Marking the Beginning of the Thirty Years’ War Four Hundred Years Ago
by Ute Lotz-Heumann, Director and Heiko A. Oberman Professor

Another anniversary? And following so closely on the five-hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation? As a matter of fact, yes. But this one is somewhat different. 1618 marks the beginning of the most destructive war in European history before the twentieth century. The Thirty Years’ War was the consequence of one hundred years of religious and political conflicts and uneasy confessional coexistence that had begun in central Europe with the Protestant Reformation. We in the Division think it is important to mark this event because it is a powerful reminder of the terrible consequences of war, not least on the civilian population. The Thirty Years’ War was fought in central Europe, mostly in the Holy Roman Empire (Germany), and with the involvement of the Habsburg emperors, the German princes, the French monarch, and the Danish and Swedish kings. Like all wars it had a spark, the election of the Calvinist Elector of Saxony as King of Bohemia by the Bohemian Protestant estates in defiance of their traditional Habsburg overlords, but its long-term causes were much more complex and reached across central Europe and far back into the sixteenth century. Before and during the war, religious and political interests were deeply intertwined. The unwillingness by those in power to seek religious compromise meant that political institutions in Germany failed in the early seventeenth century. Instead, military alliances were formed, the Protestant Union and the Catholic League. Like any other war, the Thirty Years’ War meant violence and fatalities on the battlefields, but even more than that it impacted the civilian population. The armies of friends and foes pillaged towns and villages, and left destruction, famine, and disease in their wakes. In an age before statistics we can only estimate the number of casualties among civilians, and in some areas of Germany up to fifty percent of the population died. The novel The Adventures of Simplicius Simplicissimus, by the German author Hans Jakob Christoph von Grimmelshausen, published in 1669, was inspired by the devastation and horrors caused by the war. At the beginning of the novel, the main character, Simplicius, is forced to flee his village after soldiers have destroyed his father’s house and farm, stealing everything of any value, and raping and torturing the inhabitants. Peace was finally negotiated and the Thirty Years’ War came to an end in 1648, with the Peace of Westphalia.
I sat down to write this column a year ago and it was a year ago that I received the call offering me the position as the Susan C. Karant-Nunn Chair in Medieval and Early Modern Europe at the University of Arizona. As that academic year came to a close, I had been contemplating the upcoming 2017 Lunar Year activities and my return to Western Kentucky University. Although I looked forward to returning to WKU, that anticipation was tinged with a regret that I would not have easy access to such an amazing library of research books, daily interactions with a large scholarly community focused on the early modern period, and the excitement of the 2017 five-hundredth anniversary of the Reformation. That initial moment of surprise, my very first thought upon receiving the offer from Arizona was the realization that I would be moving to a place that had a scholarly community like the one I had enjoyed in Madison and one in campus and in the community has helped make the University of Arizona and Tucson home. As I complete my first year at the University of Arizona, I look forward to participating in the intellectual community and to opportunities to speak with the many of you who did not have the pleasure to meet this year. More immediately, I will be participating in the continuing discussions on the four-hundredth anniversary of the Thirty Years’ War as well as developing new projects and programming for the future.

In Memoriam

Anne Jacobson Schutte, 1940-2018

by Susan Karant-Nunn, Director Emerita and Regents’ Professor Emerita of History

With this tribute, I salute Anne Jacobson Schutte, who died on February 26 in Chicago. She was my colleague as North American Managing Editor (1998-2010) of sixteenthcenturystudies.org. As she examined the future of digital humanist scholarship, Anne was an innovator who did not shirk from taking on new challenges and new technology. After almost fifty years of participation in the Department of History, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the many people I have known on campus and in the community has helped make the University of Arizona and Tucson home.

Anne Jacobson Schutte was born on June 9, 1940, in Little Rock, Arkansas. She attended U.S. university, where she received her B.A. degree in 1962. She went on to obtain an M.A. degree in 1963 and a Ph.D. degree in 1967. She was the first female editor of sixteenthcenturystudies.org. She was an influential scholar in the field of sixteenth-century European history.

Anne Jacobson Schutte was a prolific scholar. She authored more than a dozen books and articles on various aspects of the Reformation and Early Modern period. Her work focused on the role of women in the Reformation and Early Modern period, and she was a leading scholar in the field of gender and religion.

Anne Jacobson Schutte was recognized for her contributions to the field of early modern history. She was awarded the Society for Historical Research’s Distinguished Service Award in 2000 and the Dorothy Thomas Award in 2004. She was also a fellow at the Royal Historical Society in London and a visiting fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey.

Anne Jacobson Schutte was a tireless advocate for the field of early modern history. She was a member of the American Historical Association and the Society for Historical Research, and she served as the president of the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference. She was also a member of the International Society for Early Modern History and the International Historical Association.

Anne Jacobson Schutte passed away on February 26, 2018, in Chicago, Illinois. She is survived by her husband, Richard E. Schutte, and their two children, Laura and David. She will be missed by her colleagues and friends in the field of early modern history.

Division of Classes for the Academic Year 2009-2010

Sixteenth Division faculty, associated faculty, alumni, and graduate students presented research papers, participated in panels, and chaired sessions at the Sixteenth Century Symposium in May 2009. Sixteenth Division faculty and staff were dedicated to the mission of the University of Arizona, and they were committed to the intellectual growth of their students. They were also committed to the social and cultural development of their community.

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Exploring the Archives of Germany
By Adam Bonikowske, doctoral student

Some dissertators spend their entire research time in a single archive, day after day, at the same desk, working with a single collection of sources. Others are explorers, searching for a collection in this archive, and maybe—if they are lucky—two or three at the next.

Last fall semester I visited nine different archives across Germany and Switzerland, digging for unpublished material on my topic wherever I could find it. Believe it or not, over twenty volumes of primary sources have been published on the subject of my dissertation, Anabaptists in the time of Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin. Therefore, finding those hidden, neglected, and unedited sources required numerous train rides and staying at different Airbnbs.

A good portion of my time was spent in a quiet building on the edge of a Mennonite community in Weierhof, in the Rhineland-Palatinate region of Germany. There, at the Mennonitische Forschungsstelle, directors Dr. Astrid von Schlachta and Gary Walther extended every kindness to my clutch of six students, working with a single desk original legal documents written by both evangelical reformers, Zwingli and Bullinger. As it turns out, Protestants—clergy and nobility alike—had much to say about Anabaptists, whom they viewed as a menace to society and seducers of simple folk.

Beyond Marburg and Zurich, my dissertation took me to other city and state archives in Karlsruhe, Mülhausen, Ludwigsburg, Darmstadt, and Stuttgart. The reading room at the Main State Archive in Stuttgart was most impressive, offering two stories of workspace with individual desks for scholars. Here I was able to unfold carefully across my entire desk original legal documents made of vellum. By lucky chance, my visit coincided with the Christmas festive season in Germany. I visited several Weihnachtsmärkte (Christmas markets), such as the one in Stuttgart, which is the size of three city blocks! Experiencing this very special element of German culture, along with the success of discovering so much unpublished material, were just a few of the many rewards I derived from doing archival research abroad.

By Adam standing in Luther’s shoes at Warts by the Cathedral.

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This new view of war—from the perspective of the women in the convents—marks a continuation of the groundbreaking social history undertaken by Regents’ Professor Emerita Susan C. Karant-Nunn, but it also represents a new and innovative line of historical inquiry and research. If the lecture was any indication, and we wholeheartedly believe it was, Professor Plummer is an excellent fit for the first Susan C. Karant-Nunn Chair. Professor Plummer’s Inaugural Address
By Rachel Small, doctoral student

On Wednesday, March 28, Professor Marjorie Elizabeth Plummer, the first incumbent of the Susan C. Karant-Nunn Chair in Reformation and Early Modern European History, delivered her Inaugural Lecture, “Defending the Convent: Interactions between Soldiers and Nuns during the Thirty Years’ War in Germany.” In keeping with this year’s theme, “The Miseries of War,” she examined both the Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648) and the century of wars that preceded it. Professor Plummer’s lecture began with an overview of convents during the German Peasants’ War (1525-26). Peasants, claiming to have been fueled by Martin Luther’s writings on Christian freedom, stormed local convents, seeking to eradicate and secularize those Catholic institutions. Indeed, Luther had called for the dissolution of monasteries in 1521, marking the beginnings of the first local raids on monasteries and convents. Some Protestants took up arms (both literally and metaphorically) in an attempt to carry out these marching orders. However, Luther’s wishes were not to be fulfilled everywhere. Monasticism persisted and adapted to post-Reformation Germany.

During the Peasants’ War and the Schmalkaldic War (1546-47), Protestant troops began to spare certain convents. In this unexpected turn of events, soldiers consciously chose to preserve convents that housed women who were reforming—yes, there were Protestant nuns! Yet, at the culmination of all these political and religious tensions, Professor Plummer estimates that both Protestant and Catholic troops plundered nearly ten percent of the remaining convents, regardless of confession, during the Thirty Years’ War. The troops were desperate for access to resources, such as foodstuffs and livestock, which convents often owned in plenty. One exception to the experience of most nuns during war was that troops did not plunder convents housing nuns of more than one denomination and instead sought to bolster the position of their coreligionists.

City officials and heads of religious houses monitored the troops’ movements, gearing up to either fight or flee. The abbess at the convent of Teerlingen, in a vulnerable territorial border region, pleaded with the Duke of Braunschweig-Lüneburg to allow her and her sisters to move temporarily to another convent in Lüneburg because she had heard that the imperial troops might change their direction. Although the Duke did not grant her request, the Lutheran abbess and nuns moved without permission as the imperial, largely Catholic, troops plowed through the region. In an especially powerful moment of the lecture, the Professor told the story of a Lutheran abbess of the convent of Fischbeck in northwestern Germany who had lost her hand and her life in combat with imperial soldiers intent on raiding the convent.

In this marvelous lecture, we learned about the impact soldiers had on civilian and religious communities. Religion was clearly a driving factor in these wars, but troops also harmed the lives of their coreligionists. Even nuns, who were allegedly cut off from the world, entered into the fray of war, fighting for their homes, their religion, and their lives.

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Congratulations to our new Ph.D. and M.A. Graduates!

Marking the Beginning of the Thirty Years’ War Four Hundred Years Ago

This peace is a powerful reminder that hardly anything is gained and much is lost in war. The Peace of Westphalia is effectively a compromise which mitigates between the interests of all the parties involved, and, as such, one wonders whether a compromise could not have been reached without military action. I would argue that it was certainly not worth the death and destruction that is conveyed in a nutshell by two sentences about my home town of Windecken in Matthäus Merian’s Topographia Hassiae (1646): “It used to be a splendid little town, surrounded by a circular wall. But now almost half of it has been reduced to a pile of rubble, and it is a sad wasteland.” While war is not an uplifting subject, talking about its consequences and raising awareness about its futility are important, in this and any other age. Please join us for our Summer Lecture Series in August and for the Town and Gown Lecture with Professor Peter Wilson in November!

On Sausage Salad and Subservient Subjects: My Fulbright Experience

I learned a lot as a Fulbright student in Germany this past year. For instance, Christmas markets truly are amazing. Wurstsalat is not a salad with sausage in it; it is literally a pile of bologna covered with onions and soaked in vinegar. And no matter how prepared you are for your research, something will always surprise you. After a process that began in early September 2016 (and involved the help of many colleagues here at the UA), I was honored to receive a Fulbright U.S. Student Fellowship last March. Every year, over 3,500 “Fulbrighters” in 140 countries around the world receive stipends and support to conduct international research, enroll in foreign universities, and teach classes in other countries. Germany also offers spousal support, which made it possible for my family to experience this time abroad with me. Despite reams of bureaucratic Papierkram (a satisfying colloquialism akin to our “paperwork,” our family settled in quickly. I spent most of my time at the General State Archive in Karlsruhe, but I also visited nearly a dozen other collections. I was able to take my family with me to Bern, Zurich, and Amsterdam – all cities with holdings important for my research.

My dissertation focuses on the Electoral Palatinate in southwestern Germany, where villages and even sizable towns were almost completely depopulated after the Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648). Desperate for peasants to rebuild their estates, landlords welcomed Anabaptists fleeing persecution in Switzerland, and in 1664, the elector granted them religious toleration and legal privileges in his lands. From the few things written about these Anabaptists, I came to believe that they had difficulty adapting to the legal and cultural conditions in the Palatinate. I expected to find sources typical for most studies of Anabaptists: trial records, published attacks and defenses, and carefully curated stories of persecution. I found none of these. Surprise!

Even though I knew that these Anabaptists had a unique relationship with their Palatine lords, it took reading hundreds of pages of source material before I experienced my breakthrough, and, to paraphrase Luther, immediately I saw the whole of my research in a different light. Though many Anabaptists in previous decades had considered themselves to be good citizens, the authorities had rarely agreed, leading to inquiries, expulsions, and executions. Yet in the Palatine records, many nobles and civic officials accepted the Anabaptists’ characterization of themselves as eure untertänigen Untertanen (“your most subservient subjects”) and defended them to the clergy and high council. I was so busy looking for religious dissidents that I failed to notice the loyal subjects right under my nose! I leave my colleagues with some advice as I begin preparing my research for conference presentations this fall. When you get to your research location, immerse yourself in the culture. Never assume you know what a food is by the name. And always keep your eyes open for the surprises that await you.

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My first and only encounter with Wurstsalat.

On Sausage Salad and Subservient Subjects: My Fulbright Experience
by Cory D. Davis, doctoral student

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Continued from page 1

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Adam working in the Mennonitische Forschungsstelle in Weimar.

If you are feeling particularly brave, you may even engage in the Palatine dialect with some of the locals. After Weihenfroh, my project led me to the university town of Marburg where, at the Hessian State Archive, I was able to work with original sixteenth-century sources written in the very hand of that famous Lutheran prince, the Landgrave Philip of Hesse. Then, following Marburg, I traveled to Zurich in search of sources in the Manuscript Room of the Central Library and the State Archive. Here I encountered several documents written by both evangelical reformers, Zwingli and Bullinger. As it turns out, Protestants—clergy and nobility alike—had much to say about Anabaptists, whom they viewed as a menace to society and seducers of simple folk.

Beyond Marburg and Zurich, my dissertation took me to other cities and state archives in Karlsruhe, Mühlhausen, Ludwigsburg, Darmstadt, and Stuttgart. The reading room at the Main State Archive in Stuttgart was most impressive, offering two stories of workspace with individual desks for scholars. Here I was able to unfold carefully across my entire workspace with individual desks made of vellum. By lucky chance, my visit coincided with the Christmas festive season in Germany. I visited several Weihnachtsmärkte (Christmas markets), such as the one in Stuttgart, which is the size of three city blocks! Experiencing this very special element of German culture, along with the success of discovering so much unpublished material, were just a few of the many rewards I derived from doing archival research abroad.

Professor Plummer’s Inaugural Address

By Rachel Small, doctoral student

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Professor Beth Plummer (seated) surrounded by from left to right: Division Director Urs Lotz-Houmann, Rachel Small, Professor Alison Futrell, Head of the Department of History, Anna Mornoph, Benjamin Miller, and Hannah McClain.

Professor Plummer told the story of a Lutheran abbess of the convent of Fischbeck in northwestern Germany who had lost her hand and her life in combat with imperial soldiers intent on raiding the convent. In this marvelous lecture, we learned about the impact soldiers had on civilian and religious communities. Religion was clearly a driving factor in these events, but it also harmed the lives of their coreligionists. Even nuns, who were allegedly cut off from the world, entered into the fray of war, fighting for their homes, their religion, and their lives. This new view of war—from the perspective of the women in the convents—marks a continuation of the ground-breaking social history undertaken by Regents’ Professor Emerita Susan C. Karant-Nunn, but it also represents a new and innovative line of historical inquiry and research. If the lecture was any indication, and we wholeheartedly believe it was, Professor Plummer is an excellent fit for the first Susan C. Karant-Nunn Chair.

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A word from the Karant-Nunn Chair

First Impressions and Remembering Histories

by Beth Plummer, Susan C. Karant-Nunn Professor

as I sat down to write this column, it felt like it was a year ago that I received the call offering me the position as the Susan C. Karant-Nunn Professor. As I was contemplating the upcoming 2017 Lunar New Year activities and my return to Western Kentucky University. Although I looked forward to returning to WKU, that anticipation was tinged with a regret that I would not have easy access to such a stunning library of history books, daily interactions with a large scholarly community focused on the early modern period, and the excitement of the 2017 five-hundredth anniversary year. From this initial moment of surprise, my very first thought upon receiving the offer from Arizona was the realization that this was going to be moving to a place that had a scholarly community like the one I had known in Wisconsin. As far as far as it has been a busy year since that call, it has been an exciting one. I have sold my house in Kentucky, settled my books in the glass building, broke and healed a foot, bought a condo, taught my first Division Seminar, gave my inaugural Lecture, and participated in two doctoral defenses. I also discovered that I can go to a wonderful library full of volumes on the Reformation whenever I want. Interactions with the Division reminded me daily why the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies has the international reputation it does. At the same time, the warm welcome I have received from the Department of History, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the many people I have met on campus and in the community has helped make the University of Arizona and Tucson home.

As I complete my first year at the University of Arizona, I look forward to the exciting research I will do in its intellectual community and to opportunities to speak with the many of you whom I did not have the pleasure to meet this year. More immediately, I will be participating in the continuing discussions on the four-hundredth anniversary of the Thirty Years’ War as well as developing new projects and programming for the future.

In Memoriam

Anne Jacobson Schutte, 1940-2018

by Susan Karant-Nunn, Director Emerita and Regents’ Professor Emerita of History

With this tribute, I salute Anne Jacobson Schutte, who passed away on February 26 in Chicago. She was my colleague as North American Managing Coeditor (1998-2010) of the Archive for Reformation History and a consummate scholar. Following a B.A. at Peabody College, she attended Brown University, she took the M.A. and Ph.D. at Stanford under the direction of Sonja6. In 1969, she published a dissertation on Pierre Paolo Vergerio in Ixtapa, Mexico.

Karant-Nunn, Doctoral student, and Dr. Christopher Hanks receiving the Ten Commandments in August, 1993 (courtesy of Dr. Christopher Hanks)

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Marking the Beginning of the Thirty Years’ War Four Hundred Years Ago
by Ute Lotz-Heumann, Director and Heiko A. Oberman Professor

Another anniversary? And following so closely on the five-hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation? As a matter of fact, yes. But this one is somewhat different. 1618 marks the beginning of the most destructive war in European history before the twentieth century. The Thirty Years’ War was the consequence of one hundred years of religious and political conflicts and uneasy confessional coexistence that had begun in central Europe with the Protestant Reformation. We in the Division think it is important to mark this event because it is a powerful reminder of the terrible consequences of war, not least on the civilian population. The Thirty Years’ War was fought in central Europe, mostly in the Holy Roman Empire, and with the involvement of the Habsburg emperors, the German princes, the French monarch, and the Danish and Swedish kings. Like all wars it had a spark, the election of the Calvinist Elector of Saxony to the Sacred Roman Imperial crown in 1557. The Thirty Years’ War meant violence and fatalities on the battlefields, but even more than that it impacted the civilian population. The armies of friends and foes pillaged towns and villages, and left destruction, famine, and disease in their wakes. In an age before statistics we can only estimate the number of casualties among civilians, and in some areas of Germany up to fifty percent of the population died. The novel The Adventures of Simplicius Simplicissimus, by the German author Hans Jakob Christoph von Grimmelshausen, published in 1669, was inspired by the devastation and horrors caused by the war. At the beginning of the novel, the main character, Simplicius, is forced to flee his village after soldiers have destroyed his father’s house and farm, stealing everything of any value, and raping and torturing the inhabitants. Peace was finally negotiated and the Thirty Years’ War came to an end in 1648, with the Peace of Westphalia.

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Continued on page 4