

history

NEWSLETTER

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BROWN

HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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history

NEWSLETTER

A Word From The Chair

Ken Sacks, the outgoing Chair, has kindly suggested that I compose the introduction to the History Newsletter as his replacement. I do so happily, not least because it gives me an opportunity to thank him for all his hard work and accomplishments, always performed with good humor and a smile, during his two years of chairing the department. Among Ken's many accomplishments, during the first year of his "reign" the Department conducted a Senior Search, which concluded with the hiring of Cynthia Brokaw, our new scholar of Chinese History, who will begin teaching this fall. During Ken's second year the Department conducted a search in United States History, which culminated with the addition of Linford Fisher to our already distinguished list of American historians. We welcome Cynthia and Lin most warmly, and we wish Ken a quieter yet productive year now that he has relinquished his post.

The History Department faces many challenges in the coming years. These have to do both with material issues of resources and funds, and with intellectual and scholarly matters. In the current economic situation, all institutions of higher education in the United States have had to pay the price of reckless speculation by some of the country's top financial organizations. As we plan the future of the Department, we will need to keep focused on the essential task of academe: the pursuit of knowledge and understanding and the relentless rethinking of conventions and truisms, even as we maintain respect for tradition and past achievements. This is why the current economic crunch also provides us with an opportunity to reexamine and remold the academic profile of the Department. History, as a profession and a discipline, has been dramatically transformed over the past few decades. Our perspectives of the past have both grown and changed. Traditional geographical and chronological categorizations have been challenged, and different ways and paths of approaching the past have shed new light on well known historical events as well as illuminating areas of the past that had previously remained in the shadows. As we adapt to the changing material and intellectual environment in which we find ourselves, we will also strive to maintain and enhance our position as one of the most distinguished, creative, and exciting departments of history in the country.

Our incoming faculty members clearly reflect this combined effort to maintain excellence and look at the past with new eyes. Cynthia Brokaw received her Ph.D. in History and East Asian Languages from Harvard, and has taught at Bowdoin College, Vanderbilt University, the University of Oregon, and Ohio State University, before coming to Brown. The author, among many other publications, of *The Ledgers of Merit and Demerit: Social Change and Moral Order in Late Imperial China* (Princeton University Press, 1991), Cynthia is one of the foremost scholars of Late Imperial China. She has singlehandedly forged a new field of inquiry into the history of the book in China, and is currently researching the book trade in South China from the seventeenth to the twentieth century. Linford Fisher received his doctorate from Harvard University, and comes to us from Indiana University South Bend. He is currently revising a book manuscript on religion and the shaping of native cultures in Early America, as well as working on slavery and servitude and the involvement of Native Americans in the Revolutionary War. This is fascinating, cutting-edge work, that fits well with the important work of our other Americanists.

Finally, as a result of Karen Mota's retirement – thank you Karen for all your years of service! – Cherrie Guerzon has now moved into her office as Academic Department Manager, as well as keeping watch over her previous duties. She is already doing a fantastic job, most ably assisted by Mary Beth Bryson and Julissa Bautista. We are all completely dependent on the administrative skills and efficiency of this small and devoted team, even as we do our best to enhance the staff once the budget allows us to do so.

I wish us all a productive, enjoyable, and, most importantly, intellectually invigorating year!

Cover image / Brokaw

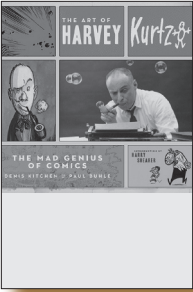
Having spread his wares out for sale, an itinerant Chinese bookseller relaxes on his book box, pipe in one hand and book in the other. He and his “shop” are isolated in space here, but we can imagine that he is one of many peddlers who have traveled to a village or town on market day; and that, in fact, he is one among a noisy crowd of eager buyers and sellers. When the market closes, he will pack his books in the box and, hoisting it on a shoulder pole, walk on to the next town and the next busy market. The titles of his books are not legible, but we can easily suppose that they are cheap imprints of school primers, the Confucian Classics, poetry anthologies, fortune-telling guides, collections of medical prescriptions, songbooks, historical novels, and adventure stories—all the works that achieved almost universal popularity in seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century China.

This picture suggests one of the most interesting and important phenomena of late-imperial Chinese social history: the spread of texts—even sophisticated texts like the Confucian Classics—deep into the Chinese countryside, to peasant villages and small market towns earlier isolated from the world of books. The primers and Confucian Classics served the needs of village schools, where the sons of peasants and shopkeepers were made to memorize these texts (girls were generally not taught to read). Foreign observers often noted that the chanting of schoolboys' reciting their lessons was one of the most common sounds of village life in China. If a boy were particularly talented—and particularly lucky—he might move on to advanced study of the Classics, which offered him a chance to participate in the elaborate Chinese civil-service examination system—the “Chinese examination hell”—and perhaps even to earn an official post, the dream goal of the ambitious. Failing this, however, he nonetheless had a chance to develop some degree of literacy, enough at least to make his way through a glossary of agricultural terms, helpful if he continued farming; through a fortune-telling manual, essential if he embraced geomancy or horoscope reading as a profession; through a prescription handbook, necessary if he hoped to become a local medical practitioner. The ability to read, even at a very basic level, gave him access to new kinds of entertainment—the lively novels and racy songbooks that proliferated at the time—as well. In short, peddlers like the one here were agents (unwitting to be sure) of expanded education and increased literacy; they brought the fundamental expressions of Chinese cultural values to the hinterland.

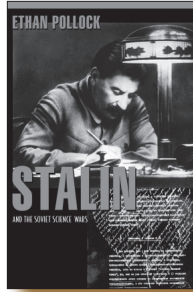
These men, together with the block-cutters, paper-makers, printers, and binders (male and female) who produced the books they sold, are the focus of my research in Chinese book culture, in particular in the social and cultural changes that increased popular literacy and the spread of texts brought to late-imperial Chinese society. For my most recent book, I studied a popular publishing industry in western Fujian province. The publishers and booksellers of Sibao produced hundreds of popular texts and sold them, through networks of itinerant peddlers and branch bookstores, throughout most of south China between the late seventeenth and the early twentieth centuries. I imagine that many of their texts—generally small and cheaply produced—were sold as depicted here: spread out on a mat on village market day to peasants, local craftsmen, and village shopkeepers eager to attain or improve their reading skills, ambitious for the education of their sons, desirous of learning a new profession, or simply seeking a little light entertainment.

Source: From *The Costume of China: illustrated by sixty engravings, with explanations in English and French* by George Henry Mason (London: Printed for W. Miller, 1800). Courtesy of the State Library of Ohio, Columbus, Ohio. “A Bookseller” is one of a series of pen and wash pictures of crafts and costumes by Pu Qua, completed in 1799 at the behest of George Henry Mason while he was visiting the British factory in Guangzhou.

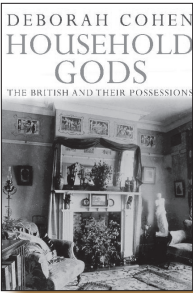
Cynthia Brokaw



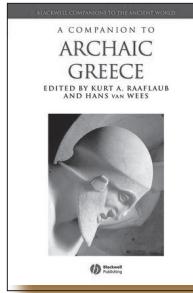
Paul Buhle and Denis Kitchen
The Art of Harvey Kurtzman: The Mad Genius of Comics
Abrams and Company Publisher, 2009



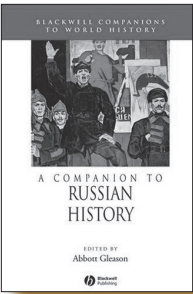
Ethan Pollock
Stalin and the Soviet Science Wars
Princeton University Press, pbk. 2009



Deborah Cohen
Household Gods: The British and their Possessions 1830-1945
Yale University Press, pbk 2009



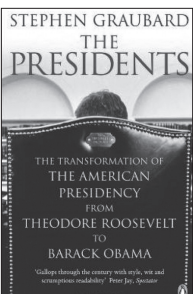
Kurt A. Raaflaub, Hans van Wees
A Companion to Archaic Greece
Wiley-Blackwell Publisher, 2009



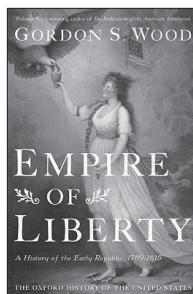
Abbott Gleason
A Companion to Russian History
Wiley-Blackwell Publisher, 2009



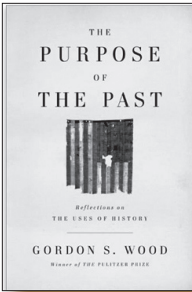
Thomas E. Skidmore
Brazil: Five Centuries of Change
Oxford University Press, pbk 2009



Stephen Graubard
The Presidents: The Transformation of the American Presidency from Theodore Roosevelt to Barack Obama
Penguin Press, rev. 2009



Gordon Wood
Empire of Liberty: A History of the Early Republic, 1789-1815
Oxford University Press, 2009



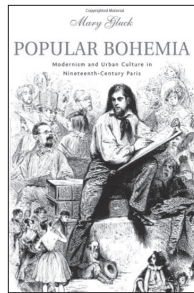
Gordon Wood
The Purpose of the Past: Reflections on the Uses of History
 Penguin Press, pbk 2009



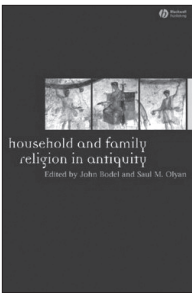
Howard Chudacoff
Children at Play: An American History
 New York University Press, pbk 2008



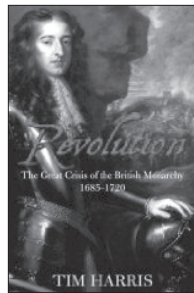
Omer Bartov
The "Jew" in Cinema: From the Golem to Don't Touch My Holocaust
 Hebrew translation, 2008



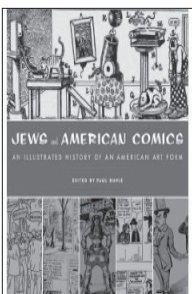
Mary Gluck
Popular Bohemia: Modernism and Urban Culture in Nineteenth-Century Paris
 Harvard University Press, pbk 2008



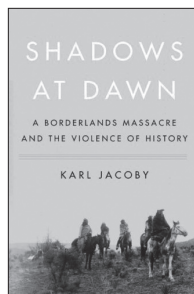
John Bodel, Saul M. Olyan
Household and Family Religion in Antiquity
 Wiley-Blackwell Publisher, 2008



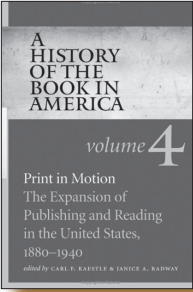
Tim Harris
Revolution: The Great Crisis of the British Monarchy, 1685-1720
 Penguin Press, pbk 2008



Paul Buhle
Jews and American Comics: An Illustrated History of an American Art Form
 The New Press, 2008

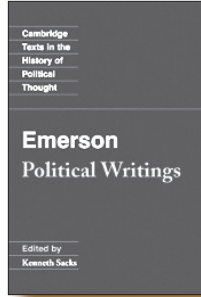


Karl Jacoby
Shadows at Dawn: A Borderlands Massacre and the Violence of History
 Penguin Press, 2008



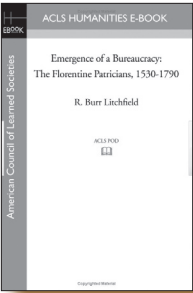
Carl Kaestle
A History of the Book in America: Volume 4: Print in Motion: The Expansion of Publishing and Reading in the United States, 1880-1940

University of North Carolina Press, 2008



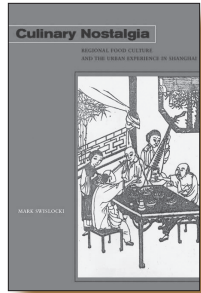
Ken Sacks
Emerson: Political Writings

Cambridge University Press, 2008



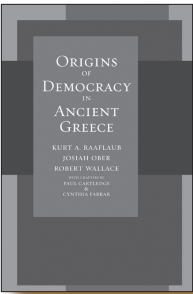
R. Burr Litchfield
Emergence of a Bureaucracy: The Florentine Patricians, 1530-1790

Humanities E-Book, pbk 2008



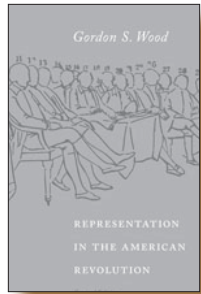
Mark Swislocki
Culinary Nostalgia: Regional Food Culture and the Urban Experience in Shanghai

Stanford University Press, 2008



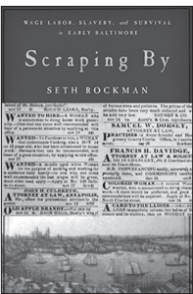
Kurt A. Raaflaub, Josiah Ober, and Robert W. Wallace
Origins of Democracy in Ancient Greece

University of California Press, pbk 2008



Gordon Wood
Representation in the American Revolution

University of Virginia Press, pbk 2008



Seth Rockman
Scraping By: Wage Labor, Slavery, and Survival in Early Baltimore

The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008

New Faculty



CYNTHIA BROKAW joined the faculty in the fall of 2009 as a professor of history. A historian of late imperial China, she specializes in the study of publishing and book culture. Her recent book, *Commerce in Culture: The Sibao Book Trade in the Qing and Republican Periods* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2007), draws on archival sources and field work to describe the workings of an important regional woodblock publishing-bookselling center and to analyze the impact that its products had on literacy and social order in southern China from the late seventeenth through the early twentieth centuries. She has also edited, with Kai-wing Chow, a volume of essays on late imperial Chinese book history, *Printing and Book Culture in Late Imperial China* (University of California Press, 2005). Now, after a year of research in Sichuan province (funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Council of Learned Societies), she is working on a study of the role that publishing and the spread of book culture played in the integration of frontier regions into the Qing empire.



LINFORD D. FISHER joined the faculty in the summer of 2009 as an assistant professor of History. Linford received his doctorate from Harvard University in 2008, where he served as a Tutor in History and Literature in 2007-2008. For the 2008-2009 academic year, he was an assistant professor of History at Indiana University—South Bend. Linford's current book project, *The Indian Great Awakening: Religion and the Shaping of Native cultures in Early America*, is an in-depth study of long term cultural and religious change among American Indians in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Long Island, NY. Linford has published essays in the *New England Quarterly* and the *Harvard Theological Review* and has received fellowships from Harvard University, the American Antiquarian Society, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the American Philosophical Society, and, most recently, from the Massachusetts Historical Society and the National Endowment for the Humanities. His courses at Brown will cover various aspects of early American history, including religion, American Indians, and material culture. Linford's next project is a study of indentured servitude and slavery among the African and Indian populations in colonial New England.

Faculty Activities

ENGIN AKARLI'S article on "Islamic Law in the Ottoman Empire" will appear in the Oxford Encyclopedia of Legal History. He also wrote several conference papers. He delivered the keynote addresses at the conference on "One Island, Many Histories: Rethinking the Politics of the Past in Cyprus" organized by the International Peace Research Institute-Oslo in Nicosia, Cyprus, as well as at the conference on "Middle East History and Historiography" held at the University of Chicago. In addition, he read a paper on "Rulers and Law Making in Ottoman Legal Practice" at the conference on "Empires and Law: Principles, Practices" organized by the European Science Foundation at Utrecht University; a paper on "Missionary Education as Maker and Breaker of Selves in Lebanon" at the conference on "The Great Powers in the Holy Land (1799-1917)" organized by the Harriman Institute at Columbia University, and a paper on "Lebanese Historiography and Identity" at the conference on "Arab Lands in Ottoman Times" organized by Marmara University in Istanbul.

OMER BARTOV spent the past academic year on leave, supported by a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The bulk of his time was devoted to preparing and writing his new book, tentatively titled *Blood Brothers: Buczacz, Biography of a Town*. This book, which Bartov has researched for the past thirteen years, tells the story of one town in Eastern Europe from its beginnings in the fourteenth century to its destruction as a multiethnic community in World War II. Buczacz was the home of Poles, Ukrainians, and Jews, and Bartov hopes that an analysis of the relations between these three ethnic and religious groups will shed light on the dynamics of coexistence, ethnic conflict, and genocide in Eastern Europe and beyond. A first draft should be completed by the end of the calendar year. In the course of the year Bartov also lectured widely about his research and publications.

Invited lectures included the Wallenberg Oration at the Australian Center for Jewish Civilization in Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, as well as public lectures at the Sydney Jewish Museum and in Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand; the Annual Hugo Valentin lecture in Uppsala University, Sweden; the Eli N. Evans '58 Distinguished Lectureship at the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; a public lecture at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City; and lectures at the Harvard Law School, the Harvard Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Harvard Center for Jewish Studies, and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies conference in Chicago.

Bartov's publication this year include the articles "Eastern Europe as the Site of Genocide" in *The Journal of Modern History* and "The Second World War as a Challenge to Ukrainian Historiography," in the Ukrainian journal *Ukraina Moderna*; the book chapters "Interethnic Relations in the Holocaust as Seen Through Postwar Testimonies," in *Lessons and Legacies*, vol. 7, edited by Doris L. Bergen, "White Spaces and Black Holes," in *The Shoah in Ukraine*, edited by Ray Brandon and Wendy Lower, and "Images of Genocide" in *What Matters*, edited by David Elliot Cohen; and the forthcoming essay, "9/11 in the Rearview Mirror," in *Through Different Lenses*, edited by Yossi Shain and Eric Langenbacher.

As of July 1 Bartov will be the new chair of the History Department for a period of three years.

MARI JO BUHLE retired at the end of the academic year and moved to Madison, Wisconsin. In March, at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians, she participated in a panel entitled "Going on Forty" that assessed the state of graduate training in U.S. women's history since the 1970s. The scholars gathered there reflected on their long careers and noted with pride that all

Faculty Activities continued

major universities, now with the exception of Brown, offer specialized training in American women's history. In April, Professor Buhle's graduate students hosted a one-day conference to mark her retirement and to celebrate their own accomplishments as scholars and teachers of women's history. In May, Professor Buhle signed off on the fifty-fourth dissertation that she directed, said farewell to Providence, and returned to her native Midwest—where she continues to oversee the dissertation work of a dozen Brown graduate students. She also remains committed to undergraduate education in U.S. women's history. In 2008, she published (with co-authors Teresa Murphy and Jane Gerhard) *Women and the Making of America*, a college-level textbook published by Prentice-Hall/Pearson. Her first months of retirement are devoted to revisions for the 7th edition of *Out of Many: A History of the American People*, a co-authored college-level textbook also published by Prentice-Hall/Pearson.

PAUL BUHLE has edited ten nonfiction, historical comic art volumes in the past several years, including biographies of Isadora Duncan, Emma Goldman and Che Guevara; adaptations of Howard Zinn and Studs Terkel; and his latest book, *The Art Of Harvey Kurtzman*, an homage to his childhood hero, founder of MAD Magazine.

HOWARD CHUDACOFF returned to teaching in 2008-9 after a year on sabbatic leave. One of his courses involved a new sophomore-only seminar, team-taught on the history of intercollegiate athletics. He currently is working on new editions of *The Evolution of American Urban Society* (the 7th, now including Brown graduate alumnus Peter Baldwin) and *A People and a Nation* (9th edition). He also is continuing research on his next book on major turning points on the history of intercollegiate athletics

DEBORAH COHEN spent the year at the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, where she wrote three

chapters of a new book, *Family Secrets: The Rise of Confessional Culture in Britain*. In April, she spoke at the University of Pennsylvania as part of the Annenberg Distinguished Speakers series.

DOUGLAS COPE is currently preparing a manuscript on Mexico City's "informal economy" in the eighteenth century. He presented some of his findings at the New England Council of Latin American Studies in October 2008. He published an essay in *Imperial Subjects* (Duke University Press), an anthology on race and identity in the colonial era, and has another essay forthcoming in *Documenting Latin America* (Prentice-Hall).

While continuing working in his book project *Between Intelligence and Ethnography: Portuguese Perceptions of the Mughal Empire, ca. 1570-1670*, **JORGE FLORES** has organized a Conference in Brown on the seventeenth-century Jesuit António Vieira (November 7-8) and co-organized a Conference on hierarchy and social mobility in the early modern Iberian World in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (June 22-25). He wrote articles currently under submission and gave a lecture on the social world of native interpreters in Imperial Goa at the Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern University (May 7). Jorge also finished editing a volume, with Rudi Mathee (University of Delaware) on Hormuz, the Persian Gulf and the Portuguese, to be published by Peeters in 2010.

ABBOTT GLEASON co-curated an exhibition at the Bell Gallery entitled "Views and Re-Views: Soviet Political Posters and Cartoons," which ran from September 6 until October 19, 2008, for which he wrote a catalogue essay as well. Professor Gleason lectured at the University of Virginia for the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in April, 2009. His edited volume, the Blackwell Companion to Russian History, was published by Wiley-Blackwell, also in April. Gleason continued to team-teach Russian 105, the cultural history

Faculty Activities continued

of modern Russia, and will do so again in the fall of this coming academic year. Professor Gleason's memoirs, entitled *A Liberal Education*, will be published this summer in Cambridge, Massachusetts, by Tidepool Press. The best news of all: the birth of a second grandchild in May of this year.

MARY GLUCK continues to work on her book on Budapest Jewish modernity, for which she has received support from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. During the past year, she has expanded the focus of her book by teaching a new seminar on Central European Jewish Cities, which focused on Berlin, Vienna, Budapest and Prague. She has also presented papers at the Johns Hopkins University on "Jewish Self-Fashioning through Popular Culture," and at the University of Pennsylvania on "Jewish Commercial Entertainment in Budapest." In the spring of 2009, the Chinese translation of her book on Popular Bohemia came out and she wrote an opera program entitled "Bohemia before La Boheme" for the premier of Puccini's La Boheme presented by the Goteborgs Operan in November 2008.

ELLIOTT GORN finished his stint as chair of American Civilization in July. He published *Sports in Chicago* (University of Illinois Press, 2008) and *Dillinger's Wild Ride: The Year That Made America's Public Enemy Number One* (Oxford University Press, 2009). Next year he will be teaching in Helsinki, Finland.

STEPHEN GRAUBARD has spent the last year both in the United States, in New York, where his children and grandchildren live, and in England, mostly in his country house in Pilton, sometimes in the London apartment in Chelsea. His book, *The Presidents*, has come out in a revised edition with Penguin, and now includes a new chapter on Obama and a greatly revised chapter on the junior Bush. He is busy writing a new book that will include chapters on celebrated twentieth-century men and women

he was fortunate enough to know, including Walter Lippmann, Dorothy Thompson, Henry Kissinger and McGeorge Bundy. Professor Graubard may include others if his Penguin editor deems that necessary.

This academic year **JAMES N. GREEN** co-edited the seventh edition of *Modern Latin America* with Peter K. Smith of the University of California, San Diego, and Thomas E. Skidmore, Professor Emeritus of Latin American history at Brown University that will be published by Oxford University Press in January 2010. The completely revised and updated edition will also feature a website with student resources and a teacher's guide for instruction. He also completed the edited volume, *A Mother's Cry: A Memoir of Politics, Prison, and Torture under the Brazilian Military Dictatorship* that will be published by Duke University Press. *A Mother's Cry* documents the arrest of Marcos Arruda, a political dissident (and former Brown University Visiting Professor), and follows his family's efforts to get him released from prison. Green continues his interest in the Brazilian military regime through on-going research for a new book project on the life and times of Herbert Daniel, a former medical student and Brazilian revolutionary who later became one of Brazil's first AIDS activists. In June 2009, Green co-organized and participated in the Second International Conference on Brazilian History and Anthropology held at the University of São Paulo that brings together Brazilian and U.S. scholars working on topics of common interest. He also co-authored an article with former Brown undergraduate Abigail Jones on U.S. foreign policy in Brazil in the early 1960s that appeared in the scholarly journal of the Brazilian Historical Association. This article was the result of a collaboration initially supported with an Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award. Green currently serves as the President of the New England Council on Latin American Studies.

This year **FRANÇOISE HAMLIN** was on teaching leave in the fall and taught two classes in the spring (a graduate class on the African American Freedom Struggle and a survey lecture course on African American History). She completed a draft of her manuscript titled, *The Story Isn't Finished: Continuing Histories of the Black Freedom Struggle*, a deep study focusing on the various intertwining stories, events and actors that created the civil rights movement in Coahoma County, Mississippi from the end of WWII to the turn of the century. She continued work on a volume titled, *War, Freedom and Patriotism: An Anthology of African American Writing* where edited literary pieces accompany original historical essays about the involvement of African Americans in the U.S. military from the Revolutionary War to the current conflict in Iraq. Hamlin also participated in 2 conferences, one honoring the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the other at the Southern Association for Women Historians. She presented material on African American twentieth century history in a seminar series hosted by Primary Source in Boston for the advanced training of high school teachers. From July 1 she will be the Hans Rothfels Assistant Professor of History and Africana Studies.

TIM HARRIS was a fellow at the Cogut Humanities Center for the spring semester of 2009, where he was working on his study of prejudice in early modern England. He published a review article on 'James II, the Glorious Revolution, and the Destiny of Britain' in the *Historical Journal* and wrote two articles: "'A Saint in Shewe, a Devill in Deede': Moral Panics and anti-Puritanism in Seventeenth-Century England', in David Lemmings, ed., *Moral Panics, the Press and the Law in Early Modern England* (Palgrave, forthcoming) and 'England's "little sisters without breasts": Shaftesbury and Scotland and Ireland', in

John Spurr, ed., Anthony Ashley Cooper, *The First Earl of Shaftesbury 1621-1683* (Ashgate, forthcoming). He has also been putting the final touches on a collection of essays on the Glorious Revolution (co-edited with Stephen Taylor and to be published by Boydell) and begun drafting his book on the *The Stuart Kings and the Age of Revolutions*, which will be published by Oxford University Press. Over the course of the academic year he gave talks in Cincinnati, Philadelphia, and San Marino, California, and has recently acquired a new, sparkling pink electric guitar.

PATRICIA HERLIHY, Professor Emerita, retired in August 2009 from the Louise Wyant Professorship at Emmanuel College in Boston. She remains an Adjunct Professor at the Watson Institute for International Studies. From June 14 to July 3, she was a NEH Fellow at a Summer Institute "American Engages Russia, Circa 1880-1930," held at the New York Public Library. She presented a paper there entitled, "Eugene Schuyler in Russia 1867-1876."

She published a book chapter, "The Persuasive Power of the Odessa Myth," with Oleg Gubar in John Czaplicka, Nida Gelazis, Blair A. Ruble, eds. *Cities after the Fall of Communism: Reshaping Cultural Landscapes and European Identity*, Johns Hopkins University Press 2009 and an article, "How Ukrainian is Odesa?," *Place, Identity, and Urban Culture: Odessa and New Orleans*, Kennan Institute 2008. She enjoys hearing from former students and colleagues. She is writing a book *Vodka and its Globalization* as well as a biography of Eugene Schuyler, American diplomat.

EVELYN HU-DEHART has had a busy summer participating in several invited international conferences. She is gratified to know that her work is receiving attention outside the United States, especially given the transnational nature and global perspective of her research on the Chinese diaspora and international migration.

Faculty Activities continued

In early May, Hu-DeHart was invited to Jinan University, Guangzhou, China, to participate at the World Confederation for Institutes and Libraries for Chinese Overseas Studies. In late May, she lectured on Mexican immigration and the dilemma of the “undocumented alien” at the Sorbonne in Paris, as guest of the American Studies program. In mid June, she presented at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Finally, in July, she presented as a plenary speaker at the 2009 International Conference on Chinese American Literature at Nanjing University, Nanjing, China. On another professional but also personal note, Professor Hu-DeHart was pleased and humbled for the recognition by the Dean of the College with the Karen T. Romer Excellence in Advising Award.

NANCY JACOBS has continued in the position of Director of Undergraduate Studies. During the past year, she led the concentration advisors in a review of the undergraduate program, which resulted in revisions to concentration and honors program. In 2008-09 she taught the History Department thesis preparation course as well as courses on Africa history. Both her publication projects – *Send Down the Rain*, a sourcebook on twentieth-century Africa, and *Birders of a Feather: Stories of People, Birds, and Other People in Africa* – are progressing well. She presented papers on these projects at conferences in Burlington, Vermont and Austin, Texas, and Leiden, the Netherlands. She also served as a discussant at a conference on South Asian Terrestrial Environments at Yale University.

KARL JACOBY covered the North American climatic extremes last year, publishing essays on both the arctic and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. In May of 2009, his recent book, *Shadows at Dawn: A Borderlands Massacre and the Violence of History*, was awarded special recognition by the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award.

CARL KAESTLE reports the publication of a book of essays initially prepared for a conference at Brown in honor of his retirement – *Clio at the Table: Using History to Inform and Improve Education Policy*, ed. Kenneth K. Wong and Robert Rothman (New York: Peter Lang, 2009). An essay by Kaestle concludes the volume.

As usual, **STEVEN LUBAR** has been focused on the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage. It was a year of workshops, conferences, and exhibits. The center was responsible for the Providence meeting of the National Council for Public History, which attracted more than 600 participants, the largest attendance ever. Programs focused on the history of Fox Point neighborhood, with students working on oral histories and exhibitions, and leading programs at the Vartan Gregorian elementary school; and on the relationships of history and contemporary art, with two site-specific art installations at the Nightingale-Brown House, an exhibit of contemporary African American art focused on the legacy of slavery, and visits from artists and architects.

Thanks to fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies and the American Philosophical Society, **MAUD MANDEL** spent the year on leave writing her manuscript, *Beyond Antisemitism: Muslims and Jews in Contemporary France*. She was also invited to give a series of three lectures at the Ecole des Hautes Études in Paris, France, which she presented over the month of March. Her article, “The War Comes Home: Muslim/Jewish Relations in Marseille during the 1991 Gulf War,” will appear in the volume, *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in the Francophone World* to be published by Routledge this year.

JAMES McCLAIN returned to teaching in the spring semester of 2008-2009, following a sabbatical leave, and spent considerable time revising his courses on the history of modern

Korea (which he introduced in 2007) and the cultural history of Japan in the early modern era (which he had not taught since the fall of 2005). Professor McClain enjoyed both courses immensely, but inserting new offerings on Korea into the Brown curriculum carries with it a special satisfaction. The sabbatic leave provided him with an opportunity to move forward with research on his book project, *Tokyo Modern: The Importance of the Middle-class in Twentieth Century Japan*, by using materials at collections in New York at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New York Public Library, the Columbia University Library, and the Brooklyn Museum of Art. In addition, an article “Edo and Paris” that he co-authored with John Merriman (Yale University) appeared in *The World of 1607* (Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Williamsburg), and he worked with his publisher (W. W. Norton) on the Chinese translation of *My Japan: A Modern History*. Professionally, McClain was reappointed to serve another term on the Board of Trustees of the Society for Japanese Studies (which publishes the *Journal of Japanese Studies*), and continues to serve on the Board of Directors for the Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies.

TONY MOLHO is still Professor of History and Civilization at the European University Institute in Florence. In 2009, as a tribute to his scholarship and his mentoring, his colleagues, friends, and students (including several of his students from Brown) offered him a collection of essays spanning many themes in the medieval and early modern history of Italy, Europe, and the Mediterranean: *From Florence to the Mediterranean and Beyond: Essays in Honour of Anthony Molho*, ed. by Diogo Ramada Curto, Eric R Dursteler, Julius Kirshner, and Francesca Trivellato, 2 vols. (Florence: Leo S. Olschki, 2009).

TARA NUMMEDAL continues to work on her new book project on the alchemist and prophet

Anna Zieglerin, *The Lion's Blood: Alchemy, Gender, and Apocalypse in Reformation Germany*. In the fall of 2008 she gave talks out of this project at the University of Minnesota and an international conference on the history of alchemy in El Escorial, Spain. In January 2009, she spoke to a lively audience at Yale University to accompany the opening of an exhibit on alchemical books at the Beinecke Library. She also completed two articles this year: “Anna Zieglerin’s Alchemical Revelations,” in *Secrets and Knowledge in Medicine and Science*, edited by Alisha Rankin and Elaine Leong and “Traces of the Alchemical Past: The Laboratory as Archive in Early Modern Saxony,” in *Spuren der Avantgarde: Theatrum alchemicum*, edited by Helmar Schramm, Ludger Schwarte, and Jan Lazardzig. In the spring of 2009, she was delighted to receive an ACLS Burckhardt Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship, which will enable her to complete her work on *The Lion’s Blood*. This fall she will also join the editorial board of *Osiris*, an annual journal published by the History of Science Society.

JIM PATTERSON keeps himself busy writing (book expected out next year on the Moynihan Report and black family issues, 1965-2010) as well as giving talks to history teachers at various spots about the country.

In the fall of 2008 **ETHAN POLLOCK’S** book *Stalin and the Soviet Science Wars* (Princeton University Press) came out in paperback and received an honorable mention for the Bruce L. Lincoln book prize awarded for an author’s first published monography or scholarly synthesis that is of exceptional merit and lasting significance for the understanding of Russia’s past. In spring 2009 he published an article in *Slavic Review* on the politics of genetics research under Krushchev. As a fellow at Browns Cogut Center for the Humanities he taught a seminar on modern notions of health and hygiene and continued to research his book on the history

Faculty Activities continued

of the Russian bathhouse. In the 2008-2009 academic year he delivered a lecture on postwar Soviet science at Princeton University and a talk on imperial Russian ideas of cleanliness, tradition, and modernity at the University of Toronto.

KURT A. RAAFLAUB is now David Herlihy University Professor and Professor of Classics and History emeritus. He retired on June 30, 2009, after 31 years at Brown. The History Department offered him a very nice and generous farewell lunch in the Faculty Club, and the speeches that were given on that occasion still make him blush. He is looking back with great satisfaction to his long collaboration with the History faculty and is convinced that this department has a great future. He will no longer teach (at least not in the immediate future but who knows about a course at a later time?) but he has lots of research projects: shorter ones, resulting from conferences and lectures, that are due this year, and longer ones that have been sitting on a back burner and are clamoring for attention. Among the latter, he hopes to begin work soon on a historical and philological commentary on Caesar's work on the civil war, and to make faster progress on his "Early Greek Political Thought in Its Mediterranean Context." He is also still involved in preparing Ancient Studies conference volumes for publication. So he does not expect to be idle soon!

In the fall of 2008, **AMY REMENSNYDER** taught a lecture course on Christians, Muslims, and Jews in medieval Iberia and a graduate seminar about new work in medieval European history. She also gave talks at New York University and at Brown's Swearer Center based on a new collaborative project about how medieval historians can engage with contemporary issues of social and political justice. In the spring and summer of 2009, she was a fellow at the Internationale Kolleg für Geisteswissenschaftliche Forschung, a new research institute in northern Germany.

SETH ROCKMAN earned tenure this year, coinciding with the publication of *Scraping By: Wage Labor, Slavery, and Survival in Early Baltimore* (Johns Hopkins University Press). The book was featured on "Midday with Dan Rodricks" on WYPR in Baltimore, and will be the subject of a symposium at the Library Company of Philadelphia in October 2009. Rockman has now turned his attention to the relationship of slavery and capitalism, and has a new essay on slave-grown cotton and New England manufacturing in *Landscape of Industry: An Industrial History of the Blackstone Valley* (University Press of New England). A sabbatical in 2010-2011 at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, will provide the opportunity to write a new book, *Plantation Goods and the National Economy of Slavery in Antebellum America* (to be published by University of Chicago Press).

Last year **KEN SACKS** was chairman of the department and published *The Political Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson* for The Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought for Cambridge University Press. Professor Sacks continues to work on a book on the tradition of intellectual history of antiquity and its ties to modern thinking.

ROBERT SELF spent the academic year on leave as a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow, during which time he continued work on his book manuscript, *Equal Rights and Family Values: The Politics of Gender and Sex at the End of the American Century*. Self gave presentations from his new work at Princeton University, Yale University, the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Colby College, and the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, as well as at the annual conferences of the American Society for Legal History and the Urban History Association. Excerpts from *American Babylon* were selected for Routledge's The American Urban Reader, and Self joined the editorial board of the series "Since 1970: Histories of Contemporary America" at the University of Georgia Press. He finished a

chapter, entitled “Bodies Count: 1968 and the Body in American Politics” for an anthology on 1968 in global context, and he continued work with Vassar faculty member Rebecca Edwards and University of Maryland faculty member James Henretta on America’s History, a two-volume history of the United States.

NAOKO SHIBUSAWA wrote two articles and was invited to speak at Doshisha (Kyoto), Harvard, Northwestern, and Boston College. She was on the program committee for the annual meeting of SHAFR (Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations) and will be co-chair of the program committee for the 2010 meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.

KERRY SMITH continues to work on a book about disasters, terrorism and justice in modern Japan, and spoke on these topics at Duke and elsewhere this past year. He has completed his first term as chair of the Department of East Asian Studies, and will be on sabbatical in 2009-2010.

TRACY STEFFES is assistant professor of Education and History. Her primary research and teaching interests are the history of American education, the Progressive Era, state-building, law, public policy, social welfare, race, social reform movements, and social theory. Her current project, “School, Society, and State: A New Education to Govern Modern America, 1890-1940,” analyzes the early twentieth century efforts to transform public schooling as a national project of social welfare. Steffes has held fellowships from the Miller Center for Public Affairs, Social Science Research Council, and National Parent-Teachers Association, and received a Salomon Faculty Research Award at Brown last year. She has recently presented her work to audiences at New York University, Cornell University, University of Pennsylvania, and at professional meetings including the History of Education Society.

MICHAEL P. STEINBERG’S book *Listening to Reason: Culture, Subjectivity, and Nineteenth-*

Century Music appeared in Spanish as *Escuchar a la Razon*, published by the Fondo de Cultura Economica in Buenos Aires in the fall of 2008. During 2008-2009 he offered papers and lectures at the University of Michigan and Princeton University, and delivered the keynote address at Arizona State University’s bicentennial conference “Viewing Mendelssohn.” He continues as Director of the Cogut Center for the Humanities at Brown and as an executive board member of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes. In those capacities he was pleased to attend the Governors’ Summit on Climate Change in Los Angeles in November 2008 and to begin plans to host the annual meeting of the Consortium at Brown in June 2010. In February 2009 he began a four-year consultancy to the Teatro alla Scala in Milan and the Berlin State Opera on a co-production of Richard Wagner’s Ring of the Nibelung, to be staged between 2010 and 2013. In June-July 2009 he was a faculty member of the School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University.

MARK SWISLOCKI’S first book, *Culinary Nostalgia: Regional Food Culture and the Urban Experience in Shanghai* (Stanford University Press), came out in December 2008. The book focuses on Shanghai, a food lover’s paradise, as a rich intersection of urban, regional, and national identities, and examines how tastes registered change and continuity at pivotal moments throughout the city’s history. The book creates a new framework for studying foodways in Chinese history, and it re-characterizes the city of Shanghai, commonly thought of as China’s most forward-looking and Westernized city, as a deeply nostalgic place. He also co-organized the Spring 2009 conference “What Comes After Area Studies?” He is currently involved in research on his next project, *Human-Animal Relations as Cultural Frontiers in China*. Mark is teaching a new undergraduate seminar on “Minority Peoples of China,” and a new

Faculty Activities continued

graduate research seminar on “Cultures of Empire” for the Department’s Empires and Cultures curriculum.

MICHAEL VORENBERG was a fellow at the Cogut Humanities Center at Brown in the Fall semester. In addition to completing three essays that will appear in anthologies during the next year, he completed a book manuscript for Bedford/St. Martin’s titled *The Emancipation Proclamation: A Brief History with Documents*. Much of his work of the past year was connected to the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln’s birth. He delivered more than six talks related to Lincoln, including one at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and another at the Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow. He also organized an Abraham Lincoln symposium at Brown, which took place in February 2009. In April 2009 he participated in a conference at the University of Chicago on Slavery, Abolition, and Human Rights. In between these engagements he continued to work on his book on citizenship and the American Civil War.

The past year, the twentieth since **LEA WILLIAMS** retirement, has been quiet. The shipboard jobs that took him to all seven continents and much more have apparently ended - the victims of global economic malaise and his aging. (One of the last assignments in the travel business involved helicopter commuting up to the top of the Greenland ice shield to spend hours warning hikers away from danger spots. He and his employers both concluded the task was inappropriate for anyone halfway between his eightieth and ninetieth birthdays). There have been suggestions that Professor Williams ought to record his experiences in China that began 65 years ago. He may be too shy to attempt anything autobiographical. We’ll see what happens.

GORDON WOOD in 2008-2009 experienced his first full year of retirement. In the summer

he participated in seminars for young scholars in Charlottesville and Boulder. He also ran a seminar for teachers on the Age of Washington for the Gilder-Lehrman Institute. He gave talks at Bryant University, Georgia Southern University, Franklin Institute of Technology, Cape Cod for teachers, One Day University at Wellesley, University of Southern Mississippi, Tufts University, Johns Hopkins, Filson Society in Louisville, Stanford, the Hope Club, and the American Revolution Round Table in New York. He flew twice to Washington to talk to the staff of the new Capitol Visitors Center. He lectured to judges or conducted seminars for judges in New York, Tucson, New Haven, and La Jolla. He served as chair of the Faculty Liaison Committee of the John Carter Brown Library and was appointed a member of the Scholarly Council of the Kluge Center of the Library of Congress.

Thank You Visiting Professors

Erik Anderson
Kelly Colvin
Lauren Faulkner
Thomas Jundt
James Kabala
James Kennelly
Konstantinos Kornetis
Shih-Chieh Lo
Adrian Lopez-Denis
Mark Robbins
Gabriel Rosenberg
William Tatum
Jinping Wang
Ken Ward

The Undergraduate Program

In May 2009 ninety-five students graduated from Brown University with degrees in history and eleven graduated with honors. The department's engagement with undergraduate instruction goes beyond our concentrators, however. During 2008-2009, department members taught well over 2000 students from across the university.

The breadth of the program is evident in the theses produced by honors recipients. They ranged from Amir Radjy's study of courtiers in pre-revolutionary France to Anastasia Aguiar's work on UN involvement in the war and crisis during the creation of Bangladesh. Other prize-winning theses were "Brazil, Show Your Face!: AIDS, Homosexuality, and Art in Post-Dictatorship Brazil," by Caroline Landau and "In the Nearness of Our Striving: Camphill Communities Re-Imagining Disability and Society," by Zoe Brennan-Krohn.

Undergrad involvement in the department also included extracurricular activities. The History Undergraduate Group, affectionately known as the "HUG," had an active spring semester. They ran an information session on the concentration and co-sponsored a senior-send off before graduation.

Among faculty, a particular point of pride is the Brown Journal of History, a yearly publication produced by undergraduates since 2007. In 2009 editors-in-chief Caitlin Browne ('09) and Hilary Taylor ('09) led the journal's board of undergraduate editors in selecting six articles from 100 entries. The staff also conducted four interviews with historians at Brown, which are also published in the journal. It's an impressive volume. You can see the Table of Contents and download a PDF of the journal at the undergraduate page of our website:

<http://www.brown.edu/Departments/History/undergrad/>

Honors awarded our undergraduates:

- **ANASTASIA AGUIAR** *"In Service to the State: United Nations Humanitarian Aid during the Violent Creation of Bangladesh"*
Advisor: Vazira Zamindar
- **ZOE BRENNAN-KROHN** *"In the Nearness of Our Striving: Camphill Communities Re-Imagining Disability and Society"*
Advisor: Mary Gluck
- **KATELYN CIOFFI** *"The Exotic Works of Pierre Loti Defining the Self and Discovering the Other in Nineteenth-Century France"*
Advisor: Mary Gluck
- **DEVIN COHEN** *"How To Start A Riot: A Historical Approach to the 1968 Democratic Convention Riots and the Chicago Conspiracy Trial"*
Advisor: Paul Buhle
- **DAVID FRISOF** *"The Economics of Interest: Revenue Settlement and Private Trade under Company Rule in Eighteenth-Century Bengal"*
Advisor: Vazira Zamindar
- **CAROLINE LANDAU** *"Brazil, Show Your Face!": AIDS, Homosexuality, and Art in Post-Dictatorship Brazil"*
Advisor: James Green
- **ERINN PHELAN** *"To Think an Old Soldier Should Come to This... The Beginnings of Presidential Television Advertising, 1952-1964"*
Advisor: Howard Chudacoff
- **AMIR RADJY** *"Three Young Patriots: La Fayette, Noailles, Segur and the fall of courtier culture in France, 1750-1789"*
Advisor: Joan Richards

Honors continued

- **STEFAN SMITH** *“Soe Longe Unpunished: Homophobia and the Assassination of George Villiers”*
Advisor: Tim Harris
- **HILLARY TAYLOR** *“An Epidemicall disease...raigneth over the whole land’: Separatist Disorder, Patriotism and the Early Royalist Press in 1640-42”*
Advisor: Tim Harris
- **JENNY WEISSBOURD** *“Knowledge Saves from Suffering: Health Reform and Women’s Rights in the Providence Physiological Society, 1850-1851”*
Advisor: Ken Sacks

Prizes and Awards:

Samuel C. Lamport Prize in International Understanding

With an emphasis on cooperation and tolerance

- Anastasia M. Aguiar for “In Service to the State: United Nations Humanitarian Aid during the Violent Creation of Bangladesh”
Advisor: Vazira Zamindar

Marjorie Harris Weiss Memorial Premium in History

Outstanding undergraduate woman majoring in History

- Zoe Brennan-Krohn for “In the Nearness of Our Striving: Camphill Communities Re-Imagining Disability and Society”
Advisor: Mary Gluck

Pell Medal Award

Excellence in United States History

- Etan Newman for “For Whose Benefit? Social Control and the Construction of Providence’s Dexter Asylum”
Advisor: Seth Rockman

The Gaspee Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution Prize

Woman student who presents the best paper written as a class assignment in an American history course

- Jennifer Weissbourd for “‘Knowledge Saves from Suffering’ Health Reform and Women’s Rights in the Providence Physiological Society, 1850-1851”
Advisor: Ken Sacks

The John Thomas Memorial Award

Best History Department Thesis

- Caroline Landau for “‘Brazil, Show Your Face!’: AIDS, Homosexuality, and Art in Post-Dictatorship Brazil”
Advisor: James Green

The David Herlihy Memorial Prize

Awarded to the best student in Medieval or Renaissance History

- Hillary Taylor for “An Epidemicall disease...raigneth over the whole land: Separatist Disorder, Patriotism and the Early Royalist Press in 1640-42”
Advisor: Tim Harris

The Christian Yegen History Thesis Prize

Awarded for History Department Outstanding Honors Thesis

- Amir Radjy for “Three Young Patriots: La Fayette, Noailles, Segur and the fall of courtier culture in France, 1750-1789”
Advisor: Joan Richards

New Successors



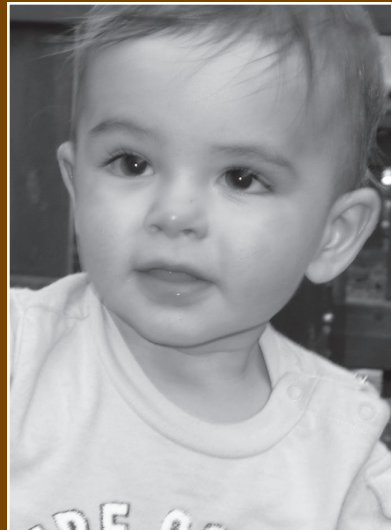
Mila Kay Rockedal born May 12, 2009 to Tara Nummedal and Seth Rockman



Harrison Samuel Fisher was born January 15, 2009 to Linford and Jo Fisher, joining his older siblings Eden (7), Elliot (5) and Helena (2)



Francoise Hamlin and Reverend Delphain Demosthenes announce Elijah Demosthenes, born November 23, 2007



Jorge Flores and Filomena Roque welcomed Martim on August 6, 2008

Graduate Program

The 2009-2010 was a wonderful year for the Graduate Program in History. At our May graduation nine students were awarded PhD degrees and fourteen students were awarded Masters Degrees. Dissertation topics ranged from: “‘A Different Kind of People’: The Poor at Home and Abroad, 1935-1980” to “Printing, Reading and Revolution: Kaiming Press and the Cultural Transformation of Republican China” to “The Politics of Piracy: A Challenge to English Law and Policy in the Atlantic Colonies, 1660-1730;” with the single exception of a student, who also holds a degree in law and accepted a position as a Law Clerk, every one of our PhD recipients moved into an academic job. From the University of Notre Dame to Scripps College, from Southern Methodist University to Philips Andover Academy our graduates will be sharing their expertise with students all across the nation. We congratulate them heartily. Also be congratulated are our continuing students who are doing outstanding work both as scholars and teaching assistants. Four students won full-year fellowships for the year 2009-2010 including a Chateaubriand Fellowship from the French University of Foreign Affairs, a Mellon Fellowship, a Fulbright and a Cogut Humanities Center Fellowship, and many others have succeeded in obtaining more short-term grants. All of these awards are concrete evidence of the high quality of our students and their work, and we are very proud of them all.

On September 2 we will be welcoming to campus a large class of fifteen new PhD students, selected from the top 18% of an applicant pool of 170. This group will be joined for the year, by a small class of three carefully selected Masters students. After a quick week of orientation all of these students will begin the new school year. For the Masters students this will mean pursuing their interests in both graduate and undergraduate courses under the supervision of individual history faculty members. For the PhD students it will mean beginning what for most will be two

and a half years of coursework supplemented by participation in our two-year sequence of professional development courses.

We are entering the fifth year with this sequence of professional development courses, which is proving to be very successful. In the first semester, the students are in the Workshop. This is a rather open course, designed to introduce the new students to the wide variety of interests and expertise available to them within the Brown History Department. It is structured as a forum where different members of the department present their work to our new students, explaining how they choose their subjects, do their research, shape their interpretations and write up their results. In addition, this year students in the Workshop will attend and discuss the lectures given in the departmental lecture series initiated by our new Chair, Omer Bartov. In the second semester, the PhD students will take the double-credit Colloquium which this year will be taught by Professors Joan Richards and James Green. Colloquium is designed to introduce students to the theoretical underpinnings and implications of a wide variety of approaches to history. Furthermore, by bringing together all of the students in our wonderfully diverse incoming class it will provide all participants with a variety of comparative perspectives and ample opportunity critically to reflect on the relevance and adaptability of various theoretical and methodological orientations to different epochs and regions.

In fall of their second year, all of our students move into the Professionalization Seminar, wonderfully taught by Professor Tara Nummedal. The subjects covered in this practical course include journal article construction, article review writing, book review writing, and grant writing. Teaching is another part of the Professionalization Seminar curriculum, which this year, will be supplemented with a new day-long “TA bootcamp.” Scheduled to run the day before classes begin, this program has

been designed by a team of students and faculty to introduce first time TAs to classroom teaching. In the spring of their second year, students take the Prospectus Writing Seminar, expertly taught by Professor Karl Jacobi. In this seminar, each student crafts a prospectus that, in most cases, serves as a first step in the writing of their dissertations. The ultimate goal of all of these courses remains helping our students to become competent and enthusiastic historians who can impart their knowledge, understanding and love of history both to students and to a larger professional and non-professional reading public.

Our considerable success last year owes a great deal to the guidance of a Graduate Committee that consisted of Professors Timothy Harris, James McClain and Seth Rockman. As we move into the 2009-2010 year, we will be led by a new Graduate Committee consisting of Professors Timothy Harris, Naoko Shibusawa and Robert Self. We are all looking forward to a wonderful year.

Joan L Richards
Graduate Director

PhDs Awarded 2008-2009

- AZFAR, FARID M.** “Disordered Bodies and Bodies-Politic in British Enlightenment Culture, 1720-1740” Director: T. Harris Readers: D. Cohen, M. Steinberg
- BRENNER, SAMUEL L.** “Shouting at the Rain: The Voices and Ideas of Right-Wing Anti-Communist Americanists in the Era of Modern American Conservatism, 1950-1974” Director: J. Patterson Readers: G. Wood, A. Gleason
- BURGESS, DOUGLAS R.** “The Politics of Piracy: A Challenge to English Law and Policy in the Atlantic Colonies, 1660-1730” Director: T. Harris Readers: S. Rockman, R. Cope
- FAULKNER, LAUREN N.** “Negotiating the Cross and the Swastika: Catholic Priests and Seminarians as German Soldiers, 1935-1945” Director: O. Bartov Readers: A. Gleason, D. Cohen, D. Bergen
- JAHANBANI, SHEYDA** “‘A Different Kind of People’: The Poor at Home and Abroad, 1935-1980” Director: M. Buhle Readers: J. Campbell, D. Engerman
- JONES, CHRISTOPHER L.** “Deserting Dixie: A History of Emigres, Exiles, & Dissenters from the American South, 1866-1925” Director: M. Vorenberg Readers: J. Campbell, David Blight
- RAMOS, MARISELA** “Black Mexico: Nineteenth-Century Discourses of Race and Nation” Director: R. Cope Readers: E. Hu-Dehart, M. Garcia
- ROBBINS, MARK W.** “Awakening the ‘Forgotten Folk’: Middle Class Consumer Activism in Post-World War I America” Director: M. Buhle Readers: R. Self, E. Gorn
- SHIAO, LING** “Printing, Reading, and Revolution: Kaiming Press and the Cultural Transformation of Republican China” Director: J. Grieder Readers: R. Davis, T. Barlow

The 28th William F. Church Memorial Lecture

Keith Wrightson

Randolph W. Townsend Jr. Professor of History at Yale University
spoke on

“Ralph Taylor’s Summer: a Newcastle Scrivener and the Great Plague of 1636”
during the annual William F. Church Memorial Lecture
on **Thursday, November 20, 2008**

Deborah Cohen on “Family Secrets”

Lucy Gardner and Elizabeth Scott-Sanderson arrived at the Normansfield Training Institute on the outskirts of London with the same diagnosis: both were deemed ‘imbeciles from birth’. Five-year old Lucy brought with her trunks full of pretty clothes, a wardrobe that her anxious mother replenished with regular deliveries of frocks, bonnets, stockings, sachets, brushes, comb-bags and sashes. On her visits home, Lucy attended garden parties and teas. When she was away, neighbors and acquaintances inquired about her progress. After four years of training, Lucy Gardner returned to a family that delightedly pronounced her much improved.

Elizabeth Scott-Sanderson never came home, not even for holidays. Institutionalized from the age of one, she spent the next forty years at Normansfield.

Elizabeth also arrived at Normansfield with clothes, but aside from a set of drawers and petticoats when she was two, and a turquoise blue taffeta dress when she was twelve, she received no garments from home. Her mother visited once or twice a year during the first decade she was at Normansfield and sporadically thereafter. Her father came to see her only twice. After Elizabeth reached her eighteenth year, she received no visitors – ever again. Her birth announcement is the only public acknowledgment of Elizabeth’s life. To come upon it in *The Times* is jarring, a concrete footprint where everything else has been washed away. Elizabeth Scott-Sanderson was a family secret.

I’ve spent this past year working on a book about the history of family secrets in Britain from the early nineteenth century to the present day. This is a book about shame and about revelation: about the sorts of things that families kept private and the reasons why they divulged them, about the sometimes paradoxical consequences of secret-keeping and disclosure. Whether parents brought their disabled children to garden

parties or sought to hide them from view, whether they acknowledged that adopted children were not their own biological kin, whether families talked incessantly about gay relatives or never mentioned them: all of these apparently personal, even idiosyncratic, decisions helped to define social stigma.

And yet, we know almost nothing about the roles that families played in the massive transformation of social mores over the past century and a half. To what extent did family members, equipped with the ambiguous prerogatives of intimacy, anticipate the broader changes in society? Or did they lag behind? So much writing has tended to conceive of families as reactive, buffeted, for instance, by the changes attendant upon industrialization, disciplined by state authorities. But secrets – because they required the management of information both inside and outside the family – attest to a more dynamic relationship between families and their social worlds. For every family that disowned a black sheep, there were more that conspired in elaborate acts of protection. What began as a matter of maintaining a family’s honor had unintended consequences. Open secrets in families, in some cases, served as the first step on the road to social toleration.

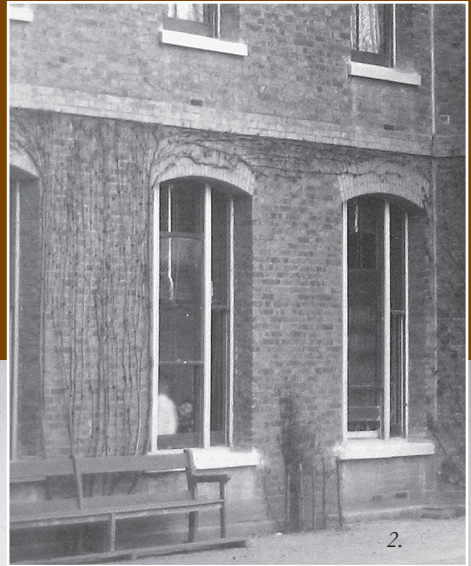
We tend to think that that road to social toleration has led only in one direction: to the progressive, enlightened de-closeting of family secrets. That takes us back to the stories of the two little girls, Elizabeth and Lucy. The most important difference in their fates wasn’t their progress at the Normansfield Training Institute, but the moment in which they lived. Elizabeth was born in 1920, amidst a wave of institutionalization that had, by the mid-1960’s, deposited almost 65,000 “mentally deficient” children and adults in institutions across Britain. Lucy, the child who came home, was a Victorian, born in 1878. Because the popular reputation of the Victorian family includes inconvenient relatives stashed away in attics, it comes as a

surprise to realize just how public and visible children like Lucy in fact were. For the Victorians, a child with learning difficulties was certainly a trial, but not one to be hidden away from friends and neighbors. It wasn't until the interwar years that large numbers of children with intellectual disabilities disappeared into a lifetime of confinement. Different family secrets had very different trajectories, some ushered into the closet even as others saw the light.

Caption

1. *The Normansfield Training Institute, photographed in the early twentieth century. This is a typical institutional photo. The institution's inhabitants would have been ushered inside in order to produce an image that showcased the fine buildings.*

2. *Magnification of the corner. But if you look closely through the window, you can see something that the photographer didn't intend to capture: a child's face that reminds us about the people here.*



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