The view through the round window *

Who can anticipate where treasures lie? In September, the Special Collections Librarian Roger Myers and I drove out to Oro Valley to the home of Margaret Molla. Mrs. Molla had invited us to inspect part of her inheritance, a 1586 edition of Lutheran teacher, deacon, and pastor Conrad Porta’s Pastorale Lutheri, a collection of Martin Luther’s writings on the education and duties of pastors. Mrs. Molla inherited this rarity from her father, Artemus I-10m, who in turn received it from his father, the Rev. William Jacob Horn. An earlier ancestor had carried it in the nineteenth century from Saxony to St. Louis. Mrs. Molla recalls that her grandfather, like his own father a Lutheran clergyman, gathered neighboring pastors, all German-speakers, in his home on Sunday afternoons, to pore through this volume for instruction and inspiration. They regarded it as a wellspring of wisdom. The well-worn pages suggest that these men found what they repeatedly sought.

How fortunate the UA Libraries are to become the repository of this ancient devotional work! Mrs. Molla providentially decided that future generations should derive the benefits of this book, and, with proper receipts, she sent it with Roger and me to its permanent new home—along with a four-volume, pre-Revolutionary French obstetrical handbook that she had received from the estate of a physician-aunt. Division graduate students will consult Porta’s anthology during spring semester 2006, when I shall preside over a seminar on Reformation clergy and preaching. This book will transport us all back through the centuries to Porta’s (and Luther’s) Eisleben.

Heiko Oberman’s own huge research collection similarly holds out to Arizonans the promise of its riches. Our ongoing task is to finish the work, well begun, of endowing the Oberman Chair so that our own public university can acquire for our common use an even more comprehensive body of literature to inspire us and expand our intellects. As I observed last year upon learning of an anonymous benefactor’s $300,000 challenge gift, if each recipient of this newsletter contributes $200 before December 31, 2006, we shall match and acquire the entire $300,000. I extend my hand in tribute to those of you who have already given. Like Mrs. Molla, you have seen the desirability of bestowing not just these rare books as valuable artifacts but especially their illuminating contents upon future generations.

Do you have historic books in your home that should be preserved for posterity?

* In case you have not been our visitor, the main office of the Division affords its only view through a round window.
Congratulations

Victoria Christman. Division doctoral student, successfully defended her dissertation in August, on the Inquisition in the Low Countries, and she and her husband Professor Robert Christian, Division alumnus, welcomed a daughter, Sophia Elizabeth, into the world on October 17.

Both parents began their positions this fall as assistant professors at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. They are also both to be congratulated on receiving research grants from the Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbütell, Germany, for 2005/06.

Pia F. Cuneo, Associate Professor of Art History and associate faculty of the Division, was awarded the Roy A. and Stardust K. Johnson Faculty Mentoring Award.

Cynthia Ann Gonzales, History Department doctoral student of Professor Helen Nader, received a summer grant from Spain’s Ministry of Culture to continue her research on conditions for women in Valencia, Spain, 1550-1600. She has now returned to the U.S. and is curating for the National Portrait Gallery in Washington D.C. while writing her dissertation.

Kathryn Jasper, History Department doctoral student of Professor Alan E. Bernstein, has published in the Journal of the Southwest (Spring 2005). Her article is entitled “The Don’s Duke Program in Scope and Sequence.” She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley.

Julie Kang, Division doctoral student, was awarded a travel grant by the UA Group for Early Modern Studies to facilitate her summer travel to the Archives Departementales du Vaucluse in Avignon, France.

Kari McBride, Associate Professor of Women’s Studies and associate faculty of the Division, has a new book out which she co-authored with Professor Meg Lota Brown entitled Women’s Roles in the Renaissance (Greenwood Press).

Joshua Rosenthal, Division doctoral student, successfully defended his dissertation this August on the family of Philippe Duplessis Mornay during the French wars of religion. He is teaching this semester at the Center for Continuing Education at the University of Southern Maine. He is teaching Latin and a course he devised entitled “God at War: A History of Religious Conflict.”

Conferences/Publications

The Division sponsored a session entitled “Cultures of Literacy in the Reformation” at this year’s Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in Atlanta. The session was chaired by Professor Susan C. Karant-Nunn, Director, and featured speakers James Blakeley, Division doctoral student, on “Learned Pests, Wise Magistrates, and Clever Subjects: The Education of Children in Counter-Reformation Fribourg, Switzerland”; and Randolph C. Head, University of California, Riverside, on “Knowing the Landfrieden: Texts, Practises, and Communities in Post-Reformation Switzerland.” Professor Karant-Nunn gave the second plenary address on “Martin Luther’s Sense of Humor,” and chaired a second session on “Lay Biblical Exegesis and Theology in the Early Reformation.”

Other presenters at the conference included Division student Joshua Rosenthal; Division alumni Professor Michael Bruning, Professor Peter Dykema, Professor John M. Frymire, Professor Brad Gregory, Professor Sigrun Haude, Professor Jonathan Reid, and Professor Joel Van Amberg; and associate faculty Pia F. Cuneo, Associate Professor of Art History, and Helen Nader, Professor of History.

James Blakeley, was invited to participate in a conference in October titled “Sources of the Reformation: Correspondence of Wolfgang Capito and Fellow Reformers.” It was sponsored by the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies at the University of Toronto. He made a paleographic presentation.

David L. Graizbord, Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies and associate faculty of the Division, presented a paper entitled “From Christianity to Judaism and Back: Judeo-Iberian Cultural Exchanges” at the Western Humanities Alliance at the UA in October. He will present papers and/or appear on panels at five professional events in the coming months. He has two articles forthcoming in the Journal of Social History and the Journal of Early Modern History and a third article under review. Meanwhile, he has completed a prospectus for his second book, tentatively titled Sephardim: Episodes in the History of a Judeo-Iberian Ethnicity in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Centuries.

Professor Susan C. Karant-Nunn, Director, spoke locally on “Martin Luther’s Sense of Humor” at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church on Reformation Sunday. She also served on the American Historical Association’s J. Franklin Jameson Prize Committee; the prize is awarded every five years for outstanding achievement in the editing of historical sources.

Alumni

Professor Curtis Bostick, Southern Utah University, was elected Chair of the Department of History and Sociology for a three-year term.

Professor Michael Bruning, Concordia University, Irvine, will have an article published in the Bibliothèque d’Humanisme et Renaissance entitled “La nouvelle réformation de Lausanne: The Proposal by the Ministers of Lausanne on Ecclesiastical Discipline (June 1558).”

Professor Michael Crawford, History Department alumnus, has begun a one-year position in the History Department at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

Professor John Frymire received the 2005 Carl S. Meyer Prize, awarded annually for the best paper delivered at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference by a scholar in graduate school or within five years of earning the Ph.D. The award-winning paper is entitled “Rites of Appeasement: Suffering and the Defense of Catholic Ritual in Reformation Germany.” He spent May and June in Germany doing research funded by the University of Missouri Research Board.

Professor Brad Gregory, University of Notre Dame, has received the first annual Hert Prize in the Humanities awarded by the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture. The prize is awarded to someone whose work in the humanities shows extraordinary promise and has a significant public or applied component.

Professor Jonathan Reid, East Carolina University, was awarded an ECU Thomas Harriot College Arts and Sciences College Research Award to prepare his dissertation on Marguerite of Navarre for publication. In October he was invited to speak in Rome at a conference comparing the origins of the French and Italian Reformations.

Professor Joel Van Amberg, formerly an adjunct lecturer at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, accepted a tenure-track assistant professorship in the Department of History at Tusculum University in Greeneville, Tennessee.

Friends

Many thanks to Mrs. Mary Goodman, who honored Professor Susan Karant-Nunn with a ceramic leaf stepping stone bearing her name in the new UA Women’s Plaza of Honor.

Felicitous birthday greetings to Dr. Morris Martin, longtime friend of the Division, who celebrated his 95th birthday on November 3.
20th Annual Town & Gown
Andrew Greeley to speak at banquet

Father Andrew Greeley has graciously consented to give the 20th annual Town and Gown Lecture. The topic he has chosen is "The Mystery of African-American Evangelicals." On February 15, 2006, the lecture will take place under different circumstances than up till now and than in the future. Father Greeley will speak at a banquet designed to assist the Division in meeting the challenge of an anonymous matching gift of $300,000, which expires on December 31, 2006. All funds raised will go toward the endowment of the Heiko A. Oberman Chair in Late Medieval and Reformation History, together with the simultaneous transmittal of Oberman’s personal research collection to the UA Special Collections Library.

Father Greeley celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination, at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Illinois, in 2004. He is a professor of sociology at the UA and Research Associate at the University of Chicago. He has achieved international celebrity with his more than 50 novels, 100 works of nonfiction, countless scholarly articles, and his newspaper op ed columns on current events.

SAVE THE DATE. The 20th Annual Town & Gown Lecture and Banquet featuring Father Andrew Greeley will take place at the Arizona Inn on February 15. The change in format this year reflects efforts to achieve a $300,000 matching gift. A portion of the individual ticket price will be tax-deductible. Reserve tickets by calling (520) 621-1284.

Obituary
Nancy O’Neill, Friend of the Division
by George Rosenberg, Member, Board of Advisors

Nancy O’Neill, a longtime winter resident of Tucson, died May 15 at her Ohio home.

Mrs. O’Neill was an ardent and generous supporter of numerous Tucson organizations, Arizona Theatre Company and St. Gregory College Preparatory School among them.

Her principal interests were with several UA programs, including archaeologist David Soren’s “digs,” the Rev. Dr. Father Robert A. Burns’ religious studies, the Humanities Seminars program, of which she was a founding contributor to its endowment in support of excellence in teaching.

Perhaps her favorite program was the UA Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies, which was established by the late and world-renowned scholar, Professor Heiko A. Oberman. Mrs. O’Neill was not only a major contributor but served as a member of Professor Oberman’s Board of Advisors. The board is presently engaged in raising funds toward the acquisition of his vast library holdings as well as the establishment of a chair honoring Professor Oberman.

Professor Susan C. Karant-Nunn, who succeeded Professor Oberman as director of the Division, said that she and the Division’s students and staff were “deeply saddened” by the death of Mrs. O’Neill. “She was more than simply a benefactor, she was among the Division’s dearest friends,” Professor Karant-Nunn said.

Nancy came first to Tucson with her husband, the late “Steve” O’Neill, who was the principal owner of the Cleveland Indians baseball team in the days when the team held its spring training in Tucson. When her husband died in 1983, his widow, despite getting lucrative offers, refused to sell to anyone who would move the team from Cleveland. She sold the team three years later, to Richard and David Jacobs, who moved the club’s spring training program away from Tucson to Florida.

$125/plate
$1,000/table of 10
Division announces new associated faculty

McBride: Early modern England, gender
by Mary Kovel, doctoral student

It is my great pleasure to introduce Kari Boyd McBride, the Division’s newest associated faculty. Professor McBride brings a new dimension to the Division with her degrees in British studies, history, and English literature. She incorporates an interdisciplinary approach to her research in English literature in order to investigate the structures of gender, race, class, and nationalism.

At the UA, Professor McBride wears many hats, which most individuals would find exhausting, but which she finds energizing. She is an associate professor in the Women’s Studies Department, where she teaches courses in feminist theorys and women in Western culture, and serves as Undergraduate Director. She is the director of the Group for Early Modern Studies (GEMS), a UA group dedicated to the promotion of interdisciplinary studies. She has participated in numerous conferences and contributed to the scholarship of early modern England through the publication of multiple book chapters, articles and encyclopedia entries. She wrote Country House Discourse in Early Modern England: A Cultural Study of Landscape and Legitimacy (2001), edited Domestic Arrangements in Early Modern England (2002), and co-authored with Meg Lota Brown, a UA English professor, the much anticipated, and needed, Women’s Roles in the Renaissance (2005).

As the director of the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies’ (ACMRS) Study Abroad Program, she will spend six weeks at St. Catharine’s College, Cambridge, where she will supervise Arizona students in their study of medieval and early modern English history. She recently won a Mellon Fellowship in order to complete research on her project on women and education in early modern England.

Professor McBride hopes that her affiliation with the Division will “foster early modern scholarship” through the promotion of interdisciplinary studies. She states, “Our common goal is to insure that early modern scholarship continues to thrive here, through the continued hiring of stellar professors, who do work in the period, and the acquisition of monographs, manuscripts, and databases that serve their research.”

At the feet of visiting scholars

Charles Zika
University of Melbourne, Australia
by Lizzy Ellis-Marino, doctoral student

Distinguished historian Charles Zika, a professor at the University of Melbourne, gave a lecture on October 26, entitled “Witches and Other Stereotypes: Image-Making in Early Modern Europe.” Co-sponsored by the UA Medieval, Renaissance, and Reformation Committee, the Group for Early Modern Studies, and the English Department, the talk was held in a conference room in the English Department, which was filled to capacity, with people standing in the back and sitting in the aisles. Professor Zika’s lecture discussed images of the diabolic, particularly images connected with witches, and how they became a sort of visual shorthand for the devil and evil. He then showed the dissemination of these images throughout Europe, which manifested themselves in anti-Catholic propaganda in Germany, illustrative woodcuts in editions of famous books, anti-Semitic propaganda across Europe, and paintings with clear political intentions.

While some of the images Professor Zika used in his talk were quite famous, a few came from unpublished archival sources. By using a diverse selection of images, Professor Zika illuminated a pervasive visual language, and gave a new dimension to some of the famous images of witches he used. Early modern Europe was endowed with a rich language of images, many of which have lost their meaning over time. For students of the period like myself, lectures like Professor Zika’s are both fascinating and invaluable for their illumination of this forgotten avenue of communication.
At the feet of visiting scholars

Carlos Eire, Yale University

by Tod Meinke, master’s student

Carlos Eire is the Riggs Professor of History and Religious Studies at Yale University, where he specializes in late medieval and early modern Europe. In his public lecture this November, entitled “Hovering Saints, Flying Witches: Writing a History of the Impossible,” he described his current research as covering “from miracles to really strange miracles.”

Although these miracles may not make sense to many modern people, they were understood as very real events during the sixteenth century. Instead of rationalizing or refuting purported miracles, Eire addresses the effect of belief in them. For example, Catholics promoted manifestations of the miraculous as the product of extreme piety, such as the many levitations experienced by Saint Teresa of Avila. Protestants, however, associated miraculous events with “bad people” who had gained their mysterious powers from the devil. Catholics and Protestants, therefore, came to interpret miracles in complete opposition, even though both religions were believed to begin with a miraculous event.

During the Division seminar, Professor Eire described two reasons for his decision to study history. One was the influence of his father, a reputable judge who also claimed to be the reincarnation of Louis XVI. Perhaps this quasi-royal heritage inspired his research into the “impossible,” but it nevertheless created a household where the past was celebrated and the present was a “comedown.” Since childhood, Eire has been obsessed with the notion that while time passes, space remains the same, and “most of what happens in this world does not leave a trace.”

Eire, however, is most fascinated by the human desire to comprehend what lies beyond this world. In that quest, religious studies allows him to explore the “relationship between matter and the afterlife,” while history provides a source of events for that exploration. By combining religious studies with historical research, Professor Eire has been able to address the history of the impossible, and provide us with a better understanding of why people sometimes behaved in a manner that does not make sense to modern readers.

Fall fundraiser

Hosted by Susan Ott and Bobbie Hanft

Thanks to the concerted efforts of Mrs. Susan Ott and Mrs. Bobbie Hanft, the Division benefited from a September reception they hosted to aid in the endowment of a chair in Late Medieval and Reformation History and the acquisition of the Division’s Founding Director, Heiko A. Oberman’s personal research collection for the UA Library. The event was hosted in the library’s original setting for a final time as Mrs. Toetie Oberman was moving from the Tucson home she shared with her husband for almost 20 years.

Guests gather for the last time in Mrs. Toetie Oberman’s home to view her late husband’s vast research library, including the rare sixteenth-century volumes pictured above.
A Nice summer in the archives

by Julie Kang, doctoral student

Summer is always exciting for us graduate students because we can leave course-work aside for a bit and concentrate on our languages or research interests. This past year, I think I won the unofficial contest for best summer destinations when I was able to tell my colleagues that I was headed to the Palace of the Popes in Avignon for archival research and then to Nice for an intensive language program.

We picture the charms of the region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur from what we have seen in movies or artwork, and we imagine these areas from what we have read in novels. They please our senses: the smell of lavender flowers and olive trees; the taste of a regional rosé wine; the awesome sight of Roman ruins or the places that inspired Van Gogh; and relaxation at the beaches along the Mediterranean that include popular celebrity cities such as Cannes or the intriguing principality of Monaco. I certainly enjoyed absorbing the culture of the south with its regional Provençal, Italian, and French influences during my two-month stay. The highlight of my trip, however, was my work in the archives at the Département de Vaucluse.

Imagine walking up to a fortress-castle for work everyday! As an historian, I could not help but daydream about the Avignon popes who might have walked along the very path I took during my lunch break, or the nuns who touched the letters and other documents I was interested in reading. Archival research brought tears of excitement and intimidation.

Although I had French in the classroom, coursework did not adequately prepare me for this trip to France. The day after I arrived, I attended a soirée for the participants and attendees of the conference on the principality of Orange. The next day, I attended the conference and tried to keep up with the wonderful papers read in academic French. Thus, I was completely immersed in French while still experiencing bouts of jetlag. The organizer of the conference, Françoise Moreil of the University of Avignon, was also my advisor abroad. The next week, she met me at the archive and gave me invaluable advice: how to make sense of the archive catalogs, how to order material, and strategies of taking notes. Like Professor Moreil, the archivists and their assistants treated this first-time reader with much patience. I also had the pleasure of meeting early modern French historian Amanda Eurich and American Fulbright scholar Elizabeth Harden, both of whom offered helpful advice and encouraged me as they worked on their respective projects. For three weeks, I attempted to decipher the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century paleography that I encountered. It was hard to tell whether I was succeeding. Thus, I was relieved to hear Professor Moreil's comments to the archivist after reviewing my transcriptions: "Elle a fait des progres!"

I would like to thank the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies, the Department of History, and the Group for Early Modern Studies for providing financial assistance and helping make this wonderful trip possible.
When I stepped off the plane in Germany for the very first time in June, little did I know what Germanic pleasures I would encounter that summer. Before my German immersion classes began at the Goethe Institute in Mannheim, I spent a leisurely four days wandering the streets of nearby Heidelberg, preparing myself for the rigors of an intensive eight-week journey that would be the start of my quest to conquer the German language. Picturesque Heidelberg, the home of the world-famous University of Heidelberg, is steeped in history and academia. Overlooking the small town with its cobblestone streets and numerous churches are the ruins of Heidelberg castle which in its glory days served as the home of the Prince Electors of the Rhenish Palatinate. Included in my visit was a trip to the labyrinthine museum of the Palatinate, a hike on the Philosophers’ Way (where the likes of Goethe and Schiller used to take walks), and a visit to the brightly graffitied students' prison, where up until the early twentieth century students at the University were locked up for committing various youthful hijinks.

When my time in Heidelberg came to an end, I made my way to the industrial town of Mannheim, twenty minutes away. After the beauty of Heidelberg, which had remained untouched by the bombings of World War II, the grittiness of Mannheim, which had been almost completely destroyed, provided me with quite a different picture of industrial post-war Germany. Though Mannheim lacked certain charms, unlike Heidelberg it also lacked citizens who spoke fluent English, a boon for one who wished to be immersed in German.

At the Goethe Institute on the outskirts of Mannheim, I spent five hours a day, five days a week, in class diligently studying the German language. My instructor, the stern Jutta, was not allowed to speak to us in any language save German from day one. Joining me in my studies were students from Thailand, India, Korea, Turkey, Japan, China, Mexico—and that was just in my class alone. My Deutsch sprechen partner, the delightful Bora, hailed from far away Seoul and could speak no English (and I'm afraid my Korean is nonexistent). We developed our own media of hand gestures, drawn pictures, and broken, badly-pronounced German. As the summer progressed our conversations improved more and more, until finally we could hold actual conversations that went further than "Wie geht's?" ("How are you?") I found that I could now read advertisements on buildings, understand random snatches of conversation on the S-Bahn, and make small talk with the locals at the neighborhood bar, the Cat Weazel.

After working hard at learning the language all week long, we spent the weekends on trips outside of Mannheim to put into practice our new skills. Destinations such as Berlin, Munich, Vienna, Salzburg—and of course repeated returns to Heidelberg—proved to be interesting side trips that provided the culture and history that I yearned to know. I learned more German history on these weekend excursions than I had ever studied in my classes in the U.S. My physically being there made events, persons, and places all come together in ways that books cannot achieve. The different cultures and traditions that made up the Holy Roman Empire still persist today, constantly reminding one of the divided histories of the Germanic lands. When I left Tucson for the summer, I had only a vague idea of Germany, mixed with disparate knowledge concerning specific events. My traipsing from place to place made Germany more alive, more real to me then before.
UA Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies
Alumni Appointments

Robert J. Bast (1993)  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Curtis V. Bostick (1993)  
Southern Utah University

Michael Bruening (2002)  
Concordia University, Irvine

Robert Christman (2004)  
Luther College, Iowa

Victoria Christman (2005)  
Luther College, Iowa

Peter Dykema (1998)  
Arkansas Tech University

John Frymire (2001)  
University of Missouri, Columbia

Andrew C. Gow (1993)  
University of Alberta, Edmonton

Brad S. Gregory (M.A. 1989; Ph.D. Princeton 1996)  
University of Notre Dame

Sigrun Haude (1993)  
University of Cincinnati

Nicole Kuropka (M.A. 1997)  
Vicar, Evangelical Church of the Rhineland

Marjory E. Lange (1993, English major, History minor)  
Western Oregon University

Scott M. Manetsch (1997)  
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Michael Milway (1997)  
Wellesley College

Jonathan Reid (2001)  
East Carolina University

Joshua Rosenthal (2005)  
University of Southern Maine

Eric Leland Saak (1993)  
Indiana University, Purdue University, Indianapolis

J. Jeffery Tyler (1995)  
Hope College, Michigan

Joel Van Amberg (2004)  
Tusculum University

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