New York 2004

The Conference at the Grand Hyatt

by Martin Elsky,
Co-Chair of the Program Committee

We are all looking forward to the biggest annual RSA conference ever. We expect over 1,000 attendees in New York to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the RSA in the city where it was founded. The CUNY Graduate Center is proud to host this special meeting. We look forward to greeting our friends and colleagues of these many years.

Some highlights of the conference:

You are all invited to visit the exhibition at the Graduate Center Gallery, “Splendors of the Renaissance: Princely Attire in Italy,” which I leave to my fellow member of the program committee Janet Cox-Rearick to expand upon in a separate column.

There will be an opening reception on Wednesday evening (31 March) at the CUNY Graduate Center sponsored by Graduate Center and the RSA.

On Thursday evening (1 April), Benjamin C.I. Ravid of Brandeis University will give the Josephine Waters Bennett Lecture, speaking on “Hebraica, Judaica, and the Renaissance.”

Friday evening (2 April) will be especially busy. At the Grand Hyatt, The Erasmus of Rotterdam Society is sponsoring a lecture by Ralph Keen on “The Allure of the Past: Religious Reform and the Recovery of Ancient Ideals.” The Hispanic Society of America is hosting a reception at its headquarters on Audubon Terrace. The New York Academy of Medicine on Fifth Avenue and 103rd Street is hosting a reception and a lecture by Alain Touwaide of the Smithsonian Institution on “The Western Re-invention of Hippocrates.” And all are invited to a dramatic reading of Milton’s Samson

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New York 2004: Booking a Room at the Grand Hyatt

The RSA negotiated a good price for an upscale hotel in springtime in midtown Manhattan, $179 a night. But when one adds state and city taxes of 13.65% plus the extra security fee of $2 per night since 9/11, the effective cost of one room night at the Grand Hyatt rises to $205.43 ($179 + $24.43 + $2). So we have decided to have the RSA actually make the booking at the hotel for conference registrants. As a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization incorporated in New York State, the RSA can spare

The Cambridge 2005 Submission Module is Up and Running

by John Monfasani, RSA Executive Director

Because going to an overseas conference involves more long-range planning for participants, the online submission module for panels and papers for the conference in Cambridge, UK, 7-9 April 2005 has been available at the RSA website (rsa@rsa.org) since November. The deadline for submissions is 23 May 2004.

You will find that the online module now allows panel organizers to specify the sequence of papers in their panels. Organizers should be mindful of this option and not automatically accept the default order. Also, to avoid the confusion that sometimes occurs when the same person is entered differently on separate occasions (the computer will not recognize Alyosius Timothy Dilbert as the same person as Aloysius T. Dilbert), we have installed a drop-down list of member names. At least for names already in the database, the drop-down list should reduce the amount of confusion.

Another added feature, specific to the Cambridge conference, is a checkoff box on whether a participant plans to stay in a room reserved by the RSA at Queens, Clare, or Fitzwilliam College. The choice marked by each participant carries no obligation whatsoever, but it will help us gain a sense of how many rooms we need since we have to make a firm commitment to the colleges on the number of rooms we are reserving. Later in the year we shall install a Cambridge room-reservation module very similar to that now available for the New York 2004 conference. Once we do, rooms will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

The Cambridge colleges have three kinds of rooms: single and double en suite (full private bath), partial en suite (two one-person rooms with a bath in between, equivalent therefore to two singles sharing a room, but with the advantage of a private bedroom for each person), and one-person standard rooms sharing a bath. Each room comes with a full English breakfast and a waiter-service dinner in the evening included. The prices will range from about £65 to about £105 per person, depending upon the kind of room chosen.

The Renaissance: An Encyclopedia for Students

Charles Scribner’s Sons (an imprint of Thomson Gale) is pleased to announce the publication of *The Renaissance: An Encyclopedia for Students*, edited by former RSA president Paul F. Grendler and published in association with the Society. This four-volume reference set is an adaptation of the award-winning *Encyclopedia of the Renaissance* (1999), also edited by Dr. Grendler. This new version, intended for high school and middle school students, contains 970 pages of text plus 16 pages of full-color plates. Selected contents from the original set have been adapted and rearranged under Dr. Grendler’s supervision. There are frequent black-and-white illustrations throughout. Marginal definitions, timelines, highlighted side-bar texts, and other features all serve to make the original *Encyclopedia*’s scholarship available to a wider audience of young readers. This work will likely take its place in a wide range of school, public, and even college libraries as part of our ongoing commitment to disseminate the finest Renaissance scholarship.

Charles Scribner’s Sons is pleased to offer a 25% discount to RSA members. Any member may order a single set, for personal use only, at $296.25, plus shipping. To order, call (800) 877-4253 and identify yourself as an RSA member seeking the special 25% discount on this title. Mention Code # MML00504 to get the discount. To expedite your order, please have the following at hand:

- the ISBN (0-684-31281-6)
- the Order Number (187154)
- your credit card number

FUTURE CONFERENCES:

San Francisco, California — 23-25 March 2006
Miami, Florida — 22-24 March 2007
Toronto, Canada — 2008
The New RSA Online News and Announcement Service

Time. You will have all no doubt noticed that the last Renaissance News & Notes lacked what many consider essential news and notes, namely, a section on conferences, events, fellowships, and prizes. The same is true for the present issue of RNN. The reason is that we were planning to have ready by now an online service that would be significantly more comprehensive, detailed, and timely than the print version. These good intentions, alas, proved unrealistic in the short term. But I am happy to say the good folks at Iter have come to our rescue and will have the new service up and running for us in early 2004. We shall send out an announcement when it is ready.

One of the chronic problems in preparing a listing of events for RNN is that we discard well more than half the notices that come into the office because they will become stale before the next issue of RNN appears. Also, we have to reduce drastically, and sometimes rather arbitrarily, the amount of information connected with each item in order to fit all the items within the space constraints of a small newsletter. Now, thanks to the good offices of Iter, these two problems are about to evaporate. I leave it to Bill Bowen to explain how below. — John Monfasani, RSA Executive Director

Coverage. To be consistent with Iter’s mandate, the service will include news and announcements pertaining to the period 400 to 1700. The information will be subdivided into categories such as calls for papers, conferences/lectures, courses/programs, fellowships/grants, awards/prizes, jobs, and, of course, other.

Accessibility. The service will be open to all, with access points on the RSA and Iter websites. There you will find straightforward forms to submit an entry. Your submission will be checked by Iter staff and released shortly after its receipt.

Comprehensiveness. We expect that many of you will submit information into the system. However, we will also commit Iter staff time to search out and submit additional relevant information, in order to ensure that the service is a truly comprehensive reflection of events and news relevant to Iter’s mandate.

Searchability. There are a number of ways to find information. In addition to doing keyword searches, you will be able to do more refined searches according to the time period, geographical area, and subject(s) covered by the entry, and by the type of announcement. There will also be chronological lists set up according to the various categories of entries and a familiar calendar for events. When any announcement or event is viewed, a list of related content is presented automatically.

Schedule. If you are interested in helping us to test this service, please contact me as soon as possible: william.bowen@utoronto.ca. Our target is to make the site generally available early in 2004.

Future. When you visit the site, you will notice a number of additional features. For example, the site has the capacity for a bulletin board, newsletters, web links by category, and FAQs. We also have the option to have classifieds, a photo gallery, a downloads area, bookstore, and news feeds. These will be developed according to the needs of our community. — William R. Bowen, Chair, Electronic Media

The Phyllis Goodhart Gordan Book Prize 2005

The Renaissance Society of America awards an annual book prize of $1,000 in memory of the late Phyllis Goodhart Gordan, a strong supporter of the RSA from its earliest days. The purpose of the prize is to recognize significant accomplishments in Renaissance Studies by members of the RSA and to encourage Renaissance scholarship, both of which have been goals of the RSA since its founding in 1954.

The Gordan Prize for the year 2005 will be awarded to the author of the best book in Renaissance Studies published between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005. The winner will be announced at the Annual Meeting in 2005. To be eligible a book must be written by a current member of the RSA; it must be written in English. Please refer to the dues renewal/enrollment form for the list of disciplines. The prize will be awarded for a book with a topic within the chronological period 1300-1700. Books dealing with Renaissance history, any of the vernacular literatures or Latin, art, music, philosophy, and other disciplines recognized by RSA are eligible. Bibliographical works and scholarly aids are eligible for the Gordan Prize, but editions of texts or translations into English will not be considered. Books will be judged on the following criteria: 1) contribution to Renaissance Studies; 2) originality in insight and research; 3) clarity and eloquence; 4) thoroughness and accuracy in documentation.

Four copies of each work must be received in the RSA office postmarked by or on 15 July 2004. Each entry should be labeled “Gordan Book Prize.” Renaissance Society of America, The Graduate School and University Center, The City University of New York, 365 Fifth Avenue, Room 5400, New York, NY 10016-4309.

A Change in Renewal Policy

As was explained in a broadcast email to the membership in late 2003, the Society has traditionally mailed out in the first half of each calendar year copies of Renaissance Quarterly to members whose membership has lapsed. Some of these lapsed members eventually renew, some do not. In business terms, the Society has been paying the cost of printing and mailing these copies on speculation. Starting in 2004, we are abandoning this policy. We shall only send out copies to paid-up members. Lapsed members will no longer receive the spring and summer issues of Renaissance Quarterly. If they renew their membership during the year, we shall happily arrange for them to receive the issues that they missed. We shall also continue to send out repeated reminders to lapsed members.

Since it is easy to lose track of membership to the Society amid a myriad of other concerns, I strongly urge utilization of the new multi-year renewal option to eliminate this chore for a long stretch of time. And it is a money-saver as well, locking in this year’s rate for as many as five years in advance and receiving a $5 discount for each year after the present year. See the form on page 7. — John Monfasani, RSA Executive Director
WEDNESDAY, 31 MARCH
5:30-7:00 PM
Opening Reception
CUNY, The Graduate Center, Concourse Level
Sponsored by the Renaissance Society of America and CUNY, The Graduate Center
Queens College Choir, Organized by José M. Martínez-Torrejón, CUNY, Queens College

THURSDAY, 1 APRIL
5:45-6:45 PM
Josephine Waters Bennett Lecture
Grand Hyatt New York
Sponsored by the Renaissance Society of America
Benjamin C.I. Ravid, Brandeis University, “Hebraica, Judaica, and the Renaissance”

FRIDAY, 2 APRIL
5:15-6:15 PM
Margaret Mann Phillips Commemorative Lecture
Grand Hyatt New York, Broadway Room
Sponsored by The Erasmus of Rotterdam Society
Ralph Keen, University of Iowa, “The Allure of the Past: Religious Reform and the Recovery of Ancient Ideals”

6:00 PM
Lecture and Reception
The Library of New York Academy of Medicine, Fifth Avenue and 103rd Street
Alain Touwaide, Smithsonian Institution, “The Western Re-invention of Hippocrates”

6:00 PM
Reception
Audubon Terrace, 613 West 155th Street
Sponsored by The Hispanic Society of America

FRIDAY, 2 APRIL (CONT.)
6:45-10:45 PM
A Dramatic Reading of Samson Agonistes by John Milton
CUNY, The Graduate Center, Proshansky Auditorium, Concourse Level
Sponsored by CUNY, The Graduate Center
Organized by Joseph Wittreich, CUNY, The Graduate Center
Performed by The Lark Ascending, www.thelarkascending.org
Richard Edelman as Samson, Maurice Edwards as Chorus, Alfred Hyslop as Manoa and Samson’s father, Carlotta Sherwood as Dalila, Peter Ludwig as Harapha, Edgar Oliver as Public Officer, and George McGrath as Messenger

SATURDAY, 3 APRIL
5:45-7:15 PM
Plenary Session: Studying the Renaissance: A Retrospective Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the RSA
Grand Hyatt New York
Sponsored by the Renaissance Society of America
Organized by Martin Elsky, CUNY, The Graduate Center
Eugene F. Rice, Jr., Columbia University, Emeritus, “The Early Years of the RSA”
Rona Goffen, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, “Seeing Things”

7:30-9:30 PM
Closing Reception
Grand Hyatt New York
Sponsored by the Renaissance Society of America
RSA Annual Meeting, New York City, 1-3 April, 2004

Registration Form

LAST NAME: ____________________________________________________________________________
FIRST NAME: ____________________________________________________________________________
MAILING ADDRESS: _______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
EMAIL: _________________________________________________________________________________
AFFILIATION FOR BADGE: __________________________________________________________________

REQUIRED FEE
RSA Member Registration Fee (Non-refundable) $125
RSA Student Registration Fee (Non-refundable) $100
Registration at the Door $150
Non-RSA member Registration Fee (Non-refundable) $150 (for guests/spouses)
(A non-participant)

THE REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:
1 copy of the Program / Abstract Booklet
Entry to all sessions (including the Bennett Lecture and Plenary Session)
Entry to the Opening and Closing Receptions
(Wednesday evening, 31 March and Saturday evening, 3 April)

METHOD OF PAYMENT:
If payment is by check mail to: RSA 2004 New York City Meeting
C/O CUNY, The Graduate Center
The City University of New York
365 Fifth Avenue, Room 5400
New York, NY 10016-4309

If payment is by credit card, (the RSA only accepts VISA/MASTERCARD, and you must include the EXPIRATION DATE OF THE CARD), fill out this form and mail it to the above address or fax it to 212-817-1544 or go to the website (www.rsa.org) and pay online.
VISA No._________________________ EXP. DATE (Month/Year):________________________
MASTERCARD No.___________________ EXP DATE (Month/Year):______________________
Hotel Reservation Form
New York City, 1-3 April, 2004

| LAST NAME: | ___________________________________________ |
| FIRST NAME: | ___________________________________________ |
| EMAIL: | ___________________________________________ |
| PHONE: | ___________________________________________ |
| FAX: | ___________________________________________ |

The RSA and the Grand Hyatt Hotel will extend this discounted rate from Saturday, March 27th through Monday, April 5th based upon availability. Deadline for making reservations is: March 10th, 2004.

ARRIVAL DATE: ___________________________________________
DEPARTURE DATE: _______________________________________
Number of Nights: _______________________________________

Arrival Date: ___________________________  Departure Date: ___________________________
Number of Nights: _______

Smoking: _______  Non-Smoking: ___________  : Based upon availability.

Single / Double Occupancy Room: $189 per night: Based upon availability.
Specify Bed Type: Queen:____  King:____  Double (2 bed):_____
Rollaway: $25 per night

There is a $5 cancellation fee.

$189 per night x (number of nights) = ______ + $10 one time handling charge (non-refundable)
TOTAL: _______

Sharing With: ___________________________________________
Email: ___________________________________________
Phone: ___________________________________________  Fax: ___________________________________________

Credit Card online via RSA website: www.rsa.org  or  check (drawn on US Bank)

Mail form and check to:
Connections, RSA 2004 Reservations
820 Church Street, Decatur, GA 30030
(Tel.): 404-842-0000  (Fax.): 404-842-0954

New York 2004: Booking a Room at the Grand Hyatt, continued from page 1

registrants all these taxes. We have contracted with the conference specialists Connections Inc. in Atlanta, GA, to handle most but not all of the details for us. Since we have to pay Connections for this service, cover the credit card fees, absorb the cost of extra help in the office, and create a certain cushion for any losses from bad transactions, we have fixed the RSA charge at $189 per night plus a onetime, non-refundable $10 handling fee. The result is that if one books through the RSA, the cost of a four-night stay is $766 ($756 + $10) as opposed to $821.72 if one booked directly through the hotel, which is a saving of $55.72, or $13.93 a night.

The best and simplest way to make a booking is to go to the RSA website (www.rsa.org), click the New York conference, and then click the hotel booking link. You will be taken to a secure website where you can make your booking. If you prefer to pay by check, you can fill out the form included in this issue of RNN and mail the form and check to Connections / RSA, 820 Church Street, Decatur, GA 30030. So book now. — John Monfasani

ADDITIONAL HOTEL INFORMATION:
GRAND HYATT NEW YORK
Park Avenue at Grand Central, New York, NY 10017 • www.grandnewyork.hyatt.com
9 miles from La Guardia Airport; 18 miles from JFK International Airport; 20 miles from Newark International Airport; adjacent to Grand Central Terminal on the North side of 42nd Street.

Guest Room Features: TV with remote control, cable movie channels, in-room pay movies; Voice mail, telephone with message light, computer hookup; Video messages, video account review, video checkout; Daily newspaper delivery upon request; Individual climate control; Full bath amenities; Turndown available on request; Iron, ironing boards on request; and AM/FM alarm clock hair dryer.
## 2004 Membership Form

**RENAISSANCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA**  
The Graduate School and University Center  
365 Fifth Avenue, Room 5400  
New York, NY 10016-4309  
phone: 212-817-2130  
fax: 212-817-1544  
email: rsa@rsa.org  
website: www.rsa.org

Indicate title, first name, middle name, last name for mailing address and institutional address for the Directory.

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Tel (O): ________________  
Fax (H): ________________  
Fax (O): ________________

**Website:**

**SINGLE YEAR RENEWAL**  Renaissance Quarterly: Volume 57

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Dual members receive one copy of journal and two Directory listings.

**MULTIPLE YEARS RENEWAL**

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ITER Electronic Bibliography

Iter: Gateway to the Middle Ages and Renaissance is now a benefit of membership.

**Paul Oskar Kristeller Fund:**  
$ ________________

**Capital Campaign Contribution:**  
$ ________________

My check for $ ________________ is enclosed (in U.S. dollars drawn on U.S. bank only)

VISA ___  Mastercard ____  
Card Number: ____________________________  Exp .date: __________

Signature: ______________________________________________________________________________

**Discipline** (Please number in ranked order up to 5, starting with “1”)

- AH Art History  
- BP Bibliography, Paleography & Printing  
- CH Church History & Theology  
- CL Comparative Literature  
- EL English Literature  
- ES Emblems  
- FL French Literature  
- GL Germanic Literature  
- HB Hebraica  
- HC Classical Tradition  
- HI History  
- HL History Law/Political Thought  
- HM History of Medicine  
- HS History of Science  
- IL Italian Literature  
- MU Music  
- PA Performing Arts & Theatre  
- PH Philosophy  
- RH Rhetoric  
- SL Hispanic Literature  
- WG Women & Gender Studies

**Specialization:** __________________________________________________________________________

**Languages:** ____________________________________________________________________________

Nominees for RSA membership: Please supply name, email and mailing address on reverse of this form.

Publication schedule: Spring; Summer; Autumn; Winter (index)
Call for Papers: Cambridge, England 2005

7-9 April

Accommodations include breakfast and dinner at Queens’ College, Clare College, and Fitzwilliam College

Josephine Waters Bennett Lecturer:
Philip Ford, Clare College, Cambridge University

The program committee invites abstracts for individual papers as well as proposals for panels.
Submit individual papers and or panels via the website: www.rsa.org

Deadline for Submissions:
23 May 2004