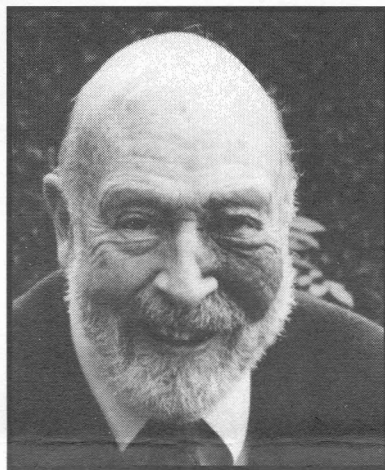
"The Reformation & the Birth of England"

by Victoria Clisham

The annual Town and Gown lecture is always a highlight of our academic calendar. Each year, an eminent scholar graces our campus and presents a substantial lecture to both students and community members. This year we were treated to an erudite and entertaining lecture by Professor Patrick Collinson, C.B.E. Collinson, a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge and emeritus Regius Professor of Modern History at the University of Cambridge, is best known for his world-renowned work on the Protestant Reformation in England. In his long and prolific career he has produced ground-breaking work on the Puritan movement in England, the development of English Protestantism, and changes in society and culture in sixteenth-century England. In his lecture on March 21 he spoke not only of Reformation England, but of the construction of England and Britain in the minds of thinkers from then until now.

Collinson began his presentation with various entertaining considerations of what the term 'Britain' connotes in the modern mind. He posed the question of how a nation which once possessed an Empire on which "the sun never set" has become transformed into one in which national

sentiment manifests itself only in scenes of football violence. As he considered the history of this national development, Collinson took us back five hundred years to



Patrick Collinson, Emeritus Regius Professor of Modern History, University of Cambridge

the England of the early modern period. Among other developments, he discussed the work of William Tyndale, whose English translation of the Bible

Collinson sees as a fundamental moment in this gradual development. A

truly dynamic speaker, Collinson had the packed auditorium howling with his comparisons of Tyndale's Bible, with all its colloquial phrases, and the more formal King James translation which was made

almost one hundred years later. His talk examined the use of such translations in the formation of a national consciousness, and considered the development and disintegration of that consciousness in more recent centuries. With a subject that spanned Reformation history, British history, English literature and religion, Collinson's lecture drew listeners from diverse fields and backgrounds. These varied interests were reflected in the dynamic questions posed to our speaker at the end of his lecture.

It has always been a special treat for Division students that the speaker for the Town and Gown series also comes to our Thursday-night seminar with the purpose of explaining what makes him or her "tick" as an historian. This intensely personal question is designed to elicit from the guest as much as he is willing to divulge about the path of his career, the

He posed the question of how a nation which once possessed an Empire on which "the sun never set" has become transformed into one in which national sentiment manifests itself only in scenes of football violence.

successes and failures he has encountered and the particular source of momentum which has

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Collinson Lecture
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kept him going on this tough journey. We duly gathered at the Oberman home to pose this multi-layered question to Professor Collinson, not anticipating the rich and open answer he would be willing to provide.

He began by telling us the details of his early career, including the struggles he encountered in his initial forays into the academic job market. He went on to share with us aspects of the many years he and his wife, Elizabeth, had spent at the University of Sydney, Australia. Professor Collinson told us how they had journeyed there with their family and his mother, and fully intended to remain for the rest of his career. He also described the more sober side of academic politics, which led him

eventually to leave Australia and return to the shores of his English home, where he took a job teaching at Kent for some years. He discussed the differences in educational levels between Australian and English students, and the vast contrasts he noticed in the customs of the two lands and their treatment of academics. From Kent he and his wife traveled to Cambridge, where Professor Collinson was appointed Regius Professor. Finally, from here they moved on to Sheffield, where they now make their permanent home. Retirement, however, seems to be a concept foreign to both Collinsons, who were travelling home after a week in Arizona in order to attend a conference at Cambridge in which Professor Collinson was delivering a keynote address.

The rest of our Thursday

evening was taken up with specific questions concerning Professor Collinson's own research. The students had the opportunity to ask questions about the theses he proposed in his various books and articles, and to clarify any issues that were previously unclear. This dynamic discussion allowed our guest to address a variety of probing questions on topics which spanned the length of his career in academia. As always, the week of the Town and Gown lecture was engaging and challenging. Professor Collinson was generous in revealing his own life and thorough in tackling the queries put to him. All present benefitted greatly from his openness and formidable scholarly expertise, while beneath a convivial surface seminar members grieved on realizing that this was Heiko Oberman's last evening in attendance. *

SUMMER LECTURE SERIES

~ Sundays at St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church ~
(4440 North Campbell Avenue at River Road - Parking in rear)

“Not Only Protestants Had a Reformation: The Catholic Reformation of the Sixteenth Century”

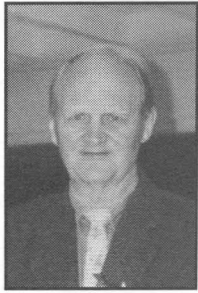
A four-part series on the Catholic Reformation as presented by members of the Division for Late Medieval & Reformation Studies at The University of Arizona: Prof. Dr. Susan C. Karant-Nunn, Associate Director; and doctoral students James Blakeley and Michael Bruening.

June 17 • June 24 • July 1 • July 8
10:15 AM, Murphey Gallery
Free and open to the public




At the Feet of Visiting Scholars:

"What makes you tick as an historian?"



Prof. Dr. H. C. Erik Midelfort,
University of
Virginia

by Andrew Thomas

 n February 1, the renowned scholar Prof. Dr. H. C. Erik Midelfort graced our Thursday-night seminar as its fiftieth distinguished guest. Professor Midelfort came to visit us from Mr. Jefferson's university in Charlottesville. At the University of Virginia he has established himself as a leading scholar in the history of medicine by skillfully combining the tools of psychology and history. This can be seen in his major works: *Witch Hunting in Southwestern Germany, 1562-1684* (1972), *Mad Princes of Renaissance Germany* (1994), and most recently, *A History of Madness in Sixteenth-Century Germany* (1999). Midelfort's interest in madness is "inherited" from his father. His father was a doctor and had hoped his son would be, too. In his statement on what makes him tick as an historian, Midelfort discussed how he shared his father's interest in medicine but became convinced that the most appropriate way to study medicine was to obtain a Ph.D. in history rather than a medical degree. Thus, he did eventually become a doctor as his father had hoped—a doctor of philosophy.


He would make an excellent medical doctor, for a caring bedside-

manner is evident in his work. He treats his historical subjects with as much attentiveness and respect as any patient could hope for from a physician. In a very real sense, his writings in the area of the history of medicine are not only a service to the field of history, but also to the field of ethics as he challenges us to be more compassionate towards those who suffer from ailments. Midelfort asks us to question modern assumptions about the naiveté of early modern peoples and our own smug self-assured "enlightenment." Similarly, he offers a convincing challenge to Michel Foucault's interpretation of the history of mental institutions by revealing that there was no "golden age" in early Europe for the insane before the bourgeoisie institutions of confinement made their mark. Midelfort's efforts have proven him to be a doctor with salutary advice to a public that sometimes needs a reminder of what it means to suffer. *



Prof. Dr. Irena Backus,
University of
Geneva,
Switzerland

by Michael Bruening

 n March 8, the Division was honored to welcome Prof. Dr. Irena Backus to Tucson to speak to the graduate seminar about her life and work. The author or editor of some fifty

books and articles, Backus works in the Institute for Reformation History and is the world's foremost expert on the use of the Church Fathers in the Reformation period.

She generously agreed to meet with the graduate students individually, where we talked about our personal research interests and she offered much good advice from her own unique perspective. These meetings are an invaluable part of the graduate student experience. Not only do they forge important personal contacts with internationally renowned scholars, but they also provide us with a fresh initial reaction to our research topics and can often suggest new ways to develop them.

In the evening at the graduate seminar, Backus answered the time-honored question to visiting scholars: "What makes you tick as an historian?" She took us on a fascinating autobiographical journey from her childhood in communist Poland to her education in England, which culminated in a doctoral thesis at Oxford University on the influence of Theodore Beza on the English New Testament. After some initial difficulty landing an academic job, she was finally snatched up by Pierre Fraenkel at the Institute in Geneva to work on an edition of Martin Bucer's commentary on the Gospel of John. She has been in Geneva ever since.

Afterwards, Backus took questions from the students about her publications. In addition to her

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'COMBIBIUM' ~ DRINKING TOGETHER

Four years ago, Prof. Dr. Heiko A. Oberman organized the Division's first "combibium," a small reception for our closest colleagues and their graduate students at the annual meetings of the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference and the Society for Reformation Research. Since time immemorial, human beings have marked significant events by lifting the cup. The combibium provides a forum for the Division to make its students known to other scholars in the field, to greet and thank old friends, and to symbolize our working together in a community of learning.

Mrs. Nancy O'Neill, the Division's longtime friend, hosted the event at the November meetings in Cleveland. Heiko Oberman greeted the sixty guests. He presented Luise Betterton with a plaque thanking her for

ten years of devotion to the Division. In their dealings with the Division during that time, many people in our field in North America and Europe have become acquainted with and come to appreciate Luise.

Prof. Dr. Susan C. Karant-Nunn, Associate Director, remarked briefly on the value of attending meetings in building her career. Toasting collegiality, she reminisced about the friendships formed over thirty years of professional conferences. *



"What makes you tick ... ?"
Continued from page 5

interest in the Church Fathers, she has worked extensively on Reformation biblical exegesis and interpretations of the book of Revelation through the centuries.

It was truly a rewarding evening during a semester that has seen an unusually large number of visiting historians. And on a per-

sonal note, I was particularly delighted to renew my acquaintance with Professor Backus, whom I first met two years ago while conducting research in Geneva. Visits from European scholars like her help to build bridges across the Atlantic Ocean, which are crucially important for the American scholar of European history, who must keep one foot on each continent. *

In Memory of two Special Friends of the Division



Grace Sternberg, 1902-2000, made the first donation to the endowment of the Heiko A. Oberman Chair in Late Medieval and Reformation Studies. As recently as a year and a half ago, at a mere 97 years of age, she chaired a meeting of a special committee to start this endowment on its way, and she concretely

demonstrated her commitment. In prior years, she had repeatedly made the Division the beneficiary of her generosity.

We shall miss her for her many contributions to the University and our community. Every encounter with her left one smiling, heartened, lifted up -- and over the years many Tucsonans enjoyed those encounters. Her wit and sparkle were irrepressible. In 1999, she fearlessly signed up to go

on a European lecture tour offered by Heiko Oberman.

We in the Division express our deep sympathy to Mrs. Sternberg's daughter, Ilse Sternberg, and grandchildren.

Marion Hersh, beloved partner of Henry Weiss and faithful friend to the Division, passed away on December 22, 2000. We will miss her. *

Student News

Congratulations to ...

★ **James Blakeley** and **Brandon Hartley** will travel to Europe this summer to do preliminary work in the archives on their dissertation topics. James will go to Fribourg, Switzerland, to study the Reformation in peasant communities, while Brandon is off to Paris to research Catholic sermons.

★ **Victoria Clisham** has been awarded a Fellowship from the Philanthropic Educational Organization, a group dedicated to encouraging increased opportunities in higher education for women. These funds will enable her to return to The Netherlands and Belgium to continue her research on the Inquisition in the Low Countries.

★ **Robert Christman** has been funded by the Institut für Europäische Geschichte in Mainz, Germany, to complete research for his dissertation entitled "Politics, Society and Theology: The Original Sin Controversy in the *Grafschaft* of Mansfeld."

★ **Dr. Peter Dykema** has been chosen for a tenure-track position in the Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy at Arkansas Tech University as assistant professor in history, beginning August 2001.

★ **Aurelio Espinosa** has been awarded the Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship 2001/2002 by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. It will enable him to travel to Spain, specifically to a private archive owned by the Duchess of Medinaceli, to continue research on his dissertation entitled "Absolute Power and Religious Intolerance in Early Modern Spain."



Frymire



Reid

★ **John Frymire** and **Jonathan Reid** both successfully

defended their doctoral dissertations within a week of each other in April. John will go on to a tenure-track position as assistant professor in the History Department at University of Missouri, Columbia, beginning in August. Jonathan will return to Paris to complete ongoing research projects before entering the job market in August.

★ **Joshua Rosenthal** has been accepted to the summer French program at Yale University, an intense language course with limited openings.

★ **Joel Van Amberg** has been awarded an extension to his Fulbright Fellowship. He and his family will continue on in Erlangen, Germany, while Joel pursues his research on the Eucharist in society.

Alumni

★ **Prof. Dr. Andrew Gow**, doctoral graduate of the Division now at the Department of History at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, has succeeded in attaining a three-year federal research grant to fund his work on vernacular Bible-reading and interpretation.

★ **Prof. Dr. Brad Gregory**, former graduate student of the Division who took his M.A. here in 1989 before earning his Ph.D. from Princeton, has been awarded the John Gilmary Shea Prize for his book, *Salvation at Stake: Christian Martyrdom in Early Modern Europe* (Harvard University Press, 1999). This

prize is awarded annually by the American Catholic Historical Association for the most original and significant contribution to the historiography of the Catholic Church.

Lifetime Achievement

★ **Prof. Dr. Heiko A. Oberman** was honored by the Board of Advisors of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and set the bar for a Lifetime Achievement Award by being its very first recipient. The award was conferred by Dean Holly M. Smith in recognition of his unsurpassed contributions to the scholarship and understanding of the later medieval and Reformation period, to the superb education of both undergraduate and graduate students, to the illumination and inspiration of the community through outreach efforts, and to the University through establishment of the internationally renowned Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies.

Staff Recognition



★ **Luise Betterton**, who is celebrating her eleventh year as Administrative Associate at The University of Arizona, has been recognized by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences with an Outstanding Staff Award for her innumerable talents and contributions to staff, students, community and guests of the Division. The award was conferred at the College's annual Staff Recognition Luncheon. ★

UA DIVISION FOR LATE MEDIEVAL AND REFORMATION STUDIES - GRADUATE UPDATES

Robert Bast (1993)

University of Tennessee
Department of History

Curtis Bostick (1993)

Southern Utah University
Department of History

Peter Dykema (1998)

Arkansas Tech University
Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy

John Frymire (2001)

University of Missouri, Columbia
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

Nicole Kuropka (M.A. 1997)

Fellow, Institut für Europäische Geschichte

Marjory Lange (1993, English major, History minor)

Western Oregon University
Department of English

Scott Manetsch (1997)

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
Department of Church History

Michael Milway (1997)

University of Toronto
Fellow, Centre for Reformation and
Renaissance Studies

Darleen Pryds (Ph.D. University of Wisconsin,
Madison, 1994)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Department of History

Erik Saak (1993)

Fellow, Institut für Europäische Geschichte

Jeff Tyler (1995)

Hope College, Michigan
Department of Religion

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