

Chair's Bulletin

February 2009

Notables

The **Samuel Gompers Papers** project has updated their [website](#). They have added a new section for students and teachers, added new documents, and updated their labor links page.

On January 24, **Sabrina Baron** participated in the examination of a History Honors Thesis at the US Naval Academy for which she served as the outside reader. The thesis, written by Midshipman Claire Crites, focused on the role of newspapers in the Wilkes Affair of the 1760s. The thesis passed the committee and Midshipman Crites will graduate in May.

Rick Bell delivered a presentation titled "Slavery and the American Revolution" at the inaugural meeting of the Wallington County Grammar School History Society in Sutton, UK, on 12 December 2008. In January he led a study abroad program to Bristol, Liverpool, and London to explore the history of the British Empire.

Ira Berlin will be speaking at the Maryland House of Delegates about Abraham Lincoln, on February 16, 2009 beginning at 8PM. He is eager to have friends up in the gallery to watch his back, for obvious reasons.

Michael David-Fox has been offered a fellowship at the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies in 2009-2010 at his alma mater, Princeton University. He has also been invited to join the international advisory board for the new "Russian Archive Series" at Princeton University Press. When Michael spoke to the incoming director of the Davis Center, Daniel T. Rodgers, the Princeton historian did not remember that he had been David-Fox's senior thesis advisor some 20 years before! David-Fox also gave a talk on January 12 at the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, entitled "'Hard-Currency Foreigners' and the 'Cultured West': The Unknown Origins of the Soviet Tourist Agency Inturist."

Art Eckstein has been named a Distinguished Scholar-Teacher by the University. This is an award given to only five faculty members per year out of the more than 1,900 on the campus.

Julie Greene's [*The Canal Builders: Making America's Empire at the Panama Canal*](#) has just been published by Penguin Press. [Advance reviews](#) are very positive.

During the January break, **John Lampe** traveled to Budapest to join Constantin Iordachi, History Chair at the Central European University, in convening a Workshop on Balkan Questions and Controversies. Building on Lampe's well received book proposal to the CEU Press, the meeting assembled younger historians from Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece plus recent Maryland Ph.D James Frusetta and, courtesy of the Center for Historical Studies, current doctoral candidate Stefan Papaioannou. Each of them brought along list of recent publications from local historians shedding constructive, comparative light on the subjects perpetuating pejorative Balkan stereotypes, from the Ottoman legacy and problems of nation- and state-building to the paramilitary paradigm, the treatment of Jews and other minorities in the Second World War, and

the Communist contention for or consolidation of power after the war. Our meeting identified an encouraging set of such works, leaving participants to prepare overviews of these new approaches and suitable excerpts for translation into English. A subsequent translators Workshop and then a final participants Workshop are planned for assembling the completed chapters into a book to be co-edited by Lampe and Iordachi.

In January, **Sonya Michel** presented a series of six lectures on "Gender and War in American Society" at the Amerika-Institute at the University of Munich. The lectures were accompanied by a series of films. Her visit was sponsored by the Fulbright Program. On January 20, the Amerika-Institut organized a viewing of the Inauguration, followed by a panel discussion in which Sonya Michel and Jeffrey Herf participated. On January 15, Sonya Michel presented a paper titled "The Pink and Green Revolution: Putting Women on the Road to Recovery" at a conference on "Barack Obama's America" at the University of Padua. Her participation was sponsored by the Fulbright Program of Italy.

John Parascondola's book *Sex, Sin, and Science: A History of Syphilis in America* (Praeger, 2008) has just been selected to receive the George Pendleton Prize for 2008 from the Society for the History in the Federal Government. He will also be giving a [lecture](#) and doing a [book signing](#) at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 14 at the National Museum of Health and Medicine, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

Julie Taddeo has been invited to participate in the Special Editors and Writers Panel for this month's annual meeting of the Southwest Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association in Albuquerque, NM.

Thomas Zeller was a guest on The Koyo Nnamdi Show, WAMU 88.5 FM, American University Radio, Washington, D.C., where he was interviewed for a live call-in radio program entitled "[Social Engineering and Local Roads](#)," December, 22, 2008, 12-1 p.m.

Cory Bernat will be participating in the [Astor Center's Gastronomica Forum](#): Feast for the Eyes, created in response to her essay published in the Fall 2008 issue of [Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture](#) in New York on the 18th of February.

Thomas Castillo has been very busy. He published a chapter, "Chauffeur in a White Man's Town: Black Service Work, Movement, and Segregation in Early Miami," in [Florida's Working-Class Past: Current Perspectives on Labor, Race, and Gender from Spanish Florida to the New Immigration](#), edited by Robert Cassanello and Melanie Shell-Weiss (Gainesville: University of Florida, 2009): 143-167. He wrote a book review of Kevin L. Borg's [Auto Mechanics: Technology and Expertise in Twentieth Century America](#) (Baltimore, Md: The Johns Hopkins Press, 2007) in [Enterprise and Society](#), vol 19, no. 4 Dec 2008. He also presented "Class, Race and Civil Rights in 1930s Miami, Florida" at the Social Science History Association in Miami, Florida, October 24 2008 and will present "Frontiers of Abundance: 1930s Struggles for Class Harmony" at the Organization of American Historians Conference, March 27, 2009 at Seattle, Washington.

Rob Chase will defend his dissertation on February 6, 2009 in the TLF2101 beginning at 12 Noon.

Jessica Marie Johnson was awarded a \$1500 Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant from the Social Science Research Council. This award is given to current graduate students who were also former Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellows to defray the cost of research.

Stephen Johnson will defend his dissertation on February 20, 2009 in the Merrill Room beginning at 12 Noon.

Amalia S. Levi, HILS student, presented her paper on early immigrant Jewish women from the Balkans to the US at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference and at the Middle East Studies Association conference in November 2008. She also presented a paper about the representation of Sephardic Jews through online technologies at the "Integrating Sephardi and Mizrahi Studies" conference in Los Angeles (UCLA), with a grant from the Hebrew Union College.

Paul Schmitt, who is also a law student at Georgetown, has an article appearing this spring: "The Future of Genocide Suits at the International Court of Justice: France's Role in Rwanda and Implications of the Bosnia v. Serbia Decision" in the [Georgetown Journal of International Law](#).

Darren Speece's article, "'From Corporatism to Citizen Oversight: The Legal Fight over California Redwoods, 1970-1996,'" has just been accepted for publication in *Environmental History*, planned for the October 2009 issue.

Bruce F. Adams (Ph.D. 1981, Yaney) died on November 30, 2008 at 62 after long illness. He was a very productive scholar who taught for more than 28 years at the University of Louisville. He published his dissertation on penal reforms in mid-nineteenth-century Russia, a book of anecdotes from Soviet history, and more. According to his Louisville Courier-Journal obituary he created crossword puzzles in his spare time, many of which were published in the NY Times. More information on him can be found [here](#).

Paul Burton's (Ph.D. 2000, Eckstein) book *Empire and Friendship: Roman Diplomacy and Imperialism in the Middle Republic*, has been accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press. Paul is currently a Lecturer in History in the School of Social Science at Australian National University.

Ingo Tauschweizer's (Ph.D. 2006, Sumida) book, [The Cold War U.S. Army: Building Deterrence for Limited War](#) (University Press of Kansas, 2008) recently won the Society for Military History's distinguished Book Award. The award is a considerable honor and includes a cash prize. This is the second of Sumida's advisees (Nicholas Lambert, 1999) to receive the award. Currently, Ingo is the Max Weber research fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

Guangqiu Xu (Ph.D. 1993, Cole) won the 2008 Best Adult Non-Fiction Book Award from the Chinese American Librarians Association for his book, [Congress and the U.S.-China](#)

[Relationship, 1949-1979](#) (University of Akron Press, 2007). The University of Akron Press release is [here](#). The Award is given to honor English or Chinese language books originally published in North America in 2007.

Upcoming

[The HGSA Conference](#) is being held all day Friday, February 6, 2009 in TLF2110.

Russian Search Candidates will be giving their talks on February 9, 12, and 16 in TLF2110 beginning at 4PM. You may also drop by their Teaching talks at 12:30 in the Merrill Room on those days, and for the Graduate Students, the candidates will meet at 2PM in KEY3115. The Executive Committee is meeting on February 20, 2009 in the Merrill Room beginning at 10AM.

The Washington Area Early American Seminar Series will host Toby Ditz (JHU). The Seminars are held in 7121 McKeldin beginning at 7:30PM.

The Executive Committee will meet in the Merrill Room beginning at 10AM on February 20, 2009.

There will be an APT meeting on February 20, 2009 beginning at 1PM in TLF2110.

The European Caucus will meet in TLF2110 beginning at 11AM on February 20, 2009.

The American Caucus will meet in the Merrill Room beginning at 2PM on February 20, 2009.

The CHS will host Andrew Apter on February 23, 2009. The talk will be held in TLF2110 beginning at 4PM. Commenting will be Hilary Jones.

On March 2, 2009 the APT will meet in TLF2110 beginning at 4PM.

The Maryland Colloquium of the History of Technology Science and the Environment will host a talk on March 5, 2009 in TLF2110 beginning at 4PM. Speaking will be Leo Slater, NRL.