

Renaissance

News & Notes

Volume XXII.2

The Renaissance Society of America

Fall 2010

From the Executive Editor's Desk

Greetings to you all! It is humbling indeed to take over the helm of this learned society after so many years with such a distinguished leader. John Monfasani directed and oversaw the growth of RSA as it expanded to some four thousand members around the world. I hope to continue to help RSA promote scholarship and teaching in Renaissance studies as it has done so well for more than fifty years.

While no major changes are in the works, your comments and queries over the past few months are resulting in some developments in our online presence. Many of you have told me that it was important that we improve our means of communicating with one another. You also asked for more efficient options for the scheduling of talks at our annual meeting, including more efficient ways to use our conference program online. The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), with which RSA is affiliated, helped present some helpful information about options for some software upgrades. By the time this newsletter reaches you, both should be ready to launch.

First is our new website, to be launched in mid-November. We hope you'll find the traditional content of our RSA site there more efficiently organized and easier to use. More significant, though, will be what you find once you log in as a member. If you use Facebook or other social networking sites, many features will look familiar. You may post and update your contact and professional information, photos, and comments. You can view a list of the other RSA members on your campus. Members will be able to contact one another easily by email or by messages posted directly on the site. Groups such as our disciplines may contact other group members, or even set up regular newsletters. You may submit events to post on our calendar, or post other announce-

(Continued on page 2)

Bienvenue à Montréal

by Eliane Roux

By virtue of its history and dynamism, Montreal, a city of a million and a half inhabitants (3 million within the whole metropolitan area), is the cultural metropolis of the Quebec province and of French-speaking Canada.

One of the oldest cities in North America, Montreal was founded by French colonials in 1642, before it passed under the British Regime in 1760 and Canada gained its independence with the 1931 Statute of Westminster. Montreal hence features a strong double French-English identity, two identities sometimes difficult to reconcile (as was demonstrated by the 1995 Referendum on Quebec sovereignty), but also a source of rich cultural capital (as the symbiotic neighborhood life in the Mile End now testifies, far from the vitriolic descriptions of Richler's brilliant *Barney's Version*).

But Montreal is more than anything a real multicultural metropolis, integrating important Italian, Haitian, Maghreb, Greek, Portuguese, Irish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Jewish communities, to name only some of the numerous ethnic groups.

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*Renaissance News
& Notes*

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ments to the whole community or just to a particular group. We can also create new groups based on your research or teaching interests, on the region in which you live and work, or other criteria. We can host and maintain blogs; we plan to have a presence on Facebook and Twitter. So take a look, see what the site will do, and think about features you would like to add. We want our new site to promote Renaissance studies in every way that involves communication and networking.

Our conference program is also using a web-based format for the first time this year. It has been accessible for the past several weeks on the old web site; if you

Business Meetings

Wednesday, 23 March
1:00 pm
RSA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING AND DINNER
Location: MARRIOTT CHATEAU CHAMPLAIN,
NEUFCHATEL RESTAURANT, LOBBY LEVEL
Executive Board Members

Thursday, 24 March
12:15–2:00 pm
RSA COUNCIL LUNCHEON AND MEETING
Location: MARRIOTT CHATEAU CHAMPLAIN, LE CAF CONC, LEVEL
A, LOWER LOBBY
Associate Group Representatives, Discipline Representatives,
Executive Board Members

Future Conferences

2011
Montreal, 24-26 March 2011
Hilton Montreal Bonaventure Hotel
and
Marriott Montreal Champlain
2012
Washington, D.C., 22-24 March 2012
Grand Hyatt Washington
2013
San Diego, California, 4-6 April 2013
Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina

2014
New York City
27-29 March
Hilton
2015
Europe, TBA
2016
Boston
31 March-2 April
Boston Park Plaza

have not found it yet, take a look. You can browse the program by day and time, or search it by speaker, session, or any word in the title of papers or sessions. If you log into the site (using your regular RSA login), you can save a personal itinerary of sessions that you want to attend. Next year we will use the new system beginning with the call for papers, so we will be able to include additional features such as keyword searching.

So in both cases we plan to keep adding features as we grow into these new tools. Please let me know about the features you like, those you would like to change, and those you would like to add.

And: I would love to add new images to the gallery on the home page. They should be in jpeg format, 574 pixels wide by 180 pixels high. You may send them directly to me at amoyer@rsa.org, and we will add as many as we can.

Ann E. Moyer
Executive Director

In Memoriam

Marion Leathers Kuntz, 1924-2010

The distinguished historian and RSA Executive Board member Marion Leathers Kuntz died in her home in Atlanta with her family present on 10 July 2010. She had been looking forward to the RSA's annual meeting this spring in her beloved Venice before she was diagnosed with cancer. She leaves behind not only a wide circle of friends and family, but also a very substantial body of scholarship.

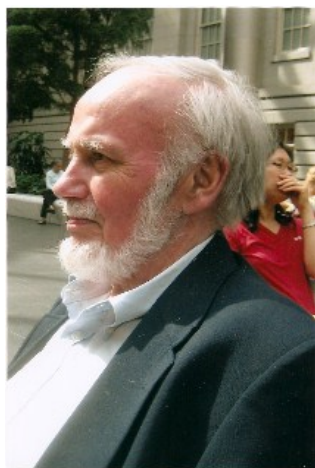
Born in Atlanta on 6 September 1924, Marion graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Agnes Scott College, Decatur, in 1945. After taking time off to raise a family, she entered Emory University in 1963, earning her M.A. in 1964 and her Ph.D. in 1969. In 1975, Princeton University Press published her dissertation, a translation of Jean Bodin's *Hep-taplomeres*, confirming her standing as a Latinist and expert on Bodin. By 1975 she had become a full professor at Georgia State University and Georgia's first female Regents Professor of Classics, and in 1985 she was honored as the Fuller E. Callaway Distinguished Professor. By the time of her retirement she was reputed to have taught three quarters of the Latin high school teachers in Georgia.

Shifting her attention to another sixteenth-century French intellectual, in 1981 Marion published with Nijhoff in The Hague *Guillaume Postel, Prophet of the Restitution of All Things: His Life and Thought*. But Postel and his involvement with Zuana, the Virgin of Venice, had led Marion to Venice, and for the rest of her life the city on the lagoon would be the true focus of her scholarship. Summers in Venice while teaching at Georgia State and, after she retired, spring and fall campaigns there defined the rhythms of Marion's scholarly life. Like Postel, she became fluent in veneziano. A denizen for decades of the Biblioteca Marciana and the Archivio di Stato in Venice, she even named her home in Atlanta

“Villa Veneziana.” In 1988, she published the proceedings of a conference very much centered on her own work: *Postello, Venezia e il suo mondo: atti del convegno di studi promosso dalla Fondazione Giorgio Cini e della Georgia State University in occasione del quarto centenario della morte di Guillaume Postel, Venezia 1982* (Florence: Olschki). In 2001 she published with Pennsylvania State Press her book on one of the extraordinary figures she had discovered in her Venetian researches: *The Anointment of Dionisio : Prophecy and Politics in Renaissance Italy*. But already in 1999, Ashgate's Variorum series had published a collection of fifteen of her articles dealing with Venice: *Venice, Myth and Utopian Thought in the Sixteenth Century*. Another fifty or so of Marion's articles remain scattered in various journals and books. Marion's husband, the historian of philosophy, Paul Grimley Kuntz, had been her faithful companion during these sojourns in Venice until his death in 2000. So it was only fitting that they published a book together: *Jacob's Ladder and the Tree of Life: Concepts of Hierarchy and the Great Chain of Being* (Lang, 1987). At the time of her death, Marion was working on the Inquisition in Venice, and, more specifically, on the inquisitors themselves, many of whose letters, writings, and records she was the first to have read since the sixteenth century.

Paul Oskar Kristeller had been Marion's great hero (her “other” Paul). Towards the end of his life, he let drop in an off-hand manner, “You know, I have Catholic friends praying for me. It can't hurt.” I knew, of course, he meant Marion, who would telephone him regularly to see how he was doing. Though we still have Marion's books and articles as monuments of her scholarship, her devotion to friends, as exemplified by her concern for Kristeller, is a loss we cannot replace.

John Monfasani
State University of New York, Albany

Benjamin G. Kohl (1938-2010)

Benjamin Gibbs Kohl died in Betterton on Maryland's Eastern Shore on June 10, 2010 of pancreatic cancer, just two months after delivering his last paper, on Renaissance Padua under Venetian governance, at the annual conference of the RSA in Venice; his session was held at the University of Warwick Center in remembrance of Michael Mallett, himself an historian *inter alia* of Venice's Terraferma state.

Ben Kohl was born on October 26, 1938, on the Warwick Road near Middletown, Delaware. He received a B.A. from Bowdoin College in 1960, an M.A. from the University of Delaware in 1962, and a Ph.D. in medieval and Renaissance history from The Johns Hopkins University in 1968, where he was Frederic C. Lane's third-last student. He did the basic research for his dissertation on Padua during the fourteenth century while on a Fulbright fellowship in 1964-65. In 1966 Ben landed the best job on the market, at Vassar College. He quickly fit in, moving through the ranks from Instructor to Full Professor to Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities (in 1993), to Emeritus Professor in 2001, when he retired early to dedicate himself full-time to research. He was chair of the History Department for seven years. Among his most important honors, after the Fulbright, was the Rome Prize and fellowship in post-classical studies at the American Academy in Rome (1970-71) and a long-term Andrew W. Mellon Emeritus Fellowship in the Humanities received after retirement.

After finishing a thesis devoted primarily to political history, Ben struck out on a quite un-Frederic Laneian line of research, thanks to his encounter with Giovanni Conversini da Ravenna, humanist and courtier at the Carrara court. He edited and translated the little-known tracts by this humanist, and his critical editions and translations into English made an important contribution to our knowledge of the work of humanists on the "periphery" away from Florence, where intellectual historians of the Renaissance had been concentrating their attention. In each of these initiatives, Ben worked in collaboration with expert Latinists. His first book, co-edited with Ron Witt and published in 1978 (still in print), was a collection of

humanist tracts on government and society. Ben's attendance at the Columbia University Renaissance Seminar, founded and presided over by Paul Oskar Kristeller, played an important part in the development of his interests in this field. He presented two papers to the seminar, the first on Conversini at Padua (in 1976), the second entitled "At the Birth of the Humanities: The Concept of the *Studia Humanitatis* in the Early Renaissance" (in 1985), a daring trial run into a subject at the very core of Kristeller's own interests and publications. He later turned the paper into the important article "The Changing Concept of the *Studia Humanitatis* in the Early Renaissance," published in *Renaissance Studies*, 6 (1992), pp. 185-209. It was Ben's best article in that field. Significantly, nine of the fourteen articles in his *Variorum* volume are on the topic of humanism.¹

Ben was an ideal historical sportsman. While hardly pugnacious, Ben harbored a little-known love for boxing, and he and a colleague were curators of an exhibition at Vassar in 1996 on the art of boxing and boxing in art.² He was a model team player and had a penchant for collaborative projects. His C.V. is peppered with publications in which he appeared as co-author, co-editor, co-guest editor, co-curator; of 17 book-length productions, including special issues, a CD and a database, 13 are co-productions! The same is true for three of his many articles. As a natural team player, Ben was ever ready to help people out: that spirit got him into witches and devils, far from his own interests, and into the compilation in 1996 of the Centennial Directory of the American Academy in Rome (he simply loved lists). Ben enjoyed spending time gathering facts that could be useful to the profession. He published twenty-two biographical articles, of which twelve were written for the important *DBI* (*Dizionario biografico degli italiani*), and recently wrote 39 entries for Brill's forthcoming *Encyclopedia of the Medieval Chronicle*; he collected and published on CD many hundreds of deliberations of the Venetian Senate from the fourteenth century, documents edited over the previous two centuries in myriad books and articles, and often not easily available to scholars. The most important undertaking of this kind is his magnificent *The Rulers of Venice, 1332-1524*, a database of many thousands of names of Venetian officeholders, compiled together with M. O'Connell and A. Mozzato. Ownership of this database was passed to the RSA, on whose homepage it can be found since 2008.³ In general, Ben was out to promote research, especially among younger historians. If he heard that someone was interested in a subject he had touched upon in the course of his researches, he generously offered that person what he had: a notarial

document, a testament, a deliberation—always with the warning that the transcription was hurried, a working draft, by no means a critical edition. He helped many people, including the undersigned, by retrieving information from *Rulers* before the database went on-line.

In the 1990s Ben returned to the study of the Paduan notaries of the fourteenth century, in preparation for writing his *Padua under the Carrara, 1318-1405*, published in 1998, a work of “traditional” history, as he meant it to be. At the same time, this new spurt of research on the his dissertation subject of thirty years earlier sparked his interest in related themes, such as the women of the Paduan court, the courtiers themselves and the many competing patron saints of Padua, as they were represented in legends and artworks.

Retirement made it possible for Ben to conclude his work on Padua and humanism with the above-mentioned *Variorum* volume and to turn his attention to Venetian history, with his eye on a monograph to be entitled *The Governance of Late Medieval Venice*. In conference papers and in articles he began to give shape to what he was looking for: an in-depth understanding of the day-to-day mechanics of government and their practical results in individual cases. That involved counting and making lists; the database *Rulers* was a cornerstone of the project. His article on Marco Corner (ca. 1286-1368), whose first wife was Giovanna, daughter of Enrico Scrovegni (well, it was difficult to close out work on Padua!), is a model of how—with today’s tools—one can reconstruct a career, in this case that of a career politician, Venice’s “first professional statesman and administrator,” who was elected doge some two years before his death.⁴ It meant revisiting the *Serrata*, for which project Ben prepared critical editions of the relevant laws, 1282-1323; it meant counting the number of meetings of the Great Council by year and showing how few of them (an average of only 14%) in those years were actually held on Sundays, as has always been assumed;⁵ it meant reading the model volumes of the deliberations of the Venetian Senate in critical editions (the *serie misti*) for more than just their high quality and varied content but, again, for understanding the mechanics of government, including the number of days per year in which the Senate was convened.⁶ Ben was ever more convinced that without basic knowledge of the nitty-gritty of political organization, involving prosopography, counting, and careful looks at the calendar, year by year, the historian is forced to rely on inherited, un-ried assumptions about governance. His last paper, “Renaissance Padua as *Kunstwerk*: Policy and Custom in the Governance of a Renaissance City,” presented at the RSA four days before his last departure from

Venice, combined nearly all of his interests: Padua, Venice, and the art of governance. Time ran out much too soon and Ben’s monograph remained, regrettably, more in his head than on paper or in the computer. One can only hope that younger historians will carry on his work and adopt his historical methodology and his conviction that only by sifting through the nitty-gritty intelligently can one make possible a credible reconstruction of Venice’s mode of governance, shedding new light on an old subject.

One last crucial topic remains. After retirement Ben encountered good fortune and his first desire—naturally, for him—was to share it, largely through the creation of a philanthropic institution, the Hedgelawn Foundation, based at his study, a beautiful old frame house with a wood-burning stove in Worton, Maryland. The aim of the Foundation was and is to support arts and education on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, on the one hand, and Venetian studies on the other. Ben loved the Eastern Shore and its history; he proudly showed guests where George Washington had passed during the Revolutionary War, and the last article he saw through the press was an account, with Latin text and translation, of the first commencement address held in 1783 at Washington College, a nearby liberal arts college of which Ben was a benefactor.⁷ And Ben loved Venice and its history. His foundation made possible the publication by the Comitato per la pubblicazione delle fonti relative alla storia di Venezia of a register of the *Grazie* of the Great Council which was practically disintegrating,⁸ and with a smaller donation he made possible the digitalization of 28,000 pages of much-consulted archival material at the Archivio di Stato in Venice, especially deliberations of the major deliberative organs of the state. They were then put on-line by the Archivio, on whose website they can be consulted anywhere in the world, *gratis*. That was a final project in which Ben firmly believed: to show by example, in accord with the Director and staff of the Archivio, that private donations could do important things to further research; he hoped his initial donation, recognized on the website of the Archivio, would serve as seed-money and that others would follow suit.⁹ That would be a splendid way to remember Ben Kohl.

Reinhold C. Mueller
University of Venice

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Sightseeing and institutions: Montreal is an island of the great St. Lawrence River, over which towers the Mount Royal, where belvederes offer a panoramic view. The city is traversed by the St-Laurent boulevard, The Main, which divides its western and eastern parts (an important reference when looking for a civic address). The Hilton Bonaventure and the Marriott Château Champlain are located downtown, next to the new Quartier International (metro Square-Victoria) and about a 15-minute walk from Old Montreal and its Old Port. Going slightly north-east instead, you may spend some time in the Quartier des Spectacles (metro Place-des-Arts), a brand new entertainment district with 30 show halls and 80 cultural venues, offering music concerts, dance performances, plays, art exhibitions and movies. Still in the downtown area, you may also run across the Quartier Latin (metro Berri-UQAM) which includes a part of the dynamic “Gay Village” (metro Beaudry). A nice area of the eastern part of the city is the colorful and crowded Plateau Mont-Royal (metro Mont-Royal), which offers pleasant cafés and boutiques together with good examples of the peculiar city houses, stairs, balconies and cornices. As a creative city, Montreal was appointed in 2006 a Unesco City of Design, mostly for its efforts in the field of urban planning, the Quartier des Spectacles and the Quartier International being two great results. Montreal hosts two Anglophone universities, McGill and Concordia, located in the Hotel Bonaventure area, and two Francophone, the Université de Montréal on the north side of the Mount Royal and the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) in the Quartier Latin. Museums of interest are mainly the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the McCord Museum of Canadian History, the Canadian Centre for Architecture (being a high-level international research center as well) and the Musée d’Art Contemporain. Montreal is also becoming a great city for spectacles and offers lots of festivals, mostly in the summer, when the whole Quartier des Spectacles becomes a huge open stage: music (International Jazz Festival, Francofolies, Nuits d’Afrique, Mutek), circus and comedy (International Festival of Circus Arts, Just for Laughs), cinema (World Film Festival, Fantasia, Cinemania), etc. Coinciding with the RSA, you may experience the International Festival of Films on Art (March 17-27). Hockey fans or the curious could also decide to watch the Montreal *Canadiens* playing a home game at the Bell Center.

Weather : If as banal a subject of conversation as the weather is always welcomed in Montreal, it’s because the significant daily variations in temperature affect the activi-

ties, social life and mood of its inhabitants. At the end of March, we can expect the thermometer to hover anywhere between -5 and 10°C (23-50°F). If snow will still cover the streets – which is quite possible- it may transform itself into «slush» in the day time, eventually mixed up with remains of salt. The more timorous may take refuge in the famous *Ville souterraine*, but he should not expect too much from this rather sad 30 km network of corridors and shops which connects the main downtown buildings and metro: the life, colors and warmth of Montreal are outside, where its citizens continue to live, no matter what the weather.

Food, wine and restaurants: Montrealers are crazy about food. Supermarkets and food stores are everywhere, and you can find foods from across the globe in some of the many specialist shops, at the huge Jean-Talon public market (metro Jean-Talon) or in the ethnic areas. For a bottle of wine, look for the Société des Alcools du Québec (SAQ), which holds the alcohol monopole; local and imported beers may be found in the groceries and *dépanneurs*. Montrealers also love going out. The city counts lots of very good restaurants featuring surprisingly authentic World Cuisine as well as culinary innovation. Here are a few suggestions. Downtown neighborhood: *Ferreira* (gastronomic Portuguese; Peel), *Chez la Mère Michel* (French, a bit expensive; Guy); *Le Latini* (maybe the best Italian but expensive; Jeanne-Mance); *Kanda* (sushi all-you-can-eat for about 25\$ CAD; Ste-Catherine W.)/ Plateau Mont-Royal: *Au pied de cochon* (gastronomy, Fusion French -Quebec, very popular; Duluth E.), *Chuchai* (vegetarian Thai; St-Denis), *L’Express* (French bistro; open until 3 am; St-Denis), *Restaurant de l’Institut* (lunches prepared by the *Institut d’hôtellerie* students; St-Denis), *La Binerie* (as a curiosity, if you want to try the very simple, traditional Quebec dishes for lunch; Mont-Royal), *Souvenirs d’Indochine* (Vietnamese; Mont-Royal), *Aux Vives* (cheap but good vegan; St-Laurent), *Pintxo* (Basque tapas; Roy E.)/ Mile End and area: *Milos* (maybe the best Greek but very expensive; you may try the 20\$ lunch menu; Parc); *Schwartz’s* (Hebrew Delicatessen, best smoked meat sandwich, lineups; St-Laurent); *Doval* (cheap Portuguese; Marie-Anne E.), *Escale à Saigon* (Vietnamese; Laurier)/ Little Italy: *Pizzeria Napolitana* (Italian, popular and good prices; Dante); *Le Petit Alep* (Syrian, good prices and good choice for vegetarians; Jean-Talon E.). If you are attracted Jean-Paul Riopelle) or *Europea* (De la Montagne), but make an early reservation and prepare your wallet. For a drink,

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Plenaries, Awards, and Special Events

Wednesday, 23 March

6:30–8:30 PM

OPENING RECEPTION

Co-Sponsors: BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE LA COMPAGNIE DE JÉSUS AND COMPAGNIE DE JÉSUS (CANADA FRANÇAIS)

Location: BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE LA COMPAGNIE DE JÉSUS

COLLÈGE JEAN-DE-BRÉBEUF

ANCIENNE CHAPELLE (LOCAL B3.26)

3200, CHEMIN DE LA CÔTE STE-CATHERINE

MONTRÉAL H3T 1C1

Thursday, 24 March

6:00–8:00 PM

RECEPTION FOR VILLA I TATTI, THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR ITALIAN RENAISSANCE STUDIES

Location: TBA

by invitation

6:30–8:00 PM

MARGARET MANN PHILLIPS LECTURE

Sponsor: ERASMUS OF ROTTERDAM SOCIETY

Location: HILTON MONTRÉAL BONAVENTURE

PETER MACK, *Warburg Institute, University of London; Warwick University, Erasmus in Rhetoric and Rhetoric in Erasmus*

Several of Erasmus's most celebrated works, including *Adagia*, *Ciceronianus*, *De copia*, *De conscribendis epistolis*, and *Ecclesiastes*, are contributions to the theory and teaching of rhetoric. Some of these books, which were first conceived as aids to Erasmus's private tutoring in the 1490s, were among the most influential rhetorical texts of the sixteenth century. At the same time, rhetorical approaches influence Erasmus's understanding of texts and the genre, structure, and style of many of his later works. In the first half of the lecture, building on Chomarat's *Grammaire et rhétorique chez Erasme* and on the research I have conducted for my forthcoming *History of Renaissance Rhetoric 1380–1620*, I shall describe Erasmus's immense contribution to Renaissance rhetoric, identifying the doctrines that most influenced later writers and showing how he improved classical and medieval rhetorical teachings. In the second part of the lecture, depending on the work of generations of Erasmus scholars, I shall trace the impact of rhetorical doctrines on a selection of Erasmus's major works, such as *Praise of Folly*, *Enchiridion militis Christiani*, *Paraclesis*, and the edition of St. Jerome. I shall explore the ways in which rhetorical habits of thought helped Erasmus formulate his individual understanding of the world. I aim to investigate the way in which Erasmus's thinking developed in dialogue with ideas about teaching.

Friday, 25 March

6:30–8:00 PM

PLENARY SESSION: TBA

Sponsor: THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Location: HILTON MONTRÉAL BONAVENTURE

Organizer & Chair: CLARE CARROLL, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, QUEENS COLLEGE AND THE GRADUATE CENTER

DOMINIQUE DESLANDRES, UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL

The "Others" into Frenchmen: Religion, Gender and Assimilation in the Early Modern French World.

This paper proposes new hypotheses regarding French expansion in the early modern period, showing that identical strategies of baptism, marriage and integration into French society were at work on both sides of the French Atlantic during the 16th and the 17th centuries. The attempts made by the political and religious authorities to implement these strategies in France and in New France show not only the central role of gender in the process of integration, but also the evolution from an initial political and religious openness to miscegenation ('métissage') to a growing fear of misalliance and the promotion of concepts of a 'bad race'.

JORGE CANIZARES-ESGUERRA, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, AUSTIN, **The Old Testament and the Spanish Colonization of the New World**

The category of the "Renaissance" has exaggerated the role that Greek and Roman political philosophy played in the invention of colonial institutions in the New World in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This paper surveys the biblical origins of various Spanish American colonial institutions.

Saturday, 26 March

6:30–8:00 PM

JOSEPHINE WATERS BENNETT LECTURE

Sponsor: RENAISSANCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Location: HILTON MONTRÉAL BONAVENTURE

ANNE LAKE PRESCOTT, BARNARD COLLEGE

From Shephook to Scepter: David of Israel and Upward Mobility

Renaissance monarchies, like their medieval predecessors, affirmed a political theory that required, for communal order and cultural glory, the values of heredity and hierarchy. Yet such monarchies also affirmed a religion that could both remember the splendor of anointed kings such as David and look to the day when valleys would be exalted and mountains made low, when Lazarus would be saved and Dives languish in Hell. David himself, moreover, had been a shepherd — from a good family, yes, but still a shepherd, and soon to be persecuted by his king.

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you can try *La buvette chez Simone* (wine bar and light food; Parc), the Scottish pub *L'Île Noire* (with local micro-brewery; St-Denis), or stop in one of the many cafés and bars on Saint-Laurent, Mont-Royal or Crescent. Remember the 15% tip.

Transportation and other practical tips: You will find the STM metro-bus tickets in several *dépanneurs* and in the metro stations; you may also opt for a 3 day *carte touristique*, which includes the Montreal Trudeau airport shuttle (747 express bus) to the Berri-UQAM metro station (14 \$ CAD; on sale only in the metro stations and at the airport). The city public transportation website is www.stm.info; you can plan your itinerary using its "Tous azimuts" software. Montreal's taxi service is very efficient, practical and affordable. Parking your car downtown costs around 20-25\$ CAD/day. You'll find free wireless internet access on Saint Laurent (from Sherbrooke to Mont-Royal), at the Grande Bibliothèque (metro Berri), at the Eaton Center restaurants level (metro McGill) and in a lot of cafés. In Montreal, read *The Gazette* and *Le Devoir* and the popular free cultural newspapers *The Mirror* and *Voir*, which provide information on the weekly events. For services, activities, news and events, consult the official city portal (<http://ville.montreal.qc.ca>) and tourism website (www.tourisme-montreal.org), where you can download public transportation and thematic city maps, or the handy cultural events calendar "La Vitrine" (<http://vitrine.cyberpresse.ca>).

So don't be put off by the thermometer dropping a few degrees: instead, on the occasion of the 2011 RSA, come to discover Montreal/Montréal's colors, warm reception, gastronomy, originality and heterogeneity!

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. We need, however, to find chairs for them. If you wish to attend the conference and need an official role and listing in the program in order to receive funding from your institution, send the RSA office (rsa@rsa.org) your professional status and your area of specialization. You will be able to browse the program online and let us know at rsa@rsa.org if you find a panel you wish to chair.

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.

Notes on Benjamin Kohl's Obituary

¹ *Culture and Politics in Early Renaissance Padua*, Variorum Collected Studies, London: Ashgate Publishing, 2001; art. XIV, on marriage alliances of the Carrara dynasty, was published here for the first time.

² Frank Bergon and Benjamin G. Kohl, "Boxing at Vassar," in *American Fighters: A Century of Boxing in Art*, Poughkeepsie, 1996. Boxing supposedly is still being taught in the Vassar gymnasium as a result of their initiative.

³ "Rulers," as it has become known, generously financed by the Delmas Foundation, is meant to be carried on through the Cinquecento with the database prepared decades ago by dott. Claudia Salmini of the Archivio di Stato di Venezia, whom Ben brought into the project precisely with its extension in mind, given dott. Salmini's expertise regarding the archive of the Segretario alle voci, the contemporary listing of officeholders. Crucial for the understanding of the database, its philosophy and utility, is the little-known and seemingly unreviewed ACLS Humanities E-book *Rulers of Venice, 1332-1524 / Governanti di Venezia, 1332-1524: interpretations, methods, database*, ed. by Monique O'Connell, 2009, containing articles by all those involved in the project. The database is complex and could still use some technical intervention to make it more user-friendly.

⁴ "The Indispensable Doge of Trecento Venice: The Career of Marco Corner," chap. IV in the E-book cited in the previous note, parag. 152-185.

⁵ From his notes it turns out that the highest number of meeting-days per year, 106-108, were convened in the years 1283-84-85, at the beginning of the process of constitutional reform, the lowest number in the crucial years of the Serrata, 1297-98-99 (respectively 46, 30, and 47 meetings), and again the fourth-highest number, 100, in the final, momentous year, 1323, full of heated discussions in both the Great Council and the Senate on social status, when important resolutions also regarding immigration and citizenship were passed.

⁶ See his long review-article in *Studi veneziani*, n.s., 55 (2008), pp. 00-00.

⁷ "Cicero in Chestertown: The *Oratio Salutatoria* at Washington College's First Commencement, May 14, 1783," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 105, no. 1 (Spring 2010), pp. 17-33.

⁸ *Cassiere della Bolla ducale, Grazie, Registro n. 16 (1364-1372), anticamente Liber gratiarum XIII*, ed. by S. Piasentini, 2 vols., Venice, 2009.

⁹ For all the material digitalized and available, see www.archiviodistatodivenezia.it, under Progetto Divenire; a detailed guide to use of the site is also available: www.archiviodistatodivenezia.it/fileadmin/template/allegati/GuidaConsultDivenire.pdf.

<p>RSA Research Grants</p> <p>Announcing Research Grants for 2011 for RSA Members: The Renaissance Society of America will award seventeen grants for a total amount of \$42,000 in the year 2011.</p> <p>The grants are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSA Research Grants (9 grants) • Rensselaer W. Lee Memorial Grant in Art History (1 grant) • Paul Oskar Kristeller Memorial Grant (1 grant) • Samuel H. Kress Foundation Fellowship in Renaissance Art History (5 grants) • Bodleian Library Research Grant (1 grant) <p>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 rank categories of Nondoctoral Scholar, Younger Scholar, and Senior Scholar (see below for category descriptions). RSA Research Grants are available to applicants in all disciplines and topics dealing with the Renaissance.</p> <p>The Ambrosiana Foundation has given the RSA funding for two grants of \$3,000 each. One is the Rensselaer W. Lee Fellowship in Art History, open to all three rank categories in the discipline of art history. The other is the Paul Oskar Kristeller Fellowship, open to all disciplines in all three rank categories.</p> <p>There are five Samuel H. Kress Foundation Fellowships in Renaissance Art History of \$3,000 each, open to art historians in midcareer (not open to nondoctoral or younger scholars).</p> <p>The Bodleian Library Research Grant supports a one-month residence in Oxford by a member of the RSA for the purposes of research in the Special Collections of the Bodleian Library, with an additional stipend of \$3,000.</p>	<p>There will be a single competition for all seventeen 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:</p> <p>NONDOCTORAL: These awards will support doctoral candidates, pre-university teachers, and other applicants lacking doctorates.</p> <p>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 PhD.</p> <p>SENIOR SCHOLAR: These awards will support associate professors with more than two years at that rank, full professors, retired professors, and senior independent scholars.</p> <p>Research projects in all subjects and language areas within Renaissance studies are eligible for support. Doctoral candidates 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.</p> <p>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 31 December 2010. Awards will be announced at the RSA annual meeting in Montreal, 24–26 March 2011.</p>
<p><i>Continued from page 7:</i> His struggles, his respect for Saul's own anointed kingship, and the twists in what modern Americans would call his career path led some Renaissance writers to exclaim admiringly over his divinely sanctioned rise, but also to meditate on its ambiguous relevance to their own political conflicts</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><i>Saturday, 26 March</i> 8:00–10:00 PM</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>CLOSING RECEPTION <i>Sponsor:</i> THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA <i>Location:</i> HILTON MONTRÉAL BONAVENTURE</p> </div> </div>	

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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