

Renaissance News & Notes

Volume XVI.2

The Renaissance Society of America

Fall 2004

A Welcome to the RSA

by Abigail Brundin

The United Kingdom's Society for Renaissance Studies and the University of Cambridge are delighted to be able to welcome the Renaissance Society of America to the city next April. The Siberian winds that blow across the Fens will have abated by that time and the Backs will be covered with flowers, so that conference delegates will have the opportunity to enjoy Cambridge at its prettiest.

Alongside the well-recognized delights of the ancient college buildings and amenities (notices of organized visits to some of these are included elsewhere), many exciting new developments await visitors to the city. The recent Courtyard Development at the Fitzwilliam Museum was opened in June to great acclaim, providing new exhibition spaces as well as a revamped café and shop. Delegates will have the opportunity to witness the current rapid expansion of the Sidgwick Humanities site (where the conference panels will take place), as architects Allies and Morrison mastermind the long-awaited completion of the campus conceived by Hugh Casson in the 1950s, which boasts many examples of award-winning (and often controversial) modern architecture. The curious can also walk down the road to survey the new Maths campus with its beacon-topped pavilions and curved grass roof, and the nearby Microsoft Building and Computer Laboratory.

From the Renaissance masterpieces of King's Chapel or Trinity's Wren Library, to the unique collection of early twentieth-century art in the house at Kettle's Yard or some of the boldest contemporary architecture in the country, Cambridge therefore offers to its visitors a stimulating blend of old and new worlds to compliment the stimulation that the conference itself will no doubt provide. ❧

RSA Cambridge 2005

by Martin Elskey, Conference Co-Chair

The 2005 Annual RSA Conference will be held at Cambridge University Thursday-Saturday, April 7-9. The hub of the conference will be the Music Faculty, with breakout rooms also in Clare College, Queens' College, the Sidgwick Lecture Block, Mill Lane Lecture Rooms, and the Corn Exchange. We shall hold plenary sessions in the Music Faculty and the Corn Exchange. As a co-sponsor of the conference the United Kingdom's Society for Renaissance Studies will sponsor the opening plenary on Thursday with Patricia Rubin of the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London, as the featured speaker. The Plenary Trends Panel, organized by Craig Harline, will focus on religion in the Renaissance and will have as speakers Mary Laven of Jesus College, Cambridge; Eamon Duffy of Magdalene College, Cambridge; and Diarmaid MacCulloch of St Cross College, Oxford. Philip Ford of Clare College, Cambridge, will deliver the Josephine Waters Bennett Lecture. Participants and attendees will be housed in Clare College, Queens' College, Fitzwilliam College, New Hall, and Sidney Sussex College.

Cambridge 2005 promises to be nearly as large as our fiftieth conference, New York 2004. We expect an attendance of about 1,200. We are particularly happy that many of our European colleagues will be joining us. Between accepted panels and accepted isolated papers, the Program Committee has organized a conference of nearly 300 panels, ensuring a rich and varied program. ❧

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Reserving Rooms in the Cambridge Colleges

We shall book rooms on a first-come-first-serve basis. Since in early October the RSA will become responsible for a significant portion of the cost of the rooms it has blocked, we plan to reduce that liability by releasing all rooms that remain unoccupied as of 4 October. Although it is conceivable that someone wishing to book a room after that date may find a room in one of the colleges, we cannot guarantee this since the colleges will be free to make other arrangements.

A copy of the reservation form is included in this issue of *RNN*. It is also available on the website (www.rsa.org) as a PDF which you can print out, mail, and/or fax to the RSA office. An interactive web form is forthcoming. Until the interactive web form is up and running, you may pay by check, by emailing your credit card information, or by using PayPal (www.paypal.com, where you'll have to establish an account before being able to make payment). ☞

Renaissance News & Notes

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RNN is published twice yearly (Winter/Spring and Fall). The subscription price is included in annual membership dues. News items, announcements, and listings may be sent to the RSA for inclusion.

Deadline: 12 November 2004

Booking Rooms in the Cambridge Colleges

We have arranged for rooms at five colleges: Clare College, Fitzwilliam College, New Hall, Queens' College, and Sidney Sussex College. A full English breakfast and a served, three-course dinner are included in the price of the first four colleges. The first four colleges also provide rooms with private baths as well as without private bath. Sidney Sussex College has been booked exclusively as a B&B providing single rooms without private bath. The conference runs 7-9 April. Since dinner is not included outside of the conference period, 7-9 April, the price per night will be less for non-conference nights before 7 April or after 9 April.

Reservation entails a non-refundable \$20 booking fee and full payment. 80% of payment is refundable up to 4 October 2004, 50% up to 4 December 2004, 25% up to 4 February 2005. There will be a surcharge of \$5 for bookings at Fitzwilliam College and New Hall for the shuttle bus (a 4-5 minute ride between the colleges and the Music Faculty, the conference hub). As a practical matter, we shall make charges at the exchange rate of \$1.85 = £1. If there is a decided change in the rate in the time before the conference, we shall change accordingly.

All rooms come with full English breakfast and a served three-course dinner 7-9 April, save for Sidney Sussex, which will function for us as a B&B providing rooms without private bath.

"Ensuite" means a room with a private bath. When a room does not have a private bath (= "standard"), it has a wash sink and shares a bathroom with one to two other rooms. Also, in Clare College some standard rooms are in effect doubles with private bath since the shared bath is placed in between two singles and shared by them alone.

Clare College (Price includes Breakfast and Dinner, 7-9 April)

(Clare has some shared rooms, which are two rooms sharing the same bath)

Single or double with private bath (ensuite)	= £73 per person	= \$135
Single without private bath (standard or shared)	= £60	= \$111

Breakfast only before or after 7-9 April

Single or double with private bath (ensuite)	= £50.4 per person	= \$93
Single without private bath (standard or shared)	= £36.75	= \$68

Fitzwilliam College (Price includes Breakfast and Dinner, 7-9 April)

Single with private bath	= £63	= \$117
Double with private bath	= £91.50 per couple	= \$169
Single with shower and wash sink, but no private toilet (semi-ensuite)	= £58.50	= \$108

Breakfast only before or after 7-9 April

Single with private bath (ensuite)	= £46 per person	= \$85
Double with private bath (ensuite)	= £57.50 per couple	= \$106
Single without private bath (standard or shared)	= £41.50	= \$77

New Hall (Price includes Breakfast and Dinner, 7-9 April)

Single with private bath (ensuite)	= £79.95	= \$148
Double with private bath	= £131.75 per couple	= \$244

Breakfast only before or after 7-9 April

Single with private bath (ensuite)	= £60	= \$111
Double with private bath (ensuite)	= £89.75 per couple	= \$166

Queens' College (Price includes Breakfast and Dinner, 7-9 April)

Single with private bath (ensuite)	= £95	= \$176
Double with private bath (ensuite)	= £85 per person	= \$157
Single without private bath (standard)	= £70	= \$130

Breakfast only before or after 7-9 April

Single with private bath (ensuite)	= £75	= \$138
Double with private bath (ensuite)	= £65 per person	= \$120
Single without private bath (standard)	= £50	= \$93

Sidney Sussex College (Price includes only Breakfast)

Single without private bath (standard); B&B only	= £29.50	= \$55
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☞ Accommodations Reservation Form ☞

Cambridge, United Kingdom, 7-9 April 2005

Deadline for making reservations: 4 October 2004

Booking for the nights 7-9 April includes breakfast and dinner at Clare College, Fitzwilliam College, Queens' College, and New Hall; only breakfast at Sidney Sussex College; all colleges are B&B's outside of the nights 7-9 April.

Last Name: _____
First Name: _____
E-Mail: _____
Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Arrival Date: _____
Departure Date: _____
Number of Nights: _____

We shall book rooms on a first-come-first-serve basis.

IF YOU ARE BOOKING a double room or (at Clare College) a shared room, please identify the other person. We shall not book shared or double rooms unless both persons have made a booking or you specify that you are booking for both. **BOOKING FOR BOTH PERSONS [YES/NO]:**

Room Code: 1 = Single, with private bath; 2 = Double, with private bath; 3 = Shared single with bath in between at Clare College; 4 = Single without private bath.

Special Dietary Needs:

Other Special Requirements:

FIRST CHOICE	College:	Room Code:
\$20 booking fee (add another \$5 for the shuttle bus if staying in Fitzwilliam College or New Hall)		
Charge per night, 7-9 April =	Number of nights =	Total =
Charge per night before or after 7-9 April =	Number of nights =	Total =
Grand Total (\$20/25 + Totals 1 and 2) = \$		

SECOND CHOICE	College:	Room Code:
\$20 booking fee (add another \$5 for the shuttle bus if staying in Fitzwilliam College or New Hall)		
Charge per night, 7-9 April =	Number of nights =	Total =
Charge per night before or after 7-9 April =	Number of nights =	Total =
Grand Total (\$20/25 + Totals 1 and 2) = \$		

THIRD CHOICE	College:	Room Code:
\$20 booking fee (add another \$5 for the shuttle bus if staying in Fitzwilliam College or New Hall)		
Charge per night, 7-9 April =	Number of nights =	Total =
Charge per night before or after 7-9 April =	Number of nights =	Total =
Grand Total (\$20/25 + Totals 1 and 2) = \$		

FOURTH CHOICE	College:	Room Code:
\$20 booking fee (add another \$5 for the shuttle bus if staying in Fitzwilliam College or New Hall)		
Charge per night, 7-9 April =	Number of nights =	Total =
Charge per night before or after 7-9 April =	Number of nights =	Total =
Grand Total (\$20/25 + Totals 1 and 2) = \$		

REFUND POLICY: 80% of payment is refundable up to 4 October 2004, 50% up to 4 December 2004, 25% up to 4 February 2005.

To pay by credit card, go to www.paypal.com.

If payment is by check, the check must be drawn on a US Bank and mailed with the form to the RSA, Rm 5400 CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016-4309.

Call for Chairs at Cambridge 2005

Every year the RSA creates panels out of the many isolated papers that have been accepted for the annual conference. These panels prove to be some of the most interesting and stimulating of the conference; but every year we also have the problem of finding chairs for these panels. We are calling for chairs. If you wish to come to the conference and need an official function in the program in order to receive funding from your institution, send the RSA office an email message at rsa@rsa.org (1) giving your institutional position and (2) briefly describing your area of specialization.

Preliminary Program for Cambridge 2005 Online

The preliminary program for Cambridge 2005 will be available at the RSA website (www.rsa.org). Please do visit the site. You will find a plethora of interesting panels. Participants especially should consult the preliminary program to confirm the information that it contains. If there is anything you wish changed, please email the office at rsa@rsa.org. We shall not be mailing the final printed program to registrants, but rather distributing it to the registrants at the registration desk in the Music Faculty Foyer. Consequently, the preliminary program will remain on the website into April. Up to then we shall be updating the preliminary program from time to time. Participants are expected to pay the registration fee by 15 August 2004 and the 2005 membership dues by 15 October 2004. Failure to do so will result in having one's paper removed from the preliminary program. ❧

Renaissance Society of America Reprint Texts (RSART)

DESIGNED TO KEEP IN PRINT VALUABLE WORKS FOR YOUR COLLEGE CLASSROOM AND FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF

1. *The Treatise of Lorenzo Valla on the Donation of Constantine*, text and translation by Christopher B. Coleman. \$21.95
2. *The Italian Renaissance*, edited by Werner L. Gundersheimer. \$15.95
3. *Religion and Economic Action*, by Kurt Samuelsson, translated from the Swedish by E. Geoffrey French, edited and with an introduction by D.C. Coleman. \$14.95
4. *The Ash Wednesday Supper (La Cena de la cenere)*, by Giordano Bruno, edited and translated by Edward A. Gosselin and Lawrence S. Lerner. \$22.95
5. *Vittorino da Feltre and Other Humanist Educators*, by William Harrison Woodward, with a forward by Eugene F. Rice Jr. \$17.95
6. *Habits of Thought in the English Renaissance*, by Debora Kuller Shuger. \$19.95
7. *The Vespasiano Memoirs*, by Vespasiano da Bisticci, translated by William George and Emily Waters, with an introduction by Myron P. Gilmore. \$22.50
8. *The Society of the Renaissance Florence*, edited by Gene Brucker. \$19.95
9. *On Assistance to the Poor*, by Juan Luis Vives, translated with an introduction and commentary by Alice Tobriner, SNJM. \$12.95
10. *Dolce's Aretino and Venetian Art Theory of the Cinquecento*, by Mark W. Roskill. \$27.95
11. *More's Utopia*, by Dominic Baker-Smith. \$21.95
12. *Venice: A Documentary History, 1450 – 1630*, edited by David Chambers and Brian Pullan. \$29.95
13. *Jews in the Canary Islands*, translated from the Spanish and edited with an introduction and notes by Lucien Wolf. \$24.95 (pbk), \$65 (cl)
14. *Soldiers of Christ: Preaching in Late Medieval and Reformation France*, by Larissa J. Taylor. \$24.95

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

The University of Toronto Press

1 800 565 9523

UTPBOOKS@UTPRESS.UTORONTO.CA

Jessie Ann Owens Becomes RSA President,

Michael J. B. Allen Vice President

On 2 April 2004, at the fiftieth anniversary meeting of the RSA in New York, Jessie Ann Owens of Brandeis University, former President of the American Musicological Society, succeeded Ronald G. Witt of Duke University as the new President of the RSA. At the same time Michael J. B. Allen of the University of California, Los Angeles, former articles editor of *Renaissance Quarterly* (1995–2000), succeeded Professor Owens as RSA Vice President. Professor Allen was elected by a mail vote of the RSA Council in February 2004. Professor Allen's election was the first to take place under the new nominating and voting procedures proposed in 2003 by President Witt and approved by the Council that same year at the Toronto meeting. ❧

❧ Registration Form ❧
Cambridge, United Kingdom, 7-9 April 2005

LASTNAME: _____

FIRST NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

AFFILIATION FOR BADGE: _____

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:

1 copy of the Program / Abstract Booklet

Entry to all sessions (including the Bennett Lecture and Plenary Session)

Entry to the SRS (Society for Renaissance Studies) sponsored reception (Wednesday, 6 April)

Entry to the RSA (Renaissance Society of America) sponsored reception (Saturday, 9 April)

RSA/SRS Member Registration Fee \$130

RSA/SRS Student Registration Fee \$100

Non-RSA/SRS member Registration Fee \$150 (for guests/spouses)

All Registration Fees are NON-REFUNDABLE. Non-RSA/SRS Member Fee is for those who are not Chairing, Organizing, Presenting, or Responding.

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

By a check drawn on a USA bank and mailed to the RSA Office, CUNY Graduate Center, 5400, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016-4309, USA.

By credit card (Mastercard or Visa) at the RSA website (www.rsa.org) or by an email message sent to rsa@rsa.org, with relevant information (card number and date of expiration).

By cash and by check at the registration desk at the time of the conference.

❧ 2005 Membership Form ❧

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
 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 Website Directory.

Mailing Address	Institutional Address
Title: _____	_____
Last Name: _____	_____
First Name: _____	_____
Middle Name/Initial: _____	_____
Address: _____	_____
Address: _____	_____
Address: _____	_____
City: _____ State: _____	_____
Zip: _____ - _____ Country: _____	_____
E-Mail: _____	_____
Tel (H): _____ Tel (O): _____ Fax (H): _____ Fax (O): _____	_____
Website: _____	_____

SINGLE YEAR RENEWAL Renaissance Quarterly: Volume 58

2005	_____ Regular \$60	_____ Dual \$70	_____ Patron \$ 100
	_____ Student \$30	_____ Retiree \$45	_____ Life \$2,500

DUAL members receive ONE copy of journal and TWO Directory listings.

MULTIPLE YEARS RENEWAL

Regular 5 years (2005-2009)	_____ \$280	4 years _____	\$225	3 years _____	\$170	2 years _____	\$115
Dual 5 years (2005-2009)	_____ \$330	4 years _____	\$265	3 years _____	\$200	2 years _____	\$135
Patron 5 years (2005-2009)	_____ \$480	4 years _____	\$385	3 years _____	\$290	2 years _____	\$195
Retiree 5 years (2005-2009)	_____ \$205	4 years _____	\$165	3 years _____	\$125	2 years _____	\$ 85
Student 3 years (2005-2007)				3 years _____	\$ 80	2 years _____	\$ 55

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

Capital Campaign Contribution: \$ _____

Paul Oskar Kristeller Fund: \$ _____

Patricia Labalme Venetian Studies Fund: \$ _____

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")

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ___ Comparative Literature | ___ History of Art & Architecture | ___ Humanism |
| ___ Emblems | ___ History of the Book, Paleography, & | ___ Music |
| ___ French Literature | ___ Manuscript Culture | ___ Neo-Latin Literature |
| ___ Germanic Literature | ___ History of Classical Tradition | ___ Performing Arts & Theater |
| ___ Hebraica | ___ History of Legal & Political Thought | ___ Philosophy |
| ___ Hispanic Literature | ___ History of Religion | ___ Rhetoric |
| ___ Italian Literature | ___ History of Science & Medicine | ___ Women & Gender Studies |

Specialization: _____

Languages: _____

Please supply name, email and mailing address on reverse of this form. Publication schedule: Spring; Summer; Autumn; Winter (index)

Special Events at Cambridge 2005

Wednesday, 6 April

RSA Executive Board Dinner and Meeting
Location: TBA
by invitation

Thursday, 7 April

RSA Council Luncheon and Meeting
Location: TBA
by invitation

5:30-7:00 PM

Plenary Session

*Sponsor: Society for Renaissance Studies,
Patricia L. Rubin, Courtauld Institute of Art*
Location: Corn Exchange

Friday, 8 April

11:00 AM-12:30 PM

King's College Chapel Tour

Conducted by:

Jean Michel Massing, *King's College*,
and Virginia Raguin, *College of the Holy Cross*

The huge series of windows for the Chapel (1526-47) exhibits a Continental Renaissance style. Bishop Richard Fox (1501-28) set the program, "the Story of the olde lawe and new lawe." In addition to the upper windows, the side chapels house a collection of historic windows, including Renaissance drawings on glass (roundels) from England, France, Germany, and the Low Countries. These are accessible for close inspection so that the evaluation of authenticity will be part of the seminar. Because of the close contact, session is limited to 20 persons. Contact Virginia Raguin vraguin@holycross.edu

By reservation, limited to 20.

Friday, 8 April

5:30-7:00 PM

Plenary Session: Christianity in Sixteenth-Century Europe

Sponsor: Renaissance Society of America
Organized by Craig Harline, *Brigham Young University*
Mary Laven,
Jesus College, Cambridge University
Eamon Duffy,
Magdalene College, Cambridge University
Diarmaid MacCulloch,
St. Cross College, Oxford University
Location: Corn Exchange

Saturday, 9 April

4:00-5:30 PM

Awards Presentation

Josephine Waters Bennett Lecture

Sponsor: Renaissance Society of America

Philip Ford,

Clare College, Cambridge University

Title: Homer in the French Renaissance

Location: Faculty of Music, Concert Hall

5:30-7:00 PM

Closing Reception

Sponsor: Renaissance Society of America

Location: Faculty of Music, Foyer

<p>FUTURE CONFERENCES: San Francisco, California — 23-25 March 2006 Parc V Renaissance Hotel Miami, Florida — 22-24 March 2007 Chicago, Illinois Toronto, Canada</p>

Nancy Siraisi Receives the History of Science Society's Highest Honor

By Michal Meyer

Nancy Siraisi, RSA President 1994–96, received the History of Science Society's George Sarton Medal at an awards banquet on 22 November, in Cambridge, Mass. The Sarton Medal recognizes superior scholarship over a lifetime. The RSA thanks the History of Science Society's Executive Director, Robert J. Malone, for allowing us to reproduce the following interview.

The winner of the 2003 George Sarton Medal is Nancy Siraisi, the author of numerous studies of medieval and Renaissance medicine. And although Siraisi says — with a straight face, even — that she retired in January of this year, her current activities show that the only difference between her pre-retired and post-retired phase is that she has swapped a pay check for a pension. Ten months into her retirement she has written an article, has taken part in a working group at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science at the invitation of Lorraine Daston, has given a conference talk, and is continuing to work on other papers and to teach graduate courses. When she wraps up her current commitments, Siraisi plans to get back to her book on the relation of the disciplines of medicine, rhetoric, and history in Renaissance culture.

The Sarton Medal, which Siraisi regards as an extraordinary honor, is not the first recognition she has received. Last year the University of Padua (on which she had written her Ph.D. thesis) awarded her an honorary degree during the celebrations of the fourth centenary of William Harvey's graduation from the university. The Renaissance Society of America also recognized her contributions to the field last year by giving a session in her honor at their annual meeting.

Her work has ranged from the medical learning of Albertus Magnus to the changing concepts of how medical knowledge was organized in Italian universities from the fourteenth to the sixteenth centuries. Though originally a medievalist, Dr. Siraisi has gradually inched forward into the early modern

period. The medicine of this period has been her main interest for a long time.

Born in England in 1932, Nancy Siraisi studied history at St. Hilda's College, Oxford, graduating in 1953. Thereafter she worked for several years in London as an editorial assistant for various organizations. She describes those years as a time of "correcting proofs and being occasionally reproached." For a while she even worked on a trade magazine for a British cement manufacturers' association. In 1958 she went to Rome to teach English at a language school, an enjoyable experience that left her with a desire to return to Italy as often as possible.

In 1959 she immigrated to the US and has lived in New York ever since. A job as a secretary at the Museum of Modern Art was followed by a stint in the encyclopedia industry. The museum proved the more productive — she met her future husband there, an artist who has given her enormous amounts of encouragement throughout her career. After marriage and the birth of her eldest son, she moved into freelance editing.

In 1966, Nancy Siraisi returned to historical study, enrolling at the Graduate School and University Center of the City University of New York. There she studied with Pearl Kibre, an eminent medievalist whom she describes as a wonderful mentor, and someone who may have suffered from the lack of opportunities offered to women of her generation. Kibre had a distinguished career and was Lynn Thorndike's collaborator, but never taught in a Ph.D. program until late in her life. By the time Siraisi launched her own career, things were changing.

"I was of a generation where everything was opening up for women. I had opportunities that people of Pearl Kibre's generation didn't have. I don't feel I was ever held back. I've been very lucky. I've had the freedom to follow my own professional career."

In 1970, with her newly minted Ph.D. in hand, Siraisi began teaching at the City University's Hunter College, also joining the doctoral faculty at the Graduate Center in 1976. She remained at Hunter College

and the Graduate Center until her retirement.

Siraisi praises New York's public education system for the opportunities it gave both to her students and herself. Its accessibility, flexibility, and relative cheapness made all the difference. And during her teaching career at Hunter College, successive chairs of her department continued to do everything they could to encourage her and to foster her research.

Nancy Siraisi traces her intellectual interests to her undergraduate teacher in medieval studies, Beryl Smalley, as well as Pearl Kibre, who was interested in science and medicine. The influence of Paul Oskar Kristeller, the distinguished Renaissance specialist at Columbia University, and of Charles Schmitt's work on Renaissance Aristotelianism were among the factors that pushed her into the Renaissance and early modern period. Today she defines her area of interest as the history of medicine in its intellectual and philosophical contexts, with particular reference to Italian universities. Her time period stretches from 1300-1600.

Over time, Siraisi has seen some changes in her field. "As is true of history of science in general, there is much more attention to social and intellectual contexts. Social history of medicine is almost part of mainstream history now. At one time it seemed that the push toward social history was moving away from the texts, but I think now the balance is pretty much adjusted."

"The role of medicine in the intellectual and scientific life and activity of the late medieval and modern early period is now receiving some of the attention I believe it deserves. What gives me most satisfaction is to see a number of scholars devoting themselves to this study." There have also been changes in the wider world of academia. Dr. Siraisi caught the tail end of the boom in higher education when she began her career. Now, after the expansion of the 1990s,

Continued on page 11

Announcing Research Grants for the Year 2005

The Renaissance Society of America will award eleven grants for a total amount of \$25,000 in the year 2005. The grants will be available to applicants in all fields.

There are three series of grants:

- (1) RSA RESEARCH GRANTS (9)
- (2) RSA-INSR GRANT FOR FLORENCE (1)
- (3) SAMUEL H. KRESS FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP IN RENAISSANCE ART HISTORY (1)

(1) The Renaissance Society of America will award up to nine RSA Research Grants in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000, with the average amount expected to be about \$2,000, for a total amount of \$18,000. Three grants will be awarded in each of the three categories of Non-doctoral Scholar, Younger Scholar, and Senior Scholar. These Research Grants are available to applicants in all disciplines and topics dealing with the Renaissance.

(2) RSA-INSR GRANT FOR FLORENCE — The RSA has entered into an agreement with the Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento in Florence to award one research grant for research in Florence or the environs. The purpose of the grant is to enable a scholar to use the archival, manuscript, and printed book collections of Florence and/or study the works of art in Florence and the surrounding area. The RSA will award the recipient \$2,000 toward travel and other costs. The Istituto Nazionale will provide lodging in a pensione in Florence for up to four weeks and access to its collections. For 2005 the grant will be available to applicants in all three categories.

(3) Samuel H. Kress Foundation Fellowship in Renaissance Art History of \$5,000, open to applicants in all three categories.

There will be a single competition for all eleven awards. Please note that all applicants must be members of the Renaissance Society of America for the required number of years (see below for the minimum requirement in each category).

Research Grants will be awarded in three categories according to the career stage and employment circumstances of applicants. Applicants will compete for grants within ONE category only.

RESEARCH GRANTS' 3 CATEGORIES:

NON-DOCTORAL: These awards will support doctoral candidates, pre-university teachers, and other applicants lacking doctorates.

YOUNGER SCHOLAR: These awards will support assistant professors, associate professors in the first two years of appointment at that rank, temporary, adjunct, and/or part-time professors; and independent scholars holding the Ph.D. Younger scholars will normally hold the Ph.D. The jury may shift some independent scholar to the senior category when it judges such a change appropriate.

SENIOR SCHOLAR: These awards will support associate professors with more than two years at that rank, full professors, and retired professors.

Research projects in all subjects and language areas within Renaissance Studies are eligible for support. Graduate students must be members of RSA for at least one year at the time of application, i.e., since the year preceding the application. All other applicants must be members of RSA for at least three years at the time of application, i.e., at the time of application they must be at least in their fourth year as members of the RSA.

The Executive Board will appoint a jury drawn from different disciplines within Renaissance studies. The criteria for judgment will be the scholarly excellence of the project and applicant, and the demonstrated need for access to research materials. The jury reserves the right to award fewer or more grants in one category, but only if there are insufficient applications of merit in one category.

The deadline for applications will be 1 January 2005. Awards will be announced as soon as possible after 1 January 2005.

APPLICATIONS for a grant CAN ONLY be made ONLINE at the RSA website: WWW.RSA.ORG

From the Desk of the Book Reviews Editor

by Sheila J. Rabin

We want to thank all of our reviewers who have been so prompt in turning in their reviews. With their help, we have been able to keep the reviews section more current. The large reviews sections in 2004 have enabled us to get rid of our backlog so that most of the reviews we shall publish in *Renaissance Quarterly* in 2005 will be of books published in 2004.

We hope most of our readers have taken advantage of Preprints of *Renaissance Quarterly* Reviews, which has been available since 2003. Members already have access to reviews that will appear in the fall issue. All members are entitled to view the preprints; they may access them through the publications arch of the RSA website at www.rsa.org. A member who has forgotten the username and/or password can easily contact Iter for the information at iter@fis.utoronto.ca. We highly recommend that each member take advantage of all that is available through Iter.

I invite members who wish to review for *RQ* to contact me. A member who has not previously reviewed for us should submit a brief c.v. that includes peer-reviewed publications and languages in which the member feels comfortable reviewing books.

Let me remind members that our new database in the office stores and makes available much more information than the old one. We can enter detailed information about areas of expertise and languages. But members need to provide us with the information when filling out their membership forms. For example, it is not useful to list "history of art and architecture" as the primary discipline and "Renaissance art" as the specialization. It would be better to list as specialization "Florentine painting, fifteenth century" or "Bruegel" or as many topics as the member is qualified to review. In addition, we need to know which languages a potential reviewer can read. In general, the more detailed the information provided by the member, the more likely that member's name will appear as a potential reviewer in a database search. And we would very much like to have the information about unusual research topics a member is pursuing. Members should also be aware that Iter maintains the International Directory of Scholars (IDS), which contains space to list publications and scholarly activities. Members can, and should, update it regularly.

We would like to remind members that we do reserve the right to edit and cut reviews before publication. It is always difficult to see a carefully prepared but lengthy review edited. On the other hand, many reviewers work equally hard to stay within the limits. If a review is going beyond the word limit, the reviewer should contact me. I may agree that the volume under review merits a longer review, but sometimes a second pair of eyes can also see where deletions can be appropriately made without affecting the high quality of a review.

I enjoy hearing from members and getting to know people in the RSA. Please feel free to contact me.

The Relaunched Renaissance Texts Series: Harry Vredeveld's *Helius Eobanus Hessius*

by John Monfasani

The RSA has signed a new agreement with the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Tempe for the publication of the RSA's Renaissance Texts Series. In the 1980s, Medieval and Renaissance Texts & Studies (MRTS) under the aegis of Mario Di Cesare at SUNY Binghamton became the publisher of the Renaissance Texts Series for the RSA. In the 1990s, after the retirement of Mario Di Cesare and with the RSA providing its good offices in the initial contacts between Binghamton and Tempe, the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies under the direction of Robert Bjork took over MRTS. Both Robert Bjork and the RSA have now decided that it is time to work out a fresh agreement with MRTS. Hence, the relaunched Renaissance Texts Series (RTS).

The most obvious and important aspect of the new arrangement is that RTS will henceforth have a consistent new format. We have redesigned the cover. It is a sturdy light beige, bearing a RTS number and a MRTS number. The margins are generous, the pages are slightly larger than 9 x 6 inches, and notes will be footnotes rather than odious endnotes. RSA members will continue to receive a 20% discount. The MRTS homepage is <http://www.asu.edu/clas/acmrs/publications/mrts/home.html>.

The first volume in the relaunched series is now out. It's *The Poetic Works of Helius Eobanus Hessus, Volume 1: Student Years at Erfurt, 1504-1509*, edited, translated, and annotated by Harry Vredeveld, Professor of German and Dutch at The Ohio State University.

640 pages / ISBN 0-86698-257-4 / RTS 18 / MRTS 215 / \$75.

Even if you do not take advantage of the 20% discount for yourself, please have your college or university library order a copy. The sales of each volume in the series pays for the publication of subsequent volumes. If you need further incentive, the following delightful description provided by MRTS might help (I should note that we shall be publishing other volumes of Eobanus edited and translated by Harry Vredeveld; so this is the first of the set):

Eobanus Hessus (1488-1540) was the most celebrated poet of the German Renaissance and Reformation. Mutianus Rufus hailed him as "a modern Pindar." Reuchlin crowned him "the king" of poets. To Erasmus he was a Beatus Rhenanus, Melanchthon, Reuchlin, and Hutten all rolled into one: a "Christian Ovid." His star blazed resplendent for as long as Latin was read as a living language. Besides a brilliant style and a humanist's learning he brought to his work an uncommonly wide range of themes, a warm and engaging tone, and a refreshing boldness in pioneering new genres on German soil.

In this first volume of his *Poetic Works* he bursts onto the scene with two lively narrative poems about student life at Erfurt (1506). These are followed by an exuberant praise of the university (1507), a prosimetric satire on a student's passion for a prostitute (1508), and a cycle of eclogues that celebrate his friends and ideals, alternately laud and decry conditions at Erfurt, and trace the poet's inner growth from callow youth to maturity (1509).

Subsequent volumes will include his famed *Letters of Christian*

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☞ In Memoriam ☞

H. Diane Russell

by Claire Sherman

H. Diane Russell, art historian and scholar of Baroque graphic art, died of cancer on March 4 at her home in Falls Church, Virginia. From 1990 until her retirement in 1998 she held the position of curator and head of the department of old master prints at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, where she had served as a curator since 1964. As curator, she wrote catalogues for major exhibitions on the Tiepolos (1972), Jacques Callot (1975), Claude Lorrain (1982-83), and *Eve/Ave: Woman in Renaissance Prints* (1990). Dr. Russell received the Award of Merit of the American Association of Museums and the Alfred H. Barr, Jr. Award of the College Art Association of America in 1984 for her work on the Lorrain exhibition. She was the author of numerous articles and reviews in various art periodicals.

Dr. Russell received her B.A. in art history from Vassar College 1958, and her doctorate in the same field from The Johns Hopkins University in 1970. She was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton from 1980-81. Dr. Russell held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, The Johns Hopkins, and Vassar College. For many years she taught as an Adjunct Professor in the Art Department of American University.

Dr. Russell was a member of the Print Council of America, the College Art Association of America, and the Renaissance Society of America. Her biography is included in the Directory of American Scholars, *Who's Who in American Art*, *Who's Who of American Women*, and *Who's Who in America*.

Dr. Russell, who was sixty-seven, was born in Paola, Kansas. She is survived by her partner Jodi Watts, many devoted colleagues and friends, and her dogs Gaius and Trajan. A memorial service will be held at a date to be announced. Contributions in her memory may be sent to the Whitman-Walker Clinic (for HIV/AIDS support), 1407 S St., N.W.,

Washington, DC 20009 or The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037.

Fred J. Nichols

by William E. Coleman

Fred Nichols, former Executive Officer (1987, 1990) and Deputy Executive Officer (1974-87) of Ph.D. Program in Comparative Literature, CUNY, passed away on Friday, 17 October. After earning his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from New York University in 1967, Fred taught at Yale before coming to the City University. He was a member of the CUNY program for three decades, during which time he did much to shape its development. Fred's keen mind, good humor, and generous spirit endeared him to generations of students and colleagues at the Graduate Center.

Fred's special interest was Renaissance Latin (see his edition and translation: *An Anthology of Neo-Latin Poetry*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1979), but his work and teaching ranged through much of Western European literature, as evidenced by his concurrent appointments in the French and the German Ph.D. programs and in the Renaissance Studies Certificate Program. During his time at the CUNY Graduate Center, Fred was exceedingly generous with his time, constantly encouraging and helping his students. He directed nineteen dissertations and was second reader and advisor to many more.

Troubled by physical challenges during the late 1990s, Fred retired in April 2001. The program hosted a celebration in his honor shortly afterward, which was attended by many of Fred's students, former students, and colleagues. This past June, the program established an annual "Fred J. Nichols Award" for the dissertation that best represents Fred's range of intellectual interests.

He is survived by his daughter, Claudia Nichols Cunningham, (2428 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown, MD 21658 [410] 827-7391) and by a brother and four sisters. ☞

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she feels the situation is far more difficult for young scholars. Moreover, pre-modern European history has now generally a harder time.

What then would she advise new students? "My heart would say do what interests you, even though I'm not sure that's really prudent advice."

Looking to the future, Dr. Siraisi is waiting to get back to her book on medicine and the writing of history in the sixteenth century. Her first book still brings back memories. It was her revised thesis, and she says she wishes she had proofread it more carefully. Now her major concern is beginning the next book. "The most difficult thing to do in writing is to start off. That first paragraph is extremely hard." ☞

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Heroines, Luther Elegies, On Keeping in Good Health, Idylls, On the Tumults of these Times, Epicedia, Nuremberg Glorified, and the nine books of *impromptus* or *Sylvae* — all of them presented in a critical edition, with idiomatic translations and informative introductions and notes. ☞

The Patricia H. Labalme Fund

The Renaissance Society of America announces a memorial Scholarship for Venetian Studies in honor of Patricia H. Labalme, an outstanding scholar and generous friend. Her dedication to the Renaissance Society of America and her passion for Venice and Venetian studies have inspired us to strive for the excellence that her life and work represented.

Contributions to the Patricia H. Labalme Memorial Scholarship for Venetian Studies can be designated in the membership form of the Renaissance Society of America. ☞

Call for Papers: San Francisco 2006

23-25 March 2006

Parc V Renaissance Hotel

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 2005



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