Letter from the Chair

This newsletter, I hope, will bring you up to date on some of the happenings and the people in the history department.

The last academic year was an extremely eventful one. We suffered from the death in July 2008 of a beloved colleague and historian of science and technology, Michael Mahoney. A memorial service for him was held in the University Chapel in the fall semester, and his life and career were celebrated with a conference in his honor on May 15 and 16 in which many of his former students, several already distinguished professors in their own right, presented papers that were in large part inspired by his work.

The department also hired nine new faculty (one lecturer and two instructors who will be promoted to assistant professor as soon as their Ph.D. degrees are awarded, five assistant professors, and one full professor). Biographical details on those who have already come to campus (Matthew Backes, Adam Beaver, Katja Günther, Eleanor Hubbard, Robert Karl, and Yair Mintzker) are included in the newsletter. Two more join us second semester, David Bell, from Johns Hopkins, as full professor in French Revolutionary history, and Wendy Warren, at present a postdoctoral fellow at Oxford, in Colonial American history. Marni Sandweiss, although recruited during academic year 2007–08, also began to teach for the first time in the department this year; a short notice on her research and interests is also included in this newsletter. Next year, Max Weiss, a member of the Harvard Society of Fellows, will become an assistant professor of Islamic history; he will hold a joint appointment in the Department of Near Eastern Studies.

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We have been fortunate, too, in adding Minerva Fanfair to our staff as the assistant in the Graduate Program Office, with duties that include the preparation of placement dossiers, the organization of events related to the Program in the History of Science, and the arrangement of Ph.D. defenses. Sean Piotrowski is also new to the staff and provides technical support to both the history and German departments.

Several members of the department—faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates—also appeared in a short promotional film shown at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in January 2009. The very engaging little film highlighted some of the strengths of the department and the joys of studying history.

Last but certainly not least, the history department summer softball A-league team, the Revolting Masses, won its second championship in four years. The trophy and the team picture, including that of a very happy chair and an equally happy official statistician, John Murrin, professor emeritus of Colonial American history, will join the earlier trophy and memorabilia in the Faculty Lounge.

With all best wishes,

Bill Jordan

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Peter Brown has added another honor to his formidable collection: on May 23 he received an honorary degree from Amherst College.

Graham Burnett, on leave this year, was awarded a Mellon “New Directions” Fellowship in March. He was also offered, but had to decline, an American Council of Learned Societies grant.

In June, Martin Colcutt was awarded an honorary degree by Kansai University, in Osaka, Japan, for his work in Japanese history.

Margot Canaday, whose fields of study are legal and political history, as well as gender and sexuality, has a new book published by Princeton University Press titled The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth-Century America.

Heartiest congratulations go to Linda Colley, the Shelby M. C. Davis 1958 Professor of History, and David Cannadine, the Whitney Oates Senior Research Scholar in the Council of the Humanities and a lecturer in the history department. On July 10, Linda was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire, and David received a knighthood. Prince Charles officiated at the ceremony in Buckingham Palace. Linda’s book Britons: Forging the Nation 1707–1837 (Yale University Press) is now in its fifth paperback edition.

Two other of her books have been translated into other languages: Captives is now available in Japanese, and The Ordeal of Elizabeth Marsh in German. Linda is an expert on Britain from 1700 to 1945. David continues his work on the history of Britain from 1945 to the present.

Benjamin Elman is the Changjiang Visiting Chair Professor in the history department and the National Research Institute for the Humanities at Fudan University, Shanghai. The term runs from 2008 to 2011. His Cultural History of Modern Science in China (Harvard University Press New Histories of Science, Medicine, and Technology Series) has come out in paperback. The book has been translated into Chinese, as has his Classicism, Examinations, and Cultural History: Collected Essays. These books reflect his interest in early Chinese cultural and intellectual history and in the history of science in China.

Sheldon Garon is a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International
Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., for the academic year 2009–10. His field of study is modern and contemporary Japan.

Michael Gordin’s new book Red Cloud at Dawn: Truman, Stalin, and the End of the Atomic Monopoly was published this fall by Farrar, Straus & Giroux. Additionally, his book Five Days in August: How World War II Became a Nuclear War has been translated into Estonian.

Anthony Grafton has had two books published this year: Worlds Made by Words: Scholarship and Community in the Modern West (Harvard University Press), and Obelisk: A History (MIT Press), which he wrote in collaboration with Brian Curran, Pamela Long, and Benjamin Weiss.


Joshua Guild, winner of a Woodrow Wilson Career Fellowship for Junior Faculty, is on leave this year at the Charles Warren Center at Harvard, from which he also received a Fellowship for Studies in American History. His fields of research are 20th-century African American history and the African American diaspora. He also received, but declined, a Ford Foundation Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowship.

David Howell has co-edited, with Kawanishi Hidemichi and Namikawa Kenji, a volume titled From History to Holistic History: Region and Culture (Shubkenshi kara zentaishi e: Chiiki to bunka, in Japanese). It is published by Seibundo Press in Osaka.


The new president of the American Catholic Historical Association is William Chester Jordan, chair of the history department. He has also been named a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His most recent book, A Tale of Two Monasteries: Westminster and Saint-Denis in the Thirteenth Century, was published by Princeton University Press.

Emmanuel Kreike’s soon-to-be-released book, Deforestation and Reforestation in Namibia, is being published by Brill (Leiden) and Markus Wiener (Princeton). Emmanuel is on the Executive Committee of the Program in African Studies.

In June, Susan Naquin received a Graduate Mentoring Award from the University’s McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning. This year she is on leave and has an ACLS fellowship and also an Old Dominion Society of Fellows faculty fellowship.

In April and May 2009, Philip Nord was a professeur invité at the Université de Paris-Ouest, Nanterre. His book Impressionists and Politics: Art and Democracy in the Nineteenth Century has appeared in French translation as Les Impressionistes et la politique (Tallandier, Paris).

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Bhavani Raman, on leave this year, has received a Senior Short-Term Fellowship from the American Institute of Indian Studies in Chicago.

Helmut Reimitz has co-edited a volume on the use and abuse of early medieval history in modern Europe that was published in Vienna for the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

Another honorary degree recipient is Sean Wilentz, who was feted at Ripon College, in Wisconsin, in May. In February, his edited volume *The Best Historical Essays on Abraham Lincoln* (Macmillan/Palgrave) was published. The paperback edition of his *The Age of Reagan: A History, 1974–2008* came out in May from Harper Perennial.

Julian Zelizer has co-edited, with Bruce Schulman, *The Constitution and Public Policy in U.S. History* (Penn State Press) and has written articles for *Diplomatic History* and *Perspectives on History*.

We were happy to welcome seven new faculty members this fall:

**Marni Sandweiss** (professor) teaches American culture and identity and is the author or editor of numerous books on American history and photography, including most recently *Passing Strange: A Gilded Age Tale of Love and Deception Across the Color Line*. Her courses this fall are “Writing from the Document: Recon structing the American Past” and “Public History in the United States.” She was recently elected a member of the Society of American Historians.

**Adam Beaver** (assistant professor) is a historian of late medieval and early modern Spain. His research focuses primarily on Spaniards’ interactions with the Levant, both real and imaginary. His scholarship aims to generate a richer and more imaginative understanding of the common origins of Orientalism and nationalism—that is, how early modern Europe’s deepening contact with the wider world influenced the evolution of Western identities. He currently offers courses on early modern Iberia and the premodern Mediterranean world.

**Katja Günther** (assistant professor) specializes in the history of modern medicine and the mind sciences. She is a trained doctor (M.D., University of Cologne) who has worked in hospitals in Germany, France, and the United Kingdom, and holds a research degree in neuroscience. Her research focuses on the history of subjectivity and the ways in which modern ideas of the self have been constituted through the interplay of cultural and scientific norms. This fall, she is teaching a junior seminar on “Medicine and Deviance—Defining Disease in the Modern World” that focuses on the ways in which disease categories have been used to rationalize socially deviant behavior. In the spring of 2010, she will offer a lecture course in the history of medicine that focuses on the history of health and disease in the West from Antiquity to the present.

**Yair Mintzker** (assistant professor) specializes in German-speaking Central Europe from the 17th to the 19th centuries, though his broad interests include urban history as well as intellectual, cultural, and political history of Early Modern and Modern Europe. He is currently teaching a course on “The Early Modern City, 1450–1800.”
Eleanor Hubbard (instructor) specializes in the social and cultural history of early modern Britain. Her current project, “City Women: Sex, Money, and the Social Order in London 1570–1640,” addresses the lives of ordinary women in the English capital during a period of extraordinary change.

Robert Karl (instructor) studies 20th-century Latin America, with a focus on the political and social histories of Colombia, Mexico, Cuba, and Brazil. His research and teaching interests also include U.S.-Latin American relations, Cold War and international history, commodity history, labor history, and the integration of GIS and other technological/interdisciplinary approaches into history.

Matthew Backes (lecturer) will be teaching and advising students in the fields of 19th- and 20th-century U.S. history. A recent Ph.D. from Columbia University, he is currently revising the manuscript of his first book, a study of paternal authority and filial identities in 19th-century America.

Charles Gillispie’s most recent publication is a collection of essays and articles from years past, along with several new pieces: “Essays and Reviews in History and History of Science” (Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, 2007). He is currently working on a review article or short monograph on the development of Condorcet’s thinking that issued in “Esquisse d’un tableau historique sur les progrès de l’esprit humain,” (1795).

Arno Mayer is busy writing his memoir, which he is regarding as an anti-memoir, and some political articles. He is also overseeing the Spanish translation of his latest book, Ploughshares into Swords: From Zionism to Israel (Verso, 2008).

James McPherson, the George Henry Davis 1886 Professor Emeritus of American History, has been named a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He recently won the Lifetime Achievement Award of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities “for his extraordinary efforts to inform Americans about the history of the Civil War era.” His most recent book, Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief (Penguin), has been chosen as a 2009 NJCH Honor Book. He has been busy this year giving lectures and participating in conferences—all pertaining to the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth—as well as promoting his book. His next project is a book on Civil War navies.

Congratulations to John Murrin, who has been elected a fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Nell Irvin Painter, who attained emeritus status in 2004, re-entered the world of a student and has received an A.B. degree from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. She is now working toward her A.M. degree at the Rhode Island School of Design, in Providence.

Stanley Stein’s new book, The Edge of Crisis: War and Trade in the Spanish Atlantic, 1789–1808, written in collaboration with Barbara H. Stein, was recently published by Johns Hopkins University Press.

Robert Tignor has put the finishing touches on a book manuscript that Princeton University Press intends to publish. The title at the moment is The Egyptians: A Short History. He and the other authors of Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, the world history textbook that W. W. Norton published, are engaged in revising it for a third edition, due to come out at the beginning of academic year 2011–12. Another project in the pipeline is a short book looking at the Sadat years in Egypt, 1970–1981.

Other emeriti remain very active. Theodore Rabb is regularly in his Firestone Library office pursuing his research and writing. Laura Engelstein is teaching at Yale, and Natalie Davis is as busy as ever in Toronto. Carl Schorske can be seen on campus attending lectures and meeting with faculty to discuss mutual interests in cultural history.
Dan Bouk  
Adviser: Daniel Rodgers  
Assistant Professor, Colgate University

Sara Brooks  
Adviser: Peter Lake

William Bulman  
“Constantine’s Enlightenment: Culture and Religious Politics in the Early British Empire, ca. 1648–1710”  
Advisers: Anthony Grafton, Peter Lake  
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Vanderbilt University

Michelle Garceau  
“God and His Saints in Medieval Catalunya: A Social History”  
Adviser: William Chester Jordan  
Assistant Professor, College of Charleston

Belinda Huang  
“Teaching Chineseness in the Trans-Pacific Society: Overseas Chinese in Canada and the United States, 1900–1919”  
Adviser: Susan Naquin

Sara Jorgensen  
Adviser: Emmanuel Kreike  
Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee–Chattanooga

Chin Jou  
Advisers: Daniel Rodgers, Elizabeth Lunbeck  
Postdoctoral Fellowship, National Institutes of Health

Katrina Olds  
“The ‘False Chronicles’ in Early Modern Spain: Forgery, Tradition, and the Invention of Texts and Relics, 1595–c.1670”  
Adviser: Anthony Grafton  
Assistant Professor, University of San Francisco

Renée Raphael  
“Galileo as a Commentator on Aristotle? The Reception of Galileo in the Jesuit Collegio Romano, 1633–1700”  
Adviser: Anthony Grafton  
Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Cambridge

Daniel Schwartz  
“Christian Education and Worship in the Making of the Late-Antique Church: Paideia and Cult in the Catechetical Homilies of Theodore of Mopsuestia”  
Adviser: Peter Brown  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Oriental Institute, the University of Oxford

Alistair Sponsel  
“Coral Reef Formation and the Sciences of Earth, Life, and Sea, c. 1770 to 1952”  
Advisers: Graham Burnett, Angela Creager  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Smithsonian Institution

Mustafa Tuna  
“Imperial Russia’s Muslims: Inroads of Modernity”  
Adviser: Stephen Kotkin  
Assistant Professor, Duke University

Leah Wright  
Adviser: Kevin Kruse  
Assistant Professor, Wesleyan University
2009 Undergraduate Prizes

The Laurence Hutton Prize in History is awarded to the history major who has compiled the strongest record in department work. Two seniors were honored: Aditi Eleswarapu and Frederick Gaston Hall (Frederick was also elected to Phi Beta Kappa).

The Walter Phelps Hall Prize in European History is awarded for the best thesis in European history. David Vandiver Thorpe won the prize for “Figures in a Landscape: Apostolic Horizons—the Mindset, Motivation, and Legitimization of Missionaries in Late Antiquity” (adviser: Peter Brown).

The C. O. Joline Prize in American History is awarded for the best essay by a senior on any phase of American history, three seniors won the prize: Emilee Anne Dinsmore, for “Remaking the Magic City: Racial Progress in Birmingham, Alabama, 1963–1979” (adviser: Joshua Guild); Rosa Marie Maiorella, for “GI Joe and the Honolulu Harlot: Prostitution and the Military in World War II Hawaii” (adviser: Michael Gordin); and Pope (Chip) McCorkle IV, for “The Farmer’s Board of Trade: The Story of the Bucket Shops” (adviser: Harold James).

The Prize for the Best Senior Thesis in Asian History was won by Tahai Michelle Baik, for “Fashioning a New Dress in 1960s Korea” (adviser: Steven Chung/East Asian studies).


Concentrators in history gather after submitting their theses in 2009.


The William Koren Jr. Memorial Prize in History is given annually to the student in the department who attains the best record in the departmental work of the junior year. The winner this year was Frederick Gaston Hall.

The Carter Kim Combe ’74 History Prize was established in memory of Carter Kim Combe, Class of 1974. It is awarded annually to the student who writes the best second-term junior independent work paper in history. The winner was Elizabeth Bowlsby Schwall for her paper “Ballet in the Service of a Revolution: The Role of the Ballet Nacional de Cuba in Fidel Castro’s Nation-Building Project” (adviser: T. K. Hunter).

The Joseph R. Strayer Prize in Medieval Studies is awarded to the senior who, in the judgment of the faculty, has done outstanding work in some area of medieval history. Two seniors won the prize this year: Kelly Kristine Stewart, for “Women, Men, and Use of the Ordeal in the Fuero de Cuenca” (adviser: William Jordan); and David Vandiver Thorpe for “Figures in a Landscape: Apostolic Horizons—the Mindset, Motivation, and Legitimization of Missionaries in Late Antiquity” (adviser: Peter Brown).

Major Fellowship Recipients

Jay David Thornton won a Fulbright Grant.

Vanessa Rodriguez was awarded a ReachOut 56-81 Fellowship.
The third season of the Avkat Archaeological Project (AAP), in the sub-province of Mecitözü (Çorum province), began in mid-July 2009, with a team of 30 working for four weeks. The project focuses on the landscape history and archaeology of the Late Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman eras around the village of Beyözü (earlier Avkat), identified as ancient Euchaita, lying between the modern cities of Amasya and Çorum.

The main conclusion from the work now completed from 2007 to 2009 is of a distinct change in the material record of the settlement at Euchaita in the sixth century AD as a result of the changes brought about by Anastasius’ granting of civic status; but that while the Late Roman period (fourth to seventh centuries) was the best represented period in terms of architectural fragments and epigraphy, the greater density of ceramics from the following two to three centuries may be indicative of a change in the function of the settlement, with a further shift in circumstances from the middle or later ninth century onwards. This preliminary analysis is very different from that emerging from other rural or semi-rural sites in the broader region, such as at Çadır Höyük, and if borne out by further research may reflect the strategic and administrative history of the site in the seventh to ninth centuries. Further analysis of the ceramic material in particular should throw valuable light on the history of early-middle Byzantine provincial centers of this type.

The intensive survey results suggest that the settlement patterns in antiquity were similar to those of the modern era, i.e., of nucleated settlements with occasional intervening farmsteads, although a more widespread distribution of ceramics appears to indicate a wider pattern of small settlements than is now the case. This was not a Mediterranean zone and the triadic model of vines, olives, and cereals does thus not apply. There is some very limited production of vines in the ilçe. No evidence for olive production was found (nor are there any olive trees locally and Çorum province does not record the commercial production of olives). Modern agricultural production is dominated by cereals, and the same is probably true of antiquity. Thus, unless there has been drastic climate change, the press stones found in most villages were for cereal processing. Several technological changes (roads, mechanized farming, fertilizers) mean that the agricultural potential of the area is now much greater than it was in antiquity. Yet since the population of the Mecitözü ilçe itself has changed little in the 20th century, in contrast to the many other parts of Turkey, this is suggestive of a small ancient population. This theory correlates well with the low volume of ceramics and the low volume of imports observable through surface survey work.
Left: The pottery sorting and recording room during the 2009 season. Middle: Analysis of an image taken with ground penetrating radar of the fortress structures at the site. Below, left to right: A memorial stone of a clergyman from the church at Avkat and two pieces of church furniture, probably baptismal fonts, from the late Roman era.
Founded in 1968, the Davis Center for Historical Studies is named after Shelby Cullom Davis ’30, who provided a generous gift to assure the continuance of excellence in scholarship and the teaching of history at Princeton University. Since its inception, the Davis Center’s chief function has been to conduct the weekly seminar in which members of the faculty, visiting scholars from other institutions, graduate students, and selected undergraduates participate. For periods of two years, the seminar directs its attention to a single theme or aspect of history. Topics represent relatively new approaches to the study of history. Emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary approaches and subjects that span different geographical areas or periods. Conferences and workshops supplement the seminar series in advancing the exploration of the chosen theme. Significant papers developed through these activities are published as thematic collections of essays.

For 2008–10, the theme is “Cultures and Institutions in Motion.” How have ideas, institutions, structures, and artifacts moved across social and geographical space? How have they intersected with their new environments? How have they been adapted, resituated, hybridized, and transformed in processes of motion? The field of inquiry includes transnational history but is not limited to it. Problems could include the diffusion of religious and cultural practices; the migration of technologies and objects; the circulation of ideas, traditions, and aesthetic forms; the transfer of policies and legal practices; the dynamics of traveling social movements; histories of reception, appropriation, and encounter; and the creation of translocal networks and intermediaries. As in the past, we hope to address this problem from a wide variety of periods and places, from prehistory to the present and from all parts of the world.

**Davis Fellows 2009–10**

**Michael David-Fox**, University of Maryland
Project: *Showcasing the Great Experiment: Cultural Diplomacy and Western Visitors to Soviet Russia, 1921–1941*

**Petra Goedde**, Temple University
Project: *Cold Peace: The International Discourse on Peace during the Cold War*

**Elena Isayev**, University of Exeter
Project: *Paradoxes of Place: Pausing Motion in Ancient Italy and Now*

**Thomas Lekan**, University of South Carolina
Project: *Green Tourism: Consumption and Conservation in 20th-Century Germany*

**Mary Nolan**, New York University
Project: *Europe and America in the 20th Century*

**Dorothy Noyes**, Ohio State University
Project: *From the Camel’s Mouth: The Moving Local of 17th-Century Languedoc*

**Jocelyn Olcott**, Duke University
Project: *The Greatest Consciousness-Raising Event in History: The 1975 International Women’s Year Conference and the Challenge of Transnational Feminism*

**Pamela Smith**, Columbia University
Project: *Knowledge in Motion: A History of Science in the Early Modern World*
Center for the Study of Books and Media

The primary purpose of this center, established in Princeton in 2002, is to promote research and teaching in the history of books; but as its name indicates, it includes other media, as well. In fact, book history, as it has now come to be known, involves a great deal more than history and books. Having developed from the convergence of many disciplines around a common core of problems, it extends to the study of textual transmission in all modes, whether printed or manuscript, visual or oral, in all times and places. The center in Princeton concentrates on books in the Western world from the Middle Ages to the modern era. It brings together faculty from many departments in order to stimulate research, discuss work in progress, and develop courses at all levels of instruction. It also coordinates activities with similar centers both in this region and abroad, and works closely with a corresponding group of scholars at Oxford as part of the Oxford-Princeton Partnership.

The center organizes workshops, colloquia, and special lectures. Some are of general interest, aimed at everyone in the University community. Others are specialized, involving small groups of scholars and joint research projects within the Oxford-Princeton exchange. At the undergraduate level, the teaching program includes freshman seminars and more advanced courses for juniors and seniors. The courses offered to graduate students include a general seminar on problems and methods in the study of the transmission of texts and seminars on book history in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. Further courses on books in antiquity and on the media of the modern world will be added later, so that students throughout the University will be able to study a wide variety of book history. The center also hopes to establish a coordinated curriculum that will lead to the creation of a joint, post-graduate degree.

Center for Collaborative History

The Center for Collaborative History, established in 2007, provides support to improve and enhance understanding among our diverse community within the department; enabling faculty members to work together on research projects; housing and managing the department working groups; and giving faculty members a place to house and manage large, collaborative research grants given by outside sources.

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson is preparing the authoritative and comprehensive edition of the correspondence and papers of the third president of the United States. Jefferson’s letters are the largest component of the more than 70,000 documents that have been assembled as photocopies from more than 900 repositories and private collections worldwide. Through the publication of letters and papers received as well as those written by Jefferson, The Papers of Thomas Jefferson supplants earlier editions of Jefferson’s writings.

Careful research and collaborative scholarship produced the first volume of The Papers of Thomas Jefferson in 1950, setting new standards for the organization and editorial presentation of historical documents. Thirty-five volumes in the chronological series have been published to date. Today, through ongoing chronological and topical publication of the volumes as well as new digital access and multifaceted outreach efforts, this important correspondence in this nation’s documentary heritage is made widely available. Through this legacy of letters, Jefferson’s reputation endures as that of a statesman and writer of profound turn-of-phrase, political insight, and far-ranging interests.
For more Information

The history department newsletter is available in PDF format on the Web at www.princeton.edu/history