

# Renaissance

## News & Notes

Volume XVIII.1

*The Renaissance Society of America*

Winter/Spring 2006

### **ACLS History E-Book**

by John Monfasani, *Executive Director*

The RSA recently concluded an agreement with the American Council of Learned Societies to make available to RSA members the ACLS History E-Book Project for an annual subscription rate of \$25.

The ACLS History E-Book Project offers the full text of over 1,100 monographs in all areas of history, including over 315 titles in ancient, medieval, Renaissance, and later European history. The titles have been selected by committees of historians drawn from participating ACLS societies, including the RSA, for their continued value in research and teaching. The collection is fully cross-searchable, linked to online reviews (JSTOR, MUSE), and includes both in-print and out-of-print and rare titles. It is available 24/7 on standard web browsers. The collection adds 250 titles a year in all fields. To explore what the E-Book Project offers go to its website: <http://www.historyebook.org>.

The advantages of the collection are obvious. Not only can you read at your leisure and at no extra cost books not in your library, but you now have a way of immediately checking a reference or a passage while sitting at your computer any time of day or night.

To subscribe as an RSA member click the link to the ACLS History E-Book subscription on the opening screen of the RSA website ([www.rsa.org](http://www.rsa.org)).

### **San Francisco 2006**

Our meeting in San Francisco, 23–25 March 2006, at the Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel is on track to being one of our largest, if not our largest ever. At present we have 316 panels scheduled in addition to the plenary sessions and various special events, including a costume show. Please do book your room early. By contract the RSA can exceed its room block at the RSA special price, but rooms beyond the room block are not guaranteed and will be booked on a first-come-first-served basis. You can reserve your room by calling 1-800-697-3103 and identifying yourself as attending the RSA conference. You can also book online by going to the RSA website ([www.rsa.org](http://www.rsa.org)), clicking the San Francisco Conference Resources link on the opening screen, and then clicking the appropriate link for the kind of room you desire. As usual, you can register online for the conference at the RSA website.

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**Board Rooms for  
Meetings at  
San Francisco 2006**

The RSA will have some board rooms available for groups that wish to hold business meetings and such during the San Francisco conference. If any group wishes to use one of these rooms, it should notify the RSA office of the day and time it would like to hold its meeting. The RSA office can also arrange for catering if that is desired as well.

*Renaissance News & Notes*

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**EDITOR:** Julia Elsky

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items, announcements, and listings  
may be sent to the RSA for inclu-  
sion.*

**Deadline:** 1 June 2006

**In Memoriam**

**Frederick Purnell, Jr.**

by Martin L. Pine, Professor of History, Emeritus,  
*Queens College, The City University of New York*

Frederick Purnell, Jr., Professor of Philosophy at Queens College and The Graduate Center of the City Of New York, died suddenly of a stroke on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

A graduate of Duke University, Fred studied with Paul Oskar Kristeller at Columbia University, receiving a PhD in 1971.

Fred's deep understanding of the complex currents of Renaissance thought gave him the impetus to examine and make notable contributions to the study of Renaissance Platonism, Renaissance Science and the Hermetic tradition. His latest publications are the entry on Francesco Patrizi, for the *Stanford History of Philosophy* on line and the forthcoming, "Paul Oskar Kristeller and the Renaissance Science." In recent years, Fred's interest in Renaissance science extended beyond the traditional boundaries of Galileo. His expertise on Galileo became well-known and he was invited to present a concise analysis of Galileo's central accomplishments on The History Channel International this past fall. The great success of this presentation led to an invitation to lecture on Galileo in China in 2006.

Deeply committed to Queens College and The Graduate Center, Fred served for eleven years as Chair of the Philosophy Department and two years as Acting Associate Provost. At The Graduate Center, he served one year as Acting Executive Officer for the PhD Program in Philosophy. Fred's good judgment and affability was reflected in the demand for his services on many committees.

Fred thoroughly enjoyed his students and was very impressed by the great diversity of the Queens student body. Students loved studying with him, both for his wide learning and his enthusiasm. Many were inspired to continue their studies in Renaissance thought and other areas of philosophy.

Fred's wide intellectual interests went well beyond his own field. He was a knowledgeable ornithologist and keenly interested in environmental studies and medical ethics, teaching popular courses on the latter two subjects. Fred is survived by his wife, Susan, his daughters Stephanie and Emil, his son-in-law Chris, two grandsons, Reilly and Samuel, and his brother John.

**Paul L. Nyhus**

by John R. Cross, *Bowdoin College*

Paul Luther Nyhus, former Bowdoin College Dean of Students and Dean of the College, and Frank Andrew Munsey Professor of History Emeritus, died at his home in Brunswick, Maine on 17 August 2005. Since November 2004, with courage and grace, he had lived with the diagnosis of brain cancer, and to the end, with quiet determination, preserved thought and wit, kindness and courtesy.

Paul Nyhus was born in Williston, North Dakota on August 6, 1935, the son of Horace Einar Nyhus, a pastor in the Lutheran Free Church, and Ida Josephine Vigoren Nyhus. He graduated summa cum laude from Augsburg College in Minneapolis in 1957 as a philosophy major. The following year he studied philosophy and history at the University of Heidelberg on a Fulbright Scholarship. He received his bachelor of sacred theology degree from Harvard Divinity School in 1961 and his PhD in History in 1967 from the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. In March of 1965, as a graduate student at Harvard, he responded to the invitation issued nation-wide by Martin Luther King to join a second march to Montgomery, an experience that underlay his life's commitment to civil liberties and racial equality. As a graduate student at Harvard, Professor Nyhus held a teaching fellowship; the remainder of his career was spent at Bowdoin College in the Department of History. In 1991, was named the Frank Andrew Munsey Professor of History. He served Bowdoin as Dean of Students from 1969 to 1974.

He was the author of scholarly reviews, articles, and books, including *Reform and Revolution: Franciscans in South Germany 1450-1530*, published by the American Philosophical Society. Through his research, he developed deep affection for the Swiss city of Basel and interest in its Reformation history. He is survived by his wife Katharine Johnson Watson; his former wife Ellen Crocker; his three daughters, Katharine Ellen, Karen Ida, and Kristina Victoria, and their families; and his step-mother Bernice Nyhus.

Gifts in his memory may be made to The Paul L. Nyhus Travel Grants Fund, 4100 College Station, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine 04011.

## **The Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting Miami, Florida 2007**

by Guido Ruggiero, *University of Miami*

Plans continue for our Miami RSA meeting to be held 22-24 March 2007 at New Radisson Hotel Miami, 1601 Biscayne Boulevard. Although hurricanes Katrina (in a reduced category 1 version) and Wilma passed directly over Miami, the city recovered quickly, hardly missing a beat. For those who might be concerned, we want to assure you that the hurricane season here is limited to the period August to mid-November and thus the greatest meteorological challenges to be faced in March will be the occasional cold snap when temperatures drop into the high 60s at night and how much bathing suit to wear to the pool or the beach. Local organizers are already working on plans to offer guided trips to the everglades as well as tours of the Lowe Art Museum on the University of Miami campus and the renaissance villa at Vizcaya, a short metro-rail ride from the convention hotel. So save the dates, think warm breezes and sunny days, and plan to join us next March in Miami.

### **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.

## 2006 - 08 Discipline Representatives

Comparative Literature

Victoria Kahn

English Literature

Patrick Cheney

Carol Kaske

Arthur Marotti

Emblems

Monica Calibritto

French Literature

Ullrich Langer

Germanic Literature

James Parente

Hebraica

Ilana Zinguer

Hispanic Literature

Anne Cruz

History

P. Renee Baernstein

Sarah Covington

Fritz Levy

Pauline Watts

History of Art and Architecture

Sarah McHam

Larry Silver

Diane Wolfthal

History of Classical Tradition

William Stenhouse

History of Medicine and

Science

Robert Goulding

History of Political and Legal

Thought

John Najemy

History of Religion

Irena Backus

History of the Book, Paleography  
and Manuscript Tradition

William Sherman

Humanism

Charles Nauert, Jr.

Italian Literature

Jane Tylus

Music

Ruth DeFord

Neo-Latin Literature

Luc Dietz

Performing Arts and Theatre

Frederick Tollini

Philosophy

Lodi Nauta

Rhetoric

Jean Moss

Women and Gender Studies

Valeria Finucci

**Updating Membership Information**

Please browse the RSA website: [www.rsa.org](http://www.rsa.org) and the online membership directory.

If the information under your name is incorrect or you are about to relocate, please email the RSA office ([rsa@rsa.org](mailto:rsa@rsa.org)) with your new university address, mailing address, and especially your email address.

**RNN Goes Electronic**

This will be the last issue of *RNN* mailed to the whole membership in hard copy. Starting with the September 2006 issue, RSA members will receive *RNN* via email in the form of a live link to a PDF file on the RSA website. Members will simply click the emailed link and be taken to the latest issue of *RNN*. In its October meeting the RSA Executive Board decided that electronic distribution of the Society's newsletter would be the most efficient way to broadcast information to the membership. Members wishing still to receive a mailed hard copy of future *RNN* issues should contact the RSA office. The office will continue to mail a printed version of *RNN* to whoever requests it.

**Hotel Information**

Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel  
55 Cyril Magin Street  
Market at Fifth  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Reservations: 800-697-3103  
Telephone: 415-392-8000  
Fax: 415-403-6602

Room rate per night:

(SGL/DBL)	\$189 + 14% tax
(TRIPLE)	\$209 + 14% tax
(QUADRUPLE)	\$229 + 14% tax

Please make your room reservation directly with the hotel. Identify yourself as attending the RSA conference. For Online Booking of Rooms at the Renaissance Park 55 Hotel, go to [www.rsa.org](http://www.rsa.org)

Need to find someone to split the cost of a room? Go to the room share module on the RSA website.

## Special Events at San Francisco 2006

### Wednesday, 22 March

5:30 – 8:30 PM

RSA Executive Board Dinner and Meeting

Location: TBA

*By invitation*

### Thursday, 23 March

12:15 – 1:45 PM

Fashion in the Renaissance: A Living Display of European Costumes from the Fourteenth to the Sixteenth Centuries

Location: Parc II

Organized by: Costanza Gislon Dopfel, *St. Mary's College* with Jennifer Good, *Independent Scholar*

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Margaret Mann Phillips Commemorative Lecture

*Sponsor: The Erasmus of Rotterdam Society*

Location: TBA

Edward V. George, *Texas Tech University*

Title: Islam, Judaism, and Vives's Theological Rhetoric

5:30 – 6:15 PM

Book Presentation: A Festschrift for Ronald G. Witt

*Sponsor: Brill Academic Publishers*

Location: TBA

This brief session will feature the formal presentation to former Renaissance Society of America's President Ronald G. Witt of a volume of studies in his honor: *Humanism and Creativity in the Renaissance* (Brill, 2006).

### Friday, 24 March

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Plenary Session: Renaissance of Women

*Sponsor: The Renaissance Society of America*

Location: TBA

Organized by: Anne Lake Prescott, *Barnard College*  
Introduction by: Albert Rabil, Jr., *State University of New York, Old Westbury, Emeritus*

Maureen Quilligan, *Duke University*,

Title: Reperiodizing the Renaissance

Sheila ffolliott, *George Mason University*,

Title: Is Art Still His/Story?

Sharon Strocchia, *Emory University*

Title: Re-Casting the Renaissance State

### Saturday, 25 March

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Awards Presentation

Josephine Waters Bennett Lecture

*Sponsor: The Renaissance Society of America*

Location: TBA

Randolph Starn, *University of California, Berkeley*

Title: A Postmodern Renaissance?

7:30 – 9:30PM

Closing Reception

*Sponsor: The Renaissance Society of America*

Location: TBA

To all those presenting at the RSA annual conference:

Please email a copy of your c.v. and paper by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 to the chair of your panel.

Email addresses can be found in the RSA directory at [www.rsa.org](http://www.rsa.org)

Many thanks for your cooperation.

### **Future Conferences**

Miami, Florida  
22–24 March 2007

Chicago, Illinois  
3–6 April 2008

Los Angeles, California  
2009

Venice, Italy  
2010

# RSA Membership Form

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): _____

SINGLE YEAR RENEWAL Renaissance Quarterly:

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

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

MULTIPLE YEARS RENEWAL

Regular	5 years _____ \$280	4 years _____ \$225	3 years _____ \$170	2 years _____ \$115
Dual	5 years _____ \$330	4 years _____ \$265	3 years _____ \$200	2 years _____ \$135
Patron	5 years _____ \$480	4 years _____ \$385	3 years _____ \$290	2 years _____ \$195
Retiree	5 years _____ \$205	4 years _____ \$165	3 years _____ \$125	2 years _____ \$185
Student	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 Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Paul Oskar Kristeller Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Patricia H. Labalme Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ The Rona Goffen Scholarship 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 starting with "1")

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

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

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

Please nominate others for RSA membership: Supply name, email and mailing address.

Publication schedule: Spring; Summer; Autumn; Winter (index)

## Registration Form San Francisco, 23-25 March 2006

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, 25 March)

RSA Member Registration Fee:     \$130

RSA Student Registration Fee:     \$100

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

All Registration Fees are NON-REFUNDABLE. Non-RSA 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

Rm. 5400, CUNY Graduate Center  
356 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10016-4309  
USA

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.

# **Call for Papers: Miami 2007**

**22-24 March 2007**

**The New Radisson Hotel Miami**

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](http://www.rsa.org)

**Deadline for Submissions:  
21 May 2006**



THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AND UNIVER-  
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