

NEWS

of the National Humanities Center



Director Search Brings Distinguished Literary Scholar to Center

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The National Humanities Center has announced the appointment of Professor Geoffrey Galt Harpham as its next Director. He will succeed W. Robert Connor, who has directed the Center since 1989 and will retire at the end of December 2002.

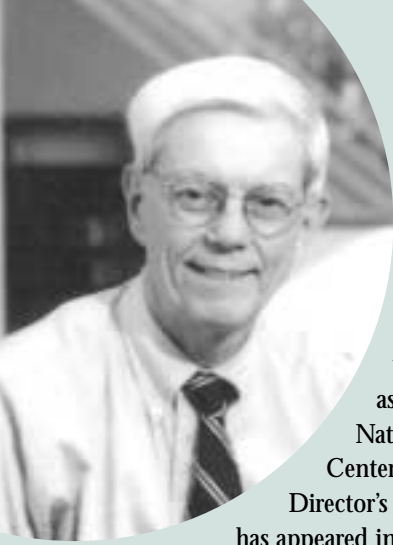
Harpham, 55, holds the Pierce Butler Chair in English Literature at Tulane University. He is an internationally recognized scholar who has published six books and is a regular contributor to leading journals in the humanities. An early and forceful advocate for the “ethical turn” in literary studies, Harpham founded and directed the Graduate Program in Literary Theory at Tulane, where he has also served as Chairman of the Department of English. He has been awarded grants by the American Council of Learned Societies, the J. S. Guggenheim Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and he is a Life Member of Clare Hall, University of Cambridge.

John P. Birkelund, Chairman of the Center’s Board and of the search committee for the new Director, stated, “Geoffrey Harpham is precisely the kind of leader we sought. He has a distinguished record of intellectual achievement, he has breadth of vision, and he is an articulate spokesman for the humanities. The Center will be in good hands.” Birkelund commended the Trustees who served on the search committee for setting appropriately high standards and for working diligently to identify a candidate who fulfilled them.

“It’s an exciting time to be coming to the National Humanities Center,” Harpham said. “With new leadership at the NEH, the ACLS, and the Guggenheim Foundation, the key institutions in the sponsorship and promotion of humanistic scholarship in America are all experiencing a moment of transition. I want to work with people at these other institutions to make sure that it is also a moment of revitalization, when the mission of the humanities is redefined in light of the needs of contemporary society.

“I’m especially happy to be arriving following the tenure of Bob Connor, whose leadership has been crucial to the growth, stability, and increasing distinction of the Center,” Harpham added. Under Connor’s leadership, the Center’s endowment has increased from \$10 million to \$40 million, its fellowship and education programs have been broadened and expanded, and the Center has gained increasing recognition as a critical institution in the vanguard of humanistic studies.





A Conversation with Bob Connor

On December 31, Bob Connor will step down as Director of the National Humanities Center. In place of the Director's Column that has appeared in this space since *News of the National Humanities Center* debuted in spring 1999, this issue features an August interview in which *News* Editor Dave Rice asked Bob to look back on his tenure and ahead to a resumption of his scholarship.

Let's turn the clock back 13 years, to the feelings you had when you came to the National Humanities Center, about the humanities themselves but also about this institution and your hopes for the place.

The humanities were then in a very parlous situation—the culture wars were raging, everything was highly polarized. No firm central ground had emerged on multicultural issues, and postmodernist epistemological doubts were deeply troubling some scholars. Many people thought the humanities were being politicized. One of the most pressing issues then was how the Humanities Center could find a constructive role in the midst of a very difficult situation intellectually.

Just intellectually, or financially, too?

Absolutely. It was a very difficult situation financially, because many of these movements—even quite legitimate ones—were seen as an abandonment of the traditional values of the humanities. They were easily misunderstood and in some cases deliberately misrepresented.

So what did you do?

The issues were really very, very thorny ones and my feeling was twofold. First, we had to hold on to core values of the humanities—evidence, clarity, logic, a sense of tradition, an interest in texts

of perennial significance and the questions of value that they raise. But second, that in doing so we would not exclude the healthy process of innovation, of rethinking important issues, of including new texts, periods, and approaches. I'm a classicist. I believe that the literature and historical experience of classical antiquity, and perhaps of other pasts as well, resonate in very different cultural settings, and new settings bring to light new layers of meaning.

After what you have said was a rough start for your tenure and a rough period for the humanities, the Center conducted a campaign that added greatly to the endowment, solidified the fellowship program, and secured both its financial and intellectual independence. What happened here that enabled the institution to come so far in a relatively short time?

Two things. The centrist position that I just sketched out and the notion of holding onto core values in the humanities became increasingly attractive. We weren't playing ideological games. We weren't trying to pander to the intellectual left or the conservative right. Our friends respected that. Second, many people value the humanities because they recognize that they have a powerful educational role and they really do add perspective, add depth to the lifetime experience of those who study them. A lot of people want to see the humanities strong. And we were able to make the case that this institution was a very effective—and a very cost-effective—way of strengthening the humanities. Excellent scholarship is going to drive excellent teaching. It is going to open up new perspectives on works of art, music, and literature. People value that and they rallied to the Center's support.

You must have also encountered the sentiment that the humanities were irrelevant to the modern world.

Sure. But that played out in a surprising way. I became Director in the amaz-

ing year 1989, the year of the collapse of Soviet hegemony and of huge changes in South Africa, Asia, and elsewhere. A lot of this change was being conceptualized outside the United States, in terms of a very humanistic tradition. It finally dawned on me, when I was reading the paper and thinking about where the Center could make a useful contribution, that they were all talking about civil society, a tradition in political philosophy that goes back through the great exposition that comes from the European Enlightenment and ultimately to the Greeks. Around the world, people saw that converting the idea of civil society into a living reality is the challenge and the achievement of America. So I thought, why not take a look at that tradition and what it means today? We started the Center's project on civil society, and it proved immensely productive in all sorts of ways.

Since September 11, there has been a lot of talk about the renewed importance of the humanities, without a lot of specifics about what that means.

There is no single response to September 11, but I don't know anyone who hasn't been deeply affected by it. Vast numbers of scholars in particular have been rethinking what they are doing. The Center is an ideal setting for that rethinking, in part because it's a place of the heart as well as the head. It's a place where people become good enough friends to talk frankly about what really matters to them. That's absolutely crucial when you are trying to think through notions of values that are shaped very, very rationally but are nonetheless close to the heart. You need to be in an environment where such thought is taken seriously. The Center is a place where you can share your concerns on how to be an effective member of academia and an effective citizen.

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What are some of the greatest satisfactions that you will take away from your 13 years here?

The friendships that have emerged—with staff, Trustees, and absolutely the Fellows, about 500 of them since I became Director. Obviously, I am not close friends with all of them, but I'm amazed sometimes how many good friendships emerge here at the Center and how they mesh with the issues that I really care about. My biggest concern right now is the relationship between the humanities and the way we act. I think that is essentially a moral question, and hence a lot of what I have tried to do here during my tenure has been to raise, usually very quietly, sometimes quite indirectly, the question of how we genuinely want to practice our profession

of teaching and scholarship. That's a question of core values. We all need to ask these questions, and we all need each other to answer them. There is great satisfaction when you can think about some of these issues with friends whose minds and spirits you really value.

What's ahead? You have a book you have been working on.

I want to finish that book of mine, the one called *Festivals of Memory*, and after that, well, we'll see. I came into this job wet behind the ears and I've learned a lot. Maybe I can put that to some use, but I don't have any plans for that yet.

It's turning midnight on December 31...

The state police will be dragging me out of this office, saying, you have to leave, you are now a trespasser.

What words of advice do you have for your successor?

The worst pressures in this job are toward inauthenticity—to try to make false claims, use specious rhetoric, say what other people want you to say. So I guess I'd have to say, hang on to the authentic distinctiveness of the Center, the subject matter that is studied in it, the sometimes rather quirky but genuine projects—they come out of genuine intellectual interest. They are pursued with passion. Validate them and let them resonate. And enjoy it. It's a great job, a great institution, a lot of fun. He should have a terrific time. I sure did.

2002–03 Fellows Arrive

At its traditional Labor Day picnic, the National Humanities Center welcomed most of the 39 members of the 25th class of Fellows. (The 39th, David Schimmelpenninck, will arrive for the spring semester.) Representing history, literature, philosophy, and half a dozen other humanistic fields of study, these scholars come to the Center from the faculties of colleges and universities across the United States and also from Canada, Israel, and the United Kingdom.

Among the new Fellows is Susan Fern Hirsch of Wesleyan University, who holds the first Hurford Family Fellowship, the latest of 22 fellowships endowed by supporters of the Center. Other sources of funding for individual fellowships include grants from the Chiang Ching Kuo Foundation, the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the Florence

Gould Foundation, the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, the Lilly Endowment, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. One fellowship, held by Kathryn Jane Burns of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is supported by the contributions of alumni Fellows of the Center.



L TO R ROBERT WRIGHT, JOHN MEDLIN, AND HILGE HURFORD.

Lyman Award Nominations Open

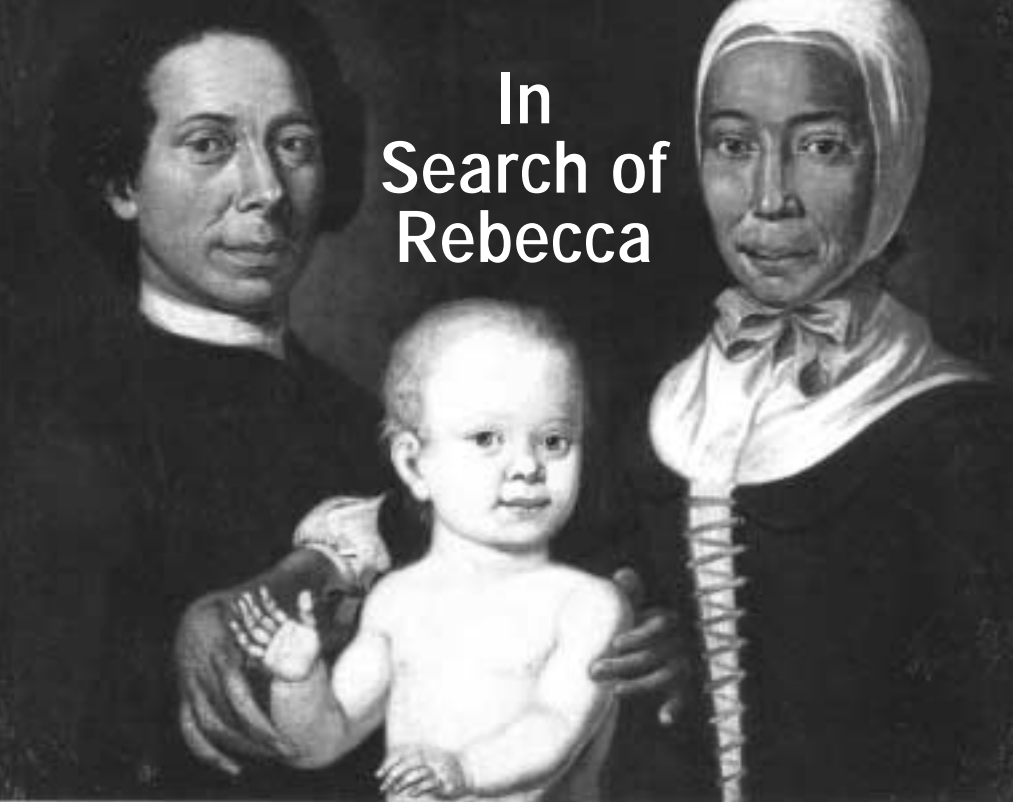
The National Humanities Center welcomes nominations for the second Richard W. Lyman Award, established to recognize humanities scholars who make imaginative use of information technology to advance scholarship and teaching.

The first scholar to receive the award, Jerome McGann of the University of Virginia, gave a public lecture at the Center on October 3. His talk, "Textonics: Literary and Cultural Studies in a Quantum World," was the first at the Center to be broadcast live over the Internet.

To learn more about the Lyman Award, submit a nomination, or view McGann's lecture in digital video or text, visit the Center's Web site,

www.nhc.rtp.nc.us/lymanaward/lymanaward.htm

In Search of Rebecca



Jon Sensbach wishes he had gone to Bethlehem sooner. Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, that is.

Sensbach, an associate professor of history at the University of Florida, was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the National Humanities Center in 2001–02, working on *Rebecca's Revival: The Origins of Afro-Christianity in the Atlantic World*. The eponymous Rebecca Protten was the first known black Protestant missionary in the Americas, a freed slave who spurred the rise of the first evangelical slave communities in the Caribbean during the 1730s. Researching her story led Sensbach to Germany and Denmark, as well as to take what he jokingly calls a “grueling trip” to the oldest black Protestant church in the world, built in 1741 in St. Thomas. A journey to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania late in the fellowship year rewarded him with a wealth of new material, and left him wishing he could add a second year to his fellowship.

Rebecca is fascinating for many reasons, Sensbach says. She was born in Antigua in about 1718 and raised in the Danish West Indian colony of St. Thomas, where she was briefly enslaved before being emancipated. She married a white missionary, was imprisoned by

slaveholders angry about her interracial marriage and her evangelizing, and fled to Germany. After the death of her first husband, she married a half-African, half-Danish preacher and moved to Africa. “You get the sense that she was really one of the driving forces of this movement,” Sensbach says. “She believed that she had a special dispensation from God to preach his word in this violent and hostile terrain.”

Because she was literate, and because her charismatic leadership won her notice in the diaries of the German missionaries who converted and trained her, Rebecca provided a reasonably well-documented opportunity for Sensbach to write a history from the perspective of the people who led the hemispheric movement of African Christian self-organization. “Traditionally, in the way a lot of this history has been written, we tell the story of the white missionaries who come in and bravely do their stuff,” Sensbach says. “Rebecca and a handful of other people of African descent were the ones that took the message out to other Africans on plantations and endured tremendous hardships and persecutions, including beatings by white masters who were afraid of them and thought they were spreading a seditious

message. This was not a religion that was imposed from above, but really was taken up and seized from below and spread out.”

In the Moravian Church archives in Germany, Sensbach pored over thousands of pages of original diaries and letters from the 1730s. They contain letters by Protten herself, and accounts of her written by missionaries. As the first modern historian to use these materials, Sensbach translated documents in an archaic form of German writing himself, and hired translators to work on accounts in Dutch and Danish. The archives show that from a few converts in 1735, the Moravian evangelical movement grew to about 1,000 by 1740 and 2,000 by 1750. “This was kind of the wellspring of this massive movement,” he says. “It was picked up and spread to mainland North America and the Caribbean and elsewhere.”

While his research revealed clues to Rebecca's life and motivation, Sensbach's sense of the people she preached to and converted was not as strong. But help was on the way.

Just a few weeks before he packed up his study at the Center and returned to Florida, Sensbach found his Rosetta Stone. In another Moravian archive in Bethlehem, he says, “I found several lists of those of African descent baptized in the churches in St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas from about 1736 up to the 1840s. It is a listing of at least 8,000 names.” Alongside each name on the lists is a country of origin and an occupation. For those born in the West Indies, the lists often contain the parents' nationality. “It is,” he says, “a blueprint for reading who are the first generation of black Protestant Christians in the New World.”

As he left the Center in May, Sensbach was planning to take a crash course in Microsoft Excel so he could

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Friends of the Center Collaborate on Scholarly Project

As friends of the National Humanities Center, Mary Coker Joslin, her husband William, and their daughter, Carolyn Coker Joslin Watson, have supported humanistic scholarship generously. Mary Joslin and Carolyn Watson have made another contribution to the humanities: in 2001, the British Library and the University of Toronto Press published *The Egerton Genesis*, their study of a medieval Bible picture book.

Before embarking on her career as a teacher and scholar, Joslin raised six chil-

dren in Raleigh, North Carolina. When the youngest was six, she earned her teaching certificate and taught at a private high school for eight years. She took four years off from teaching to return to graduate school, and became fascinated with the Egerton Genesis while writing her dissertation on a Genesis manuscript written in Old French about a century before the Egerton Genesis. "I just fell in love with it, and I couldn't help myself," she says with an enthusiasm that belies her 79 years. "I had to go and work on it."

After her retirement as Professor of Romance Languages and Humanities at Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, Joslin pursued the project by herself for three or four years before recruiting Watson. "In the late '80s, she talked about 'this bizarre manuscript' quite a lot," says Watson, who is Professor of Art History at Furman University in Greenville, S.C. "Her descriptions piqued my interest. We decided to work together on a book or article on the Egerton Genesis in about 1990."

The Egerton Genesis is an unfinished, secular manuscript with Old French text. The most detailed of the many Genesis picture books, with 149 scenes, it gleefully depicts the murder, incest, rape, bigamy, and everything else found in the Biblical Genesis. "It was very soon after the Great Plague," Joslin explains. "We felt that the inhibitions had been let down in every respect." Characterized by sharp social commentary, comic facial



expressions, and unconventional subject matter, Joslin says, the Egerton Genesis "mocks the doctors who weren't able to cure the Plague, it mocks the Church for demanding money to receive the Communion."

Little is known about the Egerton Genesis before its purchase by the British Museum in 1860, although scholars had traced it to England during the third quarter of the 14th century. Researching the book required trips to Cambridge and Oxford, Paris, Prague, Copenhagen, and the Hague. "We had many good laughs and some real adventures during our trips to libraries overseas," Watson says, many related to opening books that appeared not to have been disturbed for centuries. "I had a coughing spell in the Bodleian Library and they were so worried about me that they ushered me out, so if I were to die it would be outside the place," Joslin recalls with a laugh.

Both agree that writing the book was a team effort, and a labor of love. Joslin is proud of her own discovery that many of the scenes in the Egerton Genesis come straight from the medieval plays of the time, but even prouder of Watson's detective work in identifying the previously anonymous artist. He is, they believe, a Flemish painter named Michiel van der Borch. A signature on

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BUILDING THE TOWER OF BABEL
FROM *THE EGERTON GENESIS*
reprinted by permission of the British Museum



Sensbach *continued from page 4*

create a new database and begin organizing the riches he brought back from Bethlehem. "Once I have time to put all of this together and analyze the data, I should be able to come up with a demographic profile of an important section of the first generation of black Protestant Christians," he says. "It will enable us to zone in on these people: What package

of beliefs did they bring with them as slaves? Why did they think Christianity might be a vehicle to express their beliefs? What was in it for them to convert to Christianity? Combined with the diaries and all sorts of other materials I hope to be able to put together that picture."

National Humanities Center 2002–03 Fellows



TOM BEGHIN



KALMAN P. BLAND

Tom Beghin (William J. Bouwsma Fellow*), Musicology, University of California, Los Angeles, *Performing Rhetoric: Joseph Haydn's Keyboard Sonatas as Musical Orations*

Paul Douglas Griffiths (Frank H. Kenan Fellow*), History, Iowa State University, *Petty Crime, Policing, and Punishment in London, 1545–1660*

Kalman P. Bland (Duke Endowment* and NEH Fellow ‡), Religion, Duke University, *Animals, Technology, and Souls: Human Identity in Medieval Jewish Thought*

Grace Elizabeth Hale (Delta Delta Delta Fellow*), History, University of Virginia, *Rebel, Rebel: Outsiders in America, 1945–2000*



KATHRYN JANE BURNS



CHARLES H. CAPPER

Kathryn Jane Burns (Fellows' Fellow), History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, *Truth and Consequences: Scribes and the Colonization of Latin America*

James A. Henretta (John Hope Franklin Senior Fellow*), History, University of Maryland, College Park, *The Liberal State in America: New York, 1820–1950*

Charles H. Capper (Lilly Fellow in Religion and the Humanities), History, Boston University, *The Transcendentalist Moment: Romantic Intellect and America's Democratic Awakening*

Susan Fern Hirsch (Hurford Family Fellow*), Anthropology, Wesleyan University, *The Embassy Bombings Reframed: Constructing Identities, Legal Meanings, and Justice*



SHERMAN COCHRAN



EDWIN DAVID CRAUN

Sherman Cochran (Henry Luce Senior Fellow*), History, Cornell University, *Inside a Chinese Family: The Private Correspondence of the Lius of Shanghai, 1910–1956*

Paulina Kewes (Research Triangle Foundation Benjamin N. Duke Fellow*), English, University of Wales, U.K., *The Staging of History in Early Modern England*

Edwin David Craun (Jessie Ball duPont Fellow), English, Washington and Lee University, *Fraternal Correction: The Ethics of Medieval English Reformist Literature*

James Rex Knowlson (Delmas Fellow), French, University of Reading, U.K., *Samuel Beckett and European Art and Architecture*



ANDREW H. DELBANCO



GINGER SUZANNE FROST

Andrew H. Delbanco (Lilly Fellow in Religion and the Humanities), English, Columbia University, *Melville's World*

Lloyd S. Kramer (GlaxoSmithKline Senior Fellow*), History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, *Traveling to Unknown Places: Politics, Religion and the Cultural Identities of Expatriate Writers, 1780–1960*

Ginger Suzanne Frost (Rockefeller Fellow*), History, Samford University, *"As Husband and Wife": Cohabitation in Nineteenth-Century England*

John Richard Kucich (William C. and Ida Friday Senior Fellow*), English, University of Michigan, *Melancholy Magic: Masochism and Late Victorian Political Identities*



GAIL McMURRAY GIBSON



PAUL DOUGLAS GRIFFITHS

Gail McMurray Gibson (Jessie Ball duPont and Duke Endowment* Fellow), English, Davidson College, *Childbed Mysteries: Performances of Childbirth in the Late Middle Ages*

Richard Lim (NEH Fellow), Ancient History, Smith College, *The World Continues: Public Spectacles and Civic Transformation in Late Antiquity*



GRACE ELIZABETH HALE



JAMES A. HENRETTA



SUSAN FERN HIRSCH



PAULINA KEWES



JAMES REX KNOWLSON



LOYD S. KRAMER

Jo Burr Margadant (Archie K. Davis Senior Fellow), History, Santa Clara University, *Monarchy at Risk: The Last French Royal Family, 1830–1848*

Ted W. Margadant (Gould Fellow), History, University of California, Davis, *Criminal Justice and Revolutionary Politics in 1789*

Teresita Martinez-Vergne (NEH Fellow), History, Macalester College, *The Construction of Citizenship in the Twentieth-Century Dominican National Discourse*

David Lewis Porter (Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Fellow* with support from the Chiang Ching Kuo Foundation), English, University of Michigan, *China and the Invention of British Aesthetic Culture*

Stephen J. Pyne (MacArthur Ecological Humanities Fellow), History, Arizona State University, *A Fire History of Canada*

Joanne Rappaport (NEH Fellow), Anthropology, Georgetown University, *Indigenous Public Intellectuals and the Construction of Nationality in Colombia*

Jonathan Riley (NEH Fellow), Philosophy, Tulane University, *Pluralistic Liberalisms: Berlin, Rawls, and Mill*

Harriet Ritvo (MacArthur Ecological Humanities Fellow), History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, *The Dawn of Green: Manchester, Thirlmere, and the Victorian Environment*

Jenefer Mary Robinson (NEH Fellow), Philosophy, University of Cincinnati, *A Theory of Emotion: How to Make the Connection between “Primitive” and Cognitively Complex Emotions*

Paula Ann Sanders (John E. Sawyer Fellow*), History, Rice University, *Making Cairo Medieval*

David H. Schimmelpenninck (Research Triangle Foundation Josephus Daniels Fellow*†), History, Brock University, *Russian Orientalism: Asia in the Russian Mind from Catherine the Great to the Emigration*

Moshe Sluhovsky (Research Triangle Foundation Walter Hines Page Fellow*), History, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, *Possessed Women, Mysticism, and Discernment of Spirits in Early Modern Europe*

Erin Ann Smith (Lilly Fellow in Religion and the Humanities), American Studies, University of Texas at Dallas, *Souls and Commodities: Spirituality and Print Culture in 20th-Century America*

Faith Lois Smith (Rockefeller Fellow*), English, Brandeis University, *Making Modern Subjects: Cultural and Intellectual Formation, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad, 1880–1910*

Helen Solterer (John G. Medlin, Jr., Fellow*), French, Duke University, *Playing the Dead: Theatrical Revivals of the Medieval Past in Modern-Day France*

Mart Allen Stewart (MacArthur Ecological Humanities Fellow), History, Western Washington University, *Climate and Culture in American History*

Peter T. Struck (Robert F. and Margaret S. Goheen Fellow*), Classics, University of Pennsylvania, *Divination and Greek Hermeneutics*

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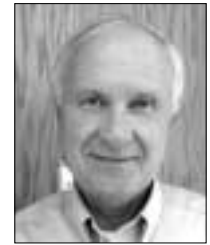
JOHN RICHARD KUCICH



RICHARD LIM



JO BURR MARGADANT



TED W. MARGADANT



TERESITA MARTINEZ-VERGNE



DAVID LEWIS PORTER



STEPHEN J. PYNE



JOANNE RAPPAORT



JONATHAN RILEY



HARRIET RITVO



JENEFER MARY ROBINSON



PAULA ANN SANDERS



MOSHE SLUHOVSKY



ERIN ANN SMITH



FAITH LOIS SMITH



HELEN SOLTERER

† In residence spring semester only.

Mellon, Rockefeller Grants Boost Education Programs

Fellows *continued from page 7*



MART ALLEN STEWART



PETER T. STRUCK



SIGRÚN
SVAVARSDÓTTIR



JOSEPH E. TAYLOR



BERNARD MANO J.
WASSERSTEIN



ANNABEL JANE
WHARTON

Sigrún Svavarsdóttir (Delta Delta Delta Fellow*), Philosophy, Ohio State University, *Value Concepts and Objectivity*

Joseph E. Taylor (MacArthur Ecological Humanities Fellow), History, Iowa State University, *"Pilgrims of the Vertical": Yosemite Rock Climbing and Modern Environmental Culture*

Bernard Mano J. Wasserstein (John P. Birkelund Senior Fellow*), History, University of Glasgow, Scotland, U.K., *Krakowiec: Jews and Their Neighbors in a Small Town in Eastern Galicia, 1772–1946*

Annabel Jane Wharton (Allen W. Clowes Fellow*), Art History, Duke University, *Selling Jerusalem: Towards an Historical Economy of Images*

* Endowed Fellowship

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, both long-time supporters of the National Humanities Center, have made new grants that will further the Center's work with high school teachers and with younger scholars on college and university faculties.

Over the next three years the Mellon grant, for \$693,000, will support seven summer seminars that will allow younger scholars to read major texts with distinguished senior literary critics. In 2003 two seminars will take place at the Center, featuring Helen Vendler (Past Trustee), A. Kingsley Porter University Professor at Harvard University, on the poetry of William Butler Yeats, and Patricia Meyer Spacks (Fellow 1982–83, '88–89; Trustee), Edgar F. Shannon Professor at the University of Virginia, on Jane Austen's *Emma*. A third, led by Richard Brodhead on *Moby-Dick*, will take place at Yale University, where Brodhead is Dean of Yale College and A. Bartlett Giamatti Professor of English.

"The Mellon Foundation grant will allow us to expand our work with college and university faculty," said Richard Schramm, Vice President for Education Programs. "Among other benefits, it will introduce the Center to bright, young scholars, who may very well show up some day as Fellows."

Rockefeller's grant, for just under \$300,000, will underwrite the Center's summer institute for high school teachers in 2003. The program will explore the making of African American identity from 1865 to 1910 and will begin the development of the Center's third on-line seminar toolbox. Three Fellows of the Center—Colin A. Palmer (Trustee), Dodge Professor of History at Princeton University; Richard Powell, John Spencer Bassett Professor of Art History at Duke University; and Trudier Harris-Lopez, J. Carlyle Sitterson Professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—will lead the project.

"The support of the Rockefeller Foundation represents a welcome vote of confidence for our new approach to high school teachers," Schramm said. "Not only will it enable us to refine further our new summer institute design, it will also allow us to create another on-line toolbox that will reach teachers well beyond the Center."

The Center's summer institutes for high school teachers bring Fellows and teachers to the Center for two weeks. They spend their mornings engaged in traditional, face-to-face exchange and their afternoons creating a blueprint for a Web-delivered seminar toolbox. Over the fall, Center staff, working with the institute faculty and participants, elaborate the blueprint into an on-line resource that provides texts and inquiry strategies, out of which teachers across the nation, collaborating with local scholars, can build their own summer seminars.

Throughout the summer, a total of 70 teachers in five pilot sites in North Carolina and one in Pennsylvania tested the Center's first seminar toolbox, which emerged from a summer institute in 2001. (Visit <http://www.nhc.rtp.nc.us/pds/pds.htm> for more information.) The Center is developing a second toolbox, "Living the Revolution: America, 1789–1820," which took shape in the 2002 summer institute. That program was led by Robert Ferguson (NEH Fellow 1994–95) of Columbia University and Christine Heyrman (Mellon Fellow 1985–86) of the University of Delaware.

In the next *News of the National Humanities Center*...

...new Director Geoffrey Harpham discusses his plans, Andrew Delbanco and Charles Capper talk about a Lilly Endowment-sponsored seminar on religion and the humanities, and more news of the Center's programs.

Kudos

A sampling of good news from our Trustees and Fellows.

T. J. Anderson (Fellow 1996–97) received an honorary doctorate of fine arts from Northwestern University's School of Music on June 22. Anderson's new opera, "Slip-Knot," will have a fall workshop presentation and a spring premiere at Northwestern. "Slip-Knot" had its genesis in a talk given at the National Humanities Center by Timothy H. Breen (Fellow 1983–84, '95–96), who presented Anderson for the degree.

John P. Birkelund (Chairman of the Board of Trustees) received an honorary doctorate of laws from Brown University during its commencement on May 27. Birkelund has served Brown as a trustee and fellow of its Corporation, and is chair of the Board of Overseers of the university's Thomas J. Watson Jr. Institute for International Studies.

William C. Brumfield (NEH Fellow 1992–93) has been elected to the State Russian Academy of Architecture.

Caroline Walker Bynum (Trustee), University Professor at Columbia University, in May received the Mark Van Doren Award for Outstanding Teaching from the Columbia College Student Council Academic Awards Committee. In January, Bynum will join the faculty of the Institute for Advanced Study, but will continue to work with Columbia students.

Deborah Cohen (NEH Fellow 2001–02) has left American University to become an associate professor of history at Brown University.

W. Robert Connor (President and Director) gave the Founders' Day address at Duke University on October 3. In a talk entitled "Greed is Not Enough," Connor said, "We have become a culture, not of greed, but of excess; that is, a society in which status is conferred by lavish consumption and display. In such a culture, greed is not enough; it's just a way of getting status. But status comes at a price: alienation from friends, neighbors, communities, and, I believe, nature."

John Hope Franklin (Fellow 1980–82, Trustee Emeritus) has received additional accolades for his long and distinguished career as a scholar, intellectual leader, and civil rights advocate. In May, the

Academic Senate of the University of California at Berkeley presented him with its highest honor, the Clark Kerr Award for Leadership in Higher Education. In June, the American Academy of Arts and Letters presented Franklin with its Gold Medal in History, presented every six years to recognize lifetime achievement. At its annual meeting, the Organization of American Historians presented Franklin and another distinguished historian, Anne Firor Scott (Fellow 1980–81, Trustee Emerita), with its Distinguished Public Service Award for their "many years of service on behalf of the humanities and the American historical profession." The group saluted Franklin and Scott as "pioneers who have shaped the history of our time."

Paul Grendler (Fellow 1988–89, '89–90) in April was elected a member of the American Philosophical Society, founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin and others "For Promoting Useful Knowledge." Grendler joins the Center's Director, Bob Connor, among the society's 742 members.

Hilde Hoogenboom (Jessie Ball duPont Fellow 2000–01) has become visiting assistant professor in German Studies & Russian at Macalester College.

Anthony La Vopa (Fellow 1983–84, '98–99), Charles Capper (Fellow 1994–95, 2002–03), and Nicholas Phillipson will be the editors of a new journal, tentatively titled *Modern Intellectual History*. The journal will succeed the *Intellectual History Newsletter*, the final issue of which features several papers from "Liberal Cultures and Their Critics: The Trials of a Transatlantic Tradition," the Sawyer Seminar that took place at the National Humanities Center over the past three years.

Donald S. Lopez (Research Triangle Foundation Benjamin N. Duke Fellow 1996–97) was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2000, and in 2002 he was appointed as associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts at the University of Michigan, where he is Carl W. Belser Professor of Buddhist and Tibetan Studies and chair of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. Other recently elected members of the

American Academy include Thomas Laqueur (John P. Birkelund Senior Fellow 2000–01), James Olney (Fellow 1980–81), and Stephen Pyne (Fellow 1979–80, MacArthur Ecological Humanities Fellow 2002–03).

Carol Oja's (NEH Fellow 1995–96) book *Making Music Modern: New York in the 1920s* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), is the recipient of the 2002 Irving Lowens Memorial Award from the Society of American Music and the 2002 Deems Taylor Special Recognition Award from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers.

Waller Randy Newell (Fellow 1985–86) reports two recent publications, *What Is a Man? 3,000 Years of Wisdom on the Art of Manly Virtue* (ReganBooks/HarperCollins, 2000; revised and abridged for paperback publication, 2001), and *Bankrupt Education: The Decline of Liberal Education in Canada* (University of Toronto Press, 1996). A reviewer writing in the *American Political Science Review* called the book Newell worked on during his fellowship year, *Ruling Passion: The Erotics of Statecraft in Platonic Political Philosophy* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2000), "one of the best books on Plato in recent years."

Gunther Peck (NEH Fellow 2001–02) has left the University of Texas at Austin to become visiting associate professor of history at Duke University.

John Plotz (Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Fellow 2001–02) has left Johns Hopkins University to become assistant professor of English at Brandeis University.

Daniel J. Sherman (Gould Fellow 1999–2000) has won another prize for his book *The Construction of Memory in Interwar France* (University of Chicago Press, 1999), the biennial Laurence Wylie Prize of the Association for French Cultural Studies, and has become director of the Center for 21st Century Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

George Watson (Mellon Fellow 2000–01) has been named associate director of the Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies at the University of Aberdeen (www.abdn.ac.uk/riiss/).

an apparently unrelated miniature convinced Watson of his identity, Joslin says. “She saw the relation of his other miniatures to this one, which was supposed to be not related because it was English and his were Flemish. But then we realized he had come over to Norwich, England,” part of a wave of Flemish immigrants invited by Edward III to establish the weaving trade in England.

Watson in turn has high praise for her mother, now a grandmother of fourteen. “I consider myself highly privileged to have had the experience of writing a scholarly book with my mother,” she

says. “She has a great love of the manuscript and she has an unkillable perseverance, which stood us in good stead during the many delays we encountered on the road to publication.”

The Egerton Genesis is dedicated to Jaroslav Folda, N. Ferebee Taylor Professor of the History of Art at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he taught both Joslin and Watson. Joslin credits Folda, who was the Allen W. Clowes Fellow at the National Humanities Center in 1998–99, with piquing her interest in Genesis manuscripts. “He is a lovely

man,” she says. “He is very interested in his students.”

The two have no plans for future projects at the moment, Watson says, adding that working with her mother has given her the confidence to strike out on her own next time. Joslin already has another book in press, this one a biography of her uncle, Dr. William Chambers Coker. He was the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s first professor of botany, and the founder of Coker Arboretum, which will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2003.

In Memoriam

Yehoshua Arieli (Fellow 1979–80), distinguished Israeli historian, died August 3 in Jerusalem. He was 86. These lines appeared in one of his obituaries: “Though Arieli cherished the sabbaticals that he and his beloved wife Yael later spent at Harvard and at Oxford, their favorite spot was in North Carolina, at the National Humanities Center. Such respites enabled him to publish—in Hebrew—two volumes on *Political Thought in the United States*, and a collection of essays entitled *History and Politics* (Tel Aviv: Am Oved, 1992). ‘Absolute integrity, amazing erudition. . . and...[a] great heart’—that is how his friend Isaiah Berlin praised Arieli on his eightieth birthday.”

R. W. B. Lewis (Mellon Senior Fellow 1989–90, Distinguished Visitor 1998–99), a literary critic and Pulitzer-winning biographer, died in June. He was 84. Lewis won a Pulitzer Prize in 1976 for *Edith Wharton: A Biography* (1975). The book also won the Bancroft Prize for American history and the first National Book Critics Circle Award for nonfiction.

A professor at Yale from 1959 to 1988, Lewis taught English and American studies. Lewis’ other books include one he worked on at the National Humanities Center, *The Jameses: A Family Narrative* (1991), which was a finalist for the National Book Award. His most recent book, *Dante* (2001), combined his interest in the city of Florence, Italy and his admiration for *The Divine Comedy*.

R. R. Palmer (Fellow 1979–80), a historian best known for the textbook *A History of the Modern World*, died on June 11 at his home in Newton, Pennsylvania. He was 93. Palmer taught at Princeton University for nearly three decades. He also served as dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and history professor at Washington University in St. Louis, and taught at Yale. His textbook, first published in 1950 and now in its ninth edition, has been translated into six languages and is used in more than 1,000 colleges and universities. His collaborator on the most recent edition is Lloyd Kramer, currently the GlaxoSmithKline Senior Fellow at the National Humanities Center. In addition

to his widely used textbook, Palmer wrote seven other books and translated five.

Scott Shuger, an early Internet journalist who wrote the popular column “Today’s Papers” for the on-line magazine *Slate*, died on June 15 while diving off the coast of California near Los Angeles. He was 50 and lived in Los Angeles. Shuger’s survivors include his wife, Debora (Fellow 1987–88).

Claudia Tate (Fellow 1999–2000), a professor of English and African-American studies at Princeton University who was known for her innovative contributions to African-American literary criticism, died July 29 after a long battle with lung cancer. She was 55. An obituary distributed by Princeton quoted a colleague of Tate’s, Nell Painter (Fellow 1978–79), as saying, “She was an original thinker who was not bound by the commonplaces of what’s African-American and what’s not.” (The complete obituary is available at www.princeton.edu/pr/news/02/q3/0731-tate.htm)

Edmund Wilson, American: A Conversation with Lewis Dabney

This summer Lewis Dabney (GlaxoSmithKline Senior Fellow 2001–02) submitted a draft of *Edmund Wilson: A Life and an Age in Literature*, to Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Dabney, a professor of English at the University of Wyoming, has worked on the book for nearly twenty years, with interruptions to edit the last of Wilson's journals and a book of essays celebrating the centenary of Wilson's birth. He has also published

a study of Faulkner. At the end of July, surrounded by boxes of files encompassing the fifty-year career of the literary critic, historian, and social commentator, Dabney talked to *News of the National Humanities Center* about the privileges and responsibilities of recreating Wilson's life and age. Excerpts from the interview appear at right and below; to read the interview in its entirety, visit the Center's Web site, www.nhc.rtp.nc.us/newsletter2002/dabney.pdf

“ [Wilson's] private life was a great drama. It was disorderly, romantic, in some respects quite self-indulgent. His prose, his whole intellectual effort, was one of trying rationally to understand the world and impose the order of art upon chaos. ”

“ I start out with young Wilson on the open upper deck of one of New York's Fifth Avenue buses going downtown in September 1922. He is carrying the text of a prize-winning poem on which he has been asked to write an essay. That poem is “The Wasteland.” He has just published his first big review, of an abstruse new novel called *Ulysses*. On the subject of Wilson I have the advantage that—if I can say intelligent and useful things—educated readers will be interested. ”

Recent Books by Fellows

Beckwith, Sarah (Delta Delta Delta Fellow 1994–95). *Signifying God: Social Relation and Symbolic Act in the York Corpus Christi Plays*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001.

Crane, Susan (NEH Fellow 1999–2000). *The Performance of Self: Ritual, Clothing, and Identity during the Hundred Years War*. The Middle Ages Series. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002.

Dessen, Alan C. (NEH Fellow 2000–01). *Rescripting Shakespeare: The Text, the Director, and Modern Productions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Einbinder, Susan L. (NEH Fellow 1999–2000). *Beautiful Death: Jewish Poetry and Martyrdom in Medieval France*. Jews, Christians, and Muslims from the Ancient to the Modern World. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002.

Lake, Peter (Lilly Fellow in Religion and the Humanities 1998–99). *The Antichrist's Lewd Hat: Protestants, Papists and Players in Post-Reformation England*. With Michael Questier. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002.

Loewenstein, Joseph (NEH Fellow 1988–89). *The Author's Due: Printing and the Prehistory of Copyright*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002.

Meyerowitz, Joanne (NEH Fellow 1999–2000). *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002.

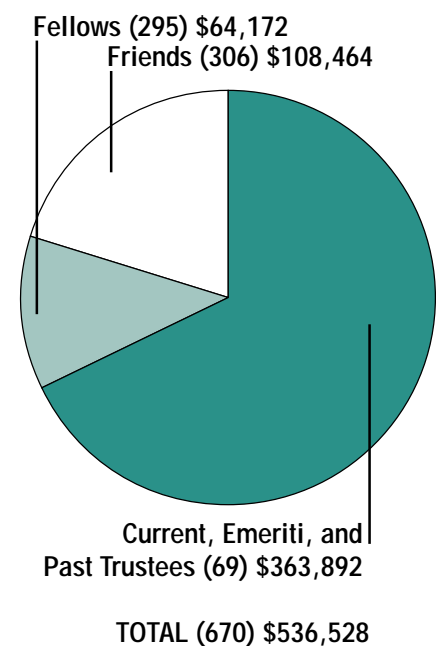
Newell, Waller R. (NEH Fellow 1985–86). *Ruling Passion: The Erotics of Statecraft in Platonic Political Philosophy*. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2000.

Riesenberg, Peter (Ford Foundation Fellow 1978–79). *A History of Citizenship: Sparta to Washington*. Malabar, Fla.: Krieger, 2002.

Schmaltz, Tad M. (Research Triangle Foundation Fellow 1997–98). *Radical Cartesianism: The French Reception of Descartes*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Record Year for Annual Giving

The National Humanities Center is grateful to the 670 individuals who made gifts totaling a record \$536,528 in the fiscal year that ended on June 30. The chart below shows giving by donor category.



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Events at the National Humanities Center, Autumn 2002

Oct. 21 – Dec. 20 **ART EXHIBIT “Drawings from Life and Mind”**
M–F, 9:00–5:00 p.m. Ippy Patterson, Hillsborough, North Carolina

Thursday, Nov. 7 **PUBLIC LECTURE “Melville, Our Contemporary”** Andrew Delbanco,
5:00 p.m. Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities, Columbia University,
Lilly Fellow in Religion and the Humanities

Thursday, Nov. 14 **PUBLIC LECTURE “The Bauhaus, 1919–1933, as a Creative Group”**
8:00 p.m. Peter Loewenberg, Professor of History, University of California, Los Angeles;
Dean, Southern California Psychoanalytic Institute (*Cosponsored by the Lucy
Daniels Foundation, with the kind assistance of Dr. Assad Meymandi.*)

Friday, Nov. 22 **CONCERT “Spring Essence” The poetry of Hồ Xuân Hương with music**
8:00 p.m. John Balaban, Professor of English and Poet-in-Residence, North Carolina
State University, and Ngo Thanh Nhan, Research Associate, Courant
Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University (*Cosponsored
by the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation.*)

Thursday, Dec. 5 **PUBLIC LECTURE “The Dawn of Green: Manchester, Thirlmere, and
5:00 p.m. the Victorian Environment”** Harriett Ritvo, Arthur J. Conner Professor
of History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MacArthur Ecological
Humanities Fellow

*These events, free and open to the public, are supported by the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline
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