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).

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), 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.

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 29th. 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 stepmother 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.
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

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

Updating Membership Information
Please browse the RSA website 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) with your new university address, mailing address, and especially your email address.
To all those presenting at the RSA annual conference:

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

Email addresses can be found in the RSA directory at www.rsa.org

Many thanks for your cooperation.

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?

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 – 9:30 PM
Closing Reception
Sponsor: The Renaissance Society of America
Location: TBA

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.

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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

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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”)
- Comparative Literature
- History of Art & Architecture
- Emblems
- History of Classical Tradition
- English Literature
- History of Legal & Political Thought
- French Literature
- History of Religion
- Germanic Literature
- History of Medicine & Science
- Hebrew
- History of the Book, Paleography
- Hispanic Literature & Manuscript Culture
- History
- Humanism

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: _______________________________________________
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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) 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.
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

Deadline for Submissions:
21 May 2006