

# Renaissance

## News & Notes

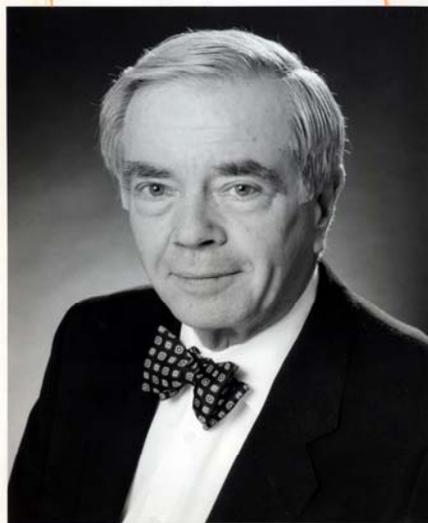
Volume XXV.2

*The Renaissance Society of America*

Fall 2008

**In memoriam  
Eugene F. Rice, Jr. (1924-2008)**

Eugene F. Rice, Jr., the longest serving Executive Director of the Renaissance Society of America (1966-82, 1985-87), died of cancer on Monday morning, 4 August 2008, just two weeks shy of



his eighty-fourth birthday. He had been diagnosed with the disease in February of this year.

Gene's colleague at Columbia University, the distinguished medievalist John Hines Mundy, captured the sweep of his extraordinarily rich and productive life in an appreciation he wrote for Gene's 1991 Festschrift (*Renaissance Society and Culture: Essays in Honor of Eugene F. Rice, Jr.*, ed. J. Monfasani and R. G. Musto, New York: Italica Press, pp. xvii-xx). It would be hard to improve on Mundy's words. So we take the liberty of quoting them *in extenso* and adding some personal comments at the end.

*Continued on page 9*

***Renaissance Quarterly* to Be Published by University of Chicago Press**  
by William J. Kennedy, President

The Renaissance Society of America is delighted to announce that the University of Chicago Press will become publisher and distributor of *Renaissance Quarterly*, beginning with the Spring issue of volume 62 in 2009. Our partnership with the Press will improve the journal in a host of ways, from updating its production and design in both print and electronic versions, to bolstering its reader services and expanding its outreach. The journal will of course retain its own in-house editorial control of all content, its familiar articles-cum-reviews format and page allotments, and its scholarly distinction as the Society's flagship publication for over sixty years. But the publishing expertise of the University of Chicago Press will now bring *Renaissance Quarterly* into a whole new world of both print technology and online enhancement.

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*Renaissance News  
& Notes*

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of America*

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*RNN is published biannually (Winter and Autumn). Members receive it as part of their membership. Throughout the year members and non-members may post news items and announcements on the announcements module of the RSA website (<http://www.rsa.org/submitannouncements.php>). Members receive RNN via email in the form of a live link to a PDF file on the RSA website. Members will also find on the site an archive of past issues of RNN. Members wishing to receive a mailed hard copy of RNN issues should contact the RSA office. The office will continue to mail a printed version of RNN to whoever requests one.*

## Hotel Information

Hyatt Regency Century Plaza  
2025 Avenue of the Stars  
Los Angeles, CA 90067

Reservations  
Renaissance Society of America  
Reservation Code: G-RENA

Direct Link to RSA Hotel Registration:  
<http://centuryplaza.hyatt.com/groupbooking/laxcprena2009>

Rates  
\$209 Single or Double  
+ tax 14.045%

To find a roommate visit  
<http://www.rsa.org/meetings/sharerroom.php>

## Future Conferences

**2010**

Venice, Italy  
8-10 April 2010

Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Isola San Giorgio Maggiore  
Centro Culturale Don Orione Artigianelli  
Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti  
Università Cà Foscari Venezia

**2011**

Montreal  
24-26 March 2011

Hilton Montreal Bonaventure Hotel and  
Marriott Montreal Champlain

## Membership News

by Christopher S. Celenza,  
Membership Chair

RSA membership continues to rise. Last year we reached an all-time high of 3,826, and since in 2010 the annual conference goes to Europe, which historically has been the occasion of an increase in numbers, we have fair hope that this positive trend will maintain itself. But costs have also continued to rise, especially for the running of the office and for RSA publications. Consequently, the Executive Board has voted a dues increase.

The cost of regular individual membership, which had not changed since 2000, has been set at \$70 per year. This \$10 increase does not cover the corresponding increase in US inflation from that year to now (according to [www.inflationdata.com](http://www.inflationdata.com), the average has been a bit north of 2.5% per year); but this modest increase will help the RSA function at a sustainable level. There are other options available for members, as well: for those interested in cutting costs, there is an online option, which yields members all the usual membership benefits except the printed version of *Renaissance Quarterly* (which is fully accessible online). Members should also be aware of the \$3,000 Life membership option, as well as the multi-year plans, which offer savings. Finally, when it comes to the benefits of recruitment, members can see a full list of them on our website, [www.rsa.org/membership.php](http://www.rsa.org/membership.php). They include a subscription to *Renaissance Quarterly*, regular updates regarding the field and the Society from *Renaissance News*, eligibility for RSA prizes, various useful bibliographical tools, eligibility to apply for research grants, and of course participation in the RSA's annual meeting. Please refer to our evolving website as you encourage prospective members, from graduate students to senior schol-

## RSA Meeting, Los Angeles, 19-21 March 2009

by John Monfasani,  
Executive Director

Co-sponsored by the UCLA Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies and by The Getty Villa, Malibu, the contours of the meeting have now taken firm shape. An opening reception at the Intercontinental Hotel co-hosted by Mr. William Weiller, founder and president of the Ambrosiana Foundation, will kick things off on Wednesday evening, 18 March. The work of the conference will begin in earnest the next morning, Thursday, at 8:45 AM with sessions at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel and at the nearby Intercontinental Hotel. We shall have nearly 350 panels as part of one of the biggest RSA conferences ever. The Hyatt Regency will serve as the hub, with registration, the book exhibit, and most of the sessions located there. Late Friday afternoon the conference moves to The Getty Villa, Malibu, for the Josephine Waters Bennett plenary lecture by David Freedberg, professor of art history, Columbia University, and director of the Italian Academy, New York. A reception hosted by The Getty Villa will follow immediately after the lecture. On Saturday afternoon, after the last regular sessions, we shall go by bus to UCLA for the plenary Trends Panel, which this year shall be on demography, organized and chaired by Nicholas Terpstra of the University of Toronto, with presentations by Noble David Cook of Florida International University and Katherine A. Lynch of Carnegie Mellon University. The last time the Society received a report on this subject was in 1965, in *Renaissance News*, 18.2, pp. 180-87: "Recent Studies on the Population of Europe, 1348-1620," by Eugene F. Rice, Jr., whose obituary by a quirk of fate appears in this issue of *RNN*. At the close of the plenary session, the UCLA Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies will co-host the traditional RSA gala closing reception.

Continued from page 1

### **RQ to Be Published by University of Chicago Press**

More than keeping up with advances in publishing capabilities, the University of Chicago Press has positioned itself as a leader in shaping them. The Press's state-of-the-art subscription service and hosting platform will provide RSA members with the familiar print version of the journal mailed to each member and participating institution, as well as with individual and institutional access to a sophisticated electronic version. The print edition will be improved by a new paper stock that reduces the permeability of fibers and stops ink from spreading, resulting in improved text and image reproduction. Printed volumes will look better, feel better, and last longer for the journal's current and future readership.

The electronic edition will provide textually identical PDFs of all print material along with easily scrollable HTML presentations of each article. In addition, it will provide online-only supplementary material selected by the journal's editor, such as color images, spread-sheet tables and maps, audio and video files, and an enlarged capacity for presenting auxiliary data. Each article will be fully searchable and will have CrossRef Digital Object Identifiers that link it to other scholarly publications, enabling it to broaden search engine contacts and reach new readers. For earlier issues of *Renaissance Quarterly*, the Press's agreements with JSTOR will provide seamless access to all RSA members and to institutions that host JSTOR subscriptions advertise the journal with its current and back-list catalogue of scholarly books in medieval and Renaissance studies. And it will proactively manage licensing and marketing terms to ensure reprint and fair-use rights throughout the world.

Through its cooperative publishing arrangement with the University of Chicago Press, *Renaissance Quarterly* will join a list of major periodicals that now include *American Historical Review*, *Classical Philology*, *Critical Inquiry*, *History of Religions*, *Modern Philology*, and *Signs*. The Renaissance Society of America looks greatly forward to all the advantages, opportunities, and benefits of this new affiliation. No kidding: it promises to be a win-win relationship.

In marketing and distribution, the Press will assign to *Renaissance Quarterly* its skilled resources for promoting the journal so as to bring its readership to full potential. It aims to increase institutional subscriptions in North America and abroad, making prominent use of its international sales divisions in the United Kingdom and

Asia. It will cross-advertise the journal with its current and back-list catalogue of scholarly books in medieval and Renaissance studies. And it will proactively manage licensing and marketing terms to ensure reprint and fair-use rights throughout the world.

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### **Passing the Book Reviews Torch**

by Sheila J. Rabin

I ask the members of the RSA to join me in welcoming William Stenhouse, Associate Professor of History at Yeshiva University in New York, who will become the next Book Reviews Editor of *RQ*. Will received his Ph.D. from University College London in 2002. *RQ* readers may recall his article "Visitors, Display and Reception in the Antiquity Collections of Late Renaissance Rome" in the summer 2005 issue. His book *Reading Inscriptions and Writing Ancient History: Historical Scholarship in the Late Renaissance* (London: Institute of Classical Studies, 2005) was reviewed by Ingrid Rowland in autumn 2006. He will take over starting with the spring 2009 issue, and we are very fortunate to have him.

The six years of my term passed very quickly. They were years of growth for me, and I enjoyed the chance to get to know so many of our members. I'm grateful to all those who reviewed for *RQ* and to all those who helped me find reviewers. The support of many people was crucial to my work, but in particular I must mention my coeditors Paul Grendler, Jeff Smith, and Marty Elsky; my predecessor Margaret King; our Executive Director John Monfasani; and Laura Schwartz and her staff.

## Announcing Research Grants for the Year 2009

The Renaissance Society of America will award twelve grants for a total amount of \$26,000 in the year 2009. 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 (2)

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.

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 up to the value of €600 and access to its collections. For 2009 the grant will be available to applicants in all three categories.

There will be two Samuel H. Kress Foundation Fellowship in Renaissance Art History of \$3,000 each, open to art historians 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.

**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 younger independent scholars holding the Ph.D.

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

Research projects in all subjects and language areas within Renaissance Studies are eligible for support. 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 2009**. Awards will be announced at the RSA annual meeting in Los Angeles, 19-21

***Los Angeles Special Events***

***Wednesday, 18 March***

***12:00–4:00 PM***

RSA Executive Board Meeting

Location: Hyatt Regency Century Plaza, Room TBA  
*by invitation*

***7:00–9:00 PM***

RSA Executive Dinner

Location: Brian Copenhaver's Home  
*by invitation, transportation to be arranged*

***5:00–6:30 PM***

Opening Reception

*Co-Sponsors:* Mr. William Weiller, President and Founder of The Ambrosiana Foundation and The Renaissance Society of America

Location: Intercontinental Hotel

***Thursday, 19 March***

***12:15–1:45 PM***

RSA Council Luncheon and Meeting

Location: Hyatt Century Plaza, Room TBA  
*by invitation*

***Friday, 20 March***

***6:00–7:30 PM***

Josephine Waters Bennett Lecture

*Sponsor:* The Getty Villa, Malibu

David Freedberg, *Columbia University*  
Movement and Morality in the Renaissance

Location: The Getty Villa, Malibu  
17985 Pacific Coast Highway,  
Pacific Palisades, California 90272

Transportation: Outside Hyatt Century Plaza

***Saturday, 20 March***

***10:00 AM–12:00 PM***

“Painting on Light” Exhibition

*Sponsor:* J. Paul Getty Museum

Location: J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles  
*Limited to two groups of twenty.*

***6:15–7:30 PM***

Plenary Session: Counted in/Counted out: Current Trends in Demography in Europe and the Americas During the Renaissance

*Organizer and Chair:* Nicholas Terpstra, *University of Toronto*

Noble David Cook, *Florida International University*  
Counting the Uncountable: Successes and Failures of the past Half-Century

Katherine A. Lynch, *Carnegie Mellon University*  
Continuities and Changes in the Study of Populations in the Past: Current Themes in the Historical Demography of Renaissance and Early Modern Europe

***7:30–9:00 PM***

Reception

*Sponsor:* Renaissance Society of America

Location: University of California, Los Angeles, Grand Horizon Room, Covel Commons

Transportation: Outside Hyatt Century Plaza

***7:30–9:30 PM***

Closing Reception

*Sponsor:* The Renaissance Society of America and University of California, Los Angeles

Location: University of California, Los Angeles, Grand Horizon Room, Covel Commons

# RSA MEMBERSHIP FORM

The City University of New York • Graduate Center  
365 Fifth Avenue, # 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): _____	

SINGLE YEAR RENEWAL *Renaissance Quarterly*: (The online-only price is the second figure. Circle your choice.)

_____ Regular \$70/50	_____ Dual \$80/60	_____ Patron \$110/90
_____ Student \$35/25	_____ Retiree \$53/38	_____ Life \$3000

DUAL members receive ONE copy of journal and TWO Directory listings. Dual Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

MULTIPLE YEARS RENEWAL *Renaissance Quarterly*: (The online-only price is the second figure. Circle your choice.)

Regular 5 years _____ \$330/\$230	4 years _____ \$265/\$185	3 years _____ \$200/\$140	2 years _____ \$135/\$95
Dual 5 years _____ \$380/\$280	4 years _____ \$305/\$225	3 years _____ \$230/\$170	2 years _____ \$155/\$115
Patron 5 years _____ \$530/\$430	4 years _____ \$425/\$345	3 years _____ \$320/\$260	2 years _____ \$215/\$175
Retiree 5 years _____ \$255/\$170	4 years _____ \$197/\$137	3 years _____ \$149/\$104	2 years _____ \$101/\$71
Student 3 years _____ \$95/\$65	2 years _____ \$ 65/\$45		

Capital Campaign Fund: \$ _____	Paul Oskar Kristeller Fund: \$ _____
The Patricia H. Labalme Fund: \$ _____	The Rona Goffen Scholarship Fund: \$ _____
ACLS E-Book Subscription: \$35 _____	ITER: \$25 (\$18 Students/Retirees): \$ _____

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 starting with "1")

<input type="checkbox"/> Americas	<input type="checkbox"/> Comparative Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Emblems
<input type="checkbox"/> English Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> French Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Germanic Literature
<input type="checkbox"/> Hebraica	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> History
<input type="checkbox"/> History of Art & Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> History of Classical Tradition	<input type="checkbox"/> History of Legal & Political Thought
<input type="checkbox"/> History of Religion	<input type="checkbox"/> History of Medicine & Science	<input type="checkbox"/> History of the Book, Paleography & Manuscript Culture
<input type="checkbox"/> Italian Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Neo-Latin Literature
<input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts & Theater	<input type="checkbox"/> Rhetoric
<input type="checkbox"/> Women & Gender Studies		

Specialization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Languages: \_\_\_\_\_

Please nominate others for RSA membership: Supply name, email and mailing address.  
Publication schedule: Spring; Summer; Autumn; Winter (index)

## REGISTRATION FORM LOS ANGELES, 19-21 MARCH 2009

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation for badge: \_\_\_\_\_

### REQUIRED FEE INCLUDES:

1 copy of the Program/Abstract Booklet

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

Entry to the RSA (Renaissance Society of America) sponsored reception (Saturday, 18 March)

RSA Member Registration Fee: \$150

RSA Student Registration Fee: \$110

Non-RSA Member Registration Fee: \$200 (for guests/spouses)

All Registration Fees are NON-REFUNDABLE. Non-RSA member fee is for those who are NOT Chairing, Organizing, Presenting, Responding, and Discussing.

### METHOD OF PAYMENT

By a check drawn on a USA bank and mailed to the RSA Office

The City University of New York, Graduate Center  
365 Fifth Avenue #5400  
New York, NY 10016-4309

By credit card (Mastercard or Visa) at the RSA website ([www.rsa.org](http://www.rsa.org)) or by an email message sent to [rsa@rsa.org](mailto: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.

*Continued from page 1*

Eugene Rice was born in Lexington, Kentucky on August 20, 1924. His father, Eugene Franklin Rice, Sr., a descendent of two signers of the Declaration of Independence, one of whom contributed the name Franklin, was also from Lexington, a town that remained home in the eyes of his wife Lula Hammond Piper. Employed by a Boston-based sugar company, the Rice couple moved to Puerto Rico in 1920, living in plantations in and around Central Aguirre, a center of the sugar industry on the island's southern shore. ...

In a foreign world with few friends, Eugene Junior early became interested in books. ... After eighth grade in Puerto Rico, Gene was sent to the Eaglebrook School, Deerfield, Massachusetts, entering in 1937, graduating in 1939. While there, he became seriously interested in music and headed the Glee Club. At the conclusion of his Sixth Form, he was voted "best student" and "most likely to succeed," and was among the "most popular." He was also secretary of the Town Council and managing editor of the school newspaper, and once played Nanki-Poo in the school production of *The Mikado*.

He then went to Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, from which he graduated in 1942 with honors, after serving in the choir, glee club and senate, and also as manager for the soccer team. ... Gene entered Harvard in June 1942 but was soon drafted for service in the Second World War. In the European theater of Operations, he served as sergeant (T3) in the Intelligence Section of a Signal Corps cryptanalysis company. His sister recalls an older person sharing their table in a railway diner who, after looking at Gene for a time, finally said "Son, I know you must be older than you look, but you're the youngest dam sergeant I've ever seen!" Gene and I shipped out together to spend a month or so in and about London in the latter part of the war, when the V-1s and V-2s were falling. Our friends in the unit handled that grey, dangerous and unhappy wartime city in different ways. ... Gene

enjoyed what he does today: music, ballet and opera, delighted by the sounds and scenes of the London theater.

When he returned to Harvard, he was again active in the Glee Club and Music Club, graduating in 1947 *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa. At Harvard in 1948 he completed his masters and won the doctorate in 1953 under the direction of Myron Gilmore. During his graduate years there, Gene shared quarters with Bernard Bailyn, now Adams University Professor. Bailyn remembers that Gilmore, "on his way to ice-skate, called on him in our graduate dormitory room, skates in hand, to tell [Gene] personally that he had just read his first term seminar paper, that it was excellent, and that it should be published." It was: "Erasmus and the Religious Tradition" in the 1950 *Journal of the History of Ideas*.

Before gaining the doctorate, Gene went to France, registered, in fact, at the École Normale Supérieure from 1951 to 1953. In Paris he met and married Charlotte Bloch in 1952. Born in Prague in 1918, Lotte was the daughter of a successful lawyer, Arthur Bloch. Sometime in 1941, both he and his wife, Louise Stein, died in the infamous Nazi ghetto at Lodz. ... Lotte left Prague in 1938 for Britain, where she studied at University College, London, and received the baccalaureate. She enlisted in British service during the war and was teaching English and attending the Sorbonne in Paris when the two met. Typical of their travels in later life, they met on a train going to Geneva. The Rices had three children, Eugene, John and Louise. All three eventually received doctorates, respectively, in physics, music and art history.

Gene began his teaching career at Harvard before moving first to Cornell University in 1955 and then to Columbia University in 1964. After serving as chairman of Columbia's History Department from 1970 to 1973, he was named "William R. Shepherd Professor of History." A fellow of the American Academy of

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Arts and Sciences and a member of the American Philosophical Society, he received fellowships from the American Academy at Rome, American Council of Learned Societies, Fulbright, Guggenheim, the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and the National Endowment of the Humanities. He was a member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of the History of Ideas* and the *Renaissance Quarterly*, and from 1979 to 1981 served as Vice-President for Research of the American Historical Association.

Gene's oratorical ability was legendary. Here, again, we cite John Mundy:

Gene is a first-class public lecturer. His timing is terrific, and the flow of words Niagara-like, the whole delivered with a distinctively Harvard accent. One amazed student reported in the *Course Guide* that this "Ole' Man River" flowed irresistibly but stopped the very second the bell rang. The Society of Columbia Graduates awarded him its Great Teacher Award in 1984.

Two anecdotes will serve to illustrate the point. In the 1960s, he gave a guest lecture in the graduate historiography course, speaking to several hundred jaded and cynical doctoral students about the likes of Pier Paolo Vergerio and Francesco Guicciardini. When he finished, this enormous class stood up and, for at least 60 seconds, cheered and applauded for him until he left the room. They may not have understood everything he said, but they knew that they had just experienced an amazing performance. Even more magical was a moment during the student revolt at Columbia in the spring of 1968. The history faculty had agreed to hear the complaints of the assembled graduate students in one of the cavernous science lecture halls. Huddled at the bottom of the lecture well, they endured one impassioned student *j'accuse* after another until finally they pushed Gene forward to respond. He may have said nothing of great consequence, but the mellifluous flow of his words had an extraordinary calming effect on the crowd, who proceeded to exit the lecture hall peacefully.

Gene had large advantages, mastering Spanish virtually with mother's milk, Latin at an age too early to know it was supposed to be hard, German in Army Intelligence, French by natural affinity, and Italian apparently by attending the opera. He put these advantages to productive use, making his mark first of all with the influential *The Renaissance Idea of Wisdom* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1958), a revised version of his PhD thesis, which Hans Baron described as "a brilliantly written and keenly argued study" of the secularization of wisdom from Petrarch to Pierre Charron. Gene did not shirk from the heavy (and sometimes unfashionable) labor of editing texts and compiling bibliographies. His *The Prefatory Epistles of Jacques LeFevre d'Etampes and Related Texts* (New York: Columbia UP, 1972) remains a scholarly classic; John Headley, professor of History at UNC, Chapel Hill, calls it a "compressed treasury of learning that lives." A list of his other publications can be found in the Festschrift in his honor, but we would call special attention to Gene's *Saint Jerome in the Renaissance* of 1985, where his graceful prose, great learning, and linguistic range combined with a sensitivity to religious issues and an artistic sensibility (previously under-represented in his publications though well known to those who had the pleasure of conversing with him) to produce a work of wide cultural and intellectual appeal. *Saint Jerome* won prizes from the American Catholic Historical Association, the American Society of Church History and the American Academy of Religion and its success bears witness to Gene's ability to wed conceptual sophistication to clarity of structure and, as always, that matchless prose. His textbook, *The Foundations of Early Modern Europe, 1460-1559* (New York: Norton, 1970), is a miracle of clarity and intelligent compression for which generations of undergraduates and graduate students have been grateful. As one of us has remarked, "It is the only textbook I can think of that I have ever read with pleasure." Remarkably for such works, it remained in print for over thirty years and was updated by Anthony Grafton, a quarter century after its initial publication, for a new generation of readers. In his later years, Gene's research interests shifted to the history of homosexuality. He instituted Columbia University's first university "Seminar on

*Continued on next page*

**In memoriam  
Richard Helgerson  
(1940-2008)**

To view an obituary for Richard Helgerson, please visit:

<http://emc.english.ucsb.edu/cvs/>

**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.

**The Rona Goffen  
Scholarship Fund**

This new endowment, when funded, will support scholarship on Venetian Renaissance Art. Rona Goffen was one of the outstanding art historians of her generation. This fund will permanently associate her memory with the advancement of scholarship in a field which she loved and in which she excelled. Contributions to the Rona Goffen Scholarship for the Study of Venetian Renaissance Art can be designated in the membership form of The Renaissance Society of America.

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Homosexualities,” and served as an adviser to Columbia University Press for its series on gay and lesbian studies. He was at work on a history of Western homosexualities at the time of his death.

Gene’s well-deserved reputation as a scholar should not obscure another of his traits: his generosity of spirit. It is this quality which explains his long years of service to the RSA (under his tenure *Renaissance News* became *Renaissance Quarterly* and the RSA’s *Renaissance Text Series* took its start); his enthusiastic support of the students left by Garrett Mattingly at Columbia (as Richard Goldthwaite has attested); his always helpful and attentive, but never overbearing, supervision of his own doctoral students (as the four of us, among many others, can testify); his open door policy to undergraduates and graduates alike; and his unassuming and thoughtful assistance, in ways large and small, to colleagues young and old throughout the years. His passing is a grievous loss to family and friends whose lives have been touched by his goodness. *Requiescat in pacem.*

Alison Frazier, *University of Texas, Austin*

James Hankins, *Harvard University*

Jill Kraye, *Warburg Institute, University of London*

John Monfasani, *University at Albany, State University of New York*

**Call for Chairs**

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 meeting. Often, however, we need to find chairs for them. If you wish to attend the conference and need an official role and listing on the program in order to receive funding from your institution, send the RSA office ([rsa@rsa.org](mailto:rsa@rsa.org)) your professional status and your area of specialization. The program will be continually updated on the website: [www.rsa.org](http://www.rsa.org) and if you search the program, for Chair: TBA, you will find the chairless panels.

**RSA Conference  
Venice  
8-10 April 2010  
Call for Papers**

The program committee invites abstracts for individual papers as well as proposals for panels. Submissions for individual papers and/or panels will be accepted from February 2009 on.



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